



Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2024

ALGONQUINS OF PIKWAKANAGAN FIRST NATION

Pikwakanagan takes over jurisdiction for child and family wellbeing on April 19, 2024

The Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation are proud to announce that our Child and Family Wellbeing Law, **Nigig Nibi Ki-Win**, comes into force April 19, 2024. Our law embodies our inherent jurisdiction over the care, safety, and well-being of our own children, youth, and families.

Our agency, Nigig Nibi Ki-Win Gamik, will now offer services to our citizens and will follow traditional decision-making processes involving Family Circles, Healing Circles, and our Grandparents Tribunal. We are dedicated to providing culturally based resources to our members, with a focus on maintaining, encouraging, and re-establishing connection to family, community, and Algonquin culture and territory.

Quick Points:

- Ratified by Pikwakanagan First Nation membership on March 25, 2023.
- Has the force of federal law through the process set out in Canada's "An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth, and families".
- Assertion of Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation's inherent jurisdiction and legislative authority in relation to child and family services for our people.

"Nigig Nibi Ki-win, is born from the Seven Grandfather teachings and prepares Pikwakanagan's children and youth to lead the future of our Nation, with the support of family and community. Nigig Nibi Ki-win Gamik offers essential services, including Family Well-being, Prevention, Child Well-being, and Post Majority Support Services." – Alexandra Freed, Executive Director of Nigig Nibi Ki-win Gamik

"We are committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our children and future generations. Nigig Nibi Ki-Win is the culmination of years of work by our leaders, staff, and community, particularly our elders and traditional knowledge keepers. It recognizes and responds to past harms caused to our children, families, and membership by Canada's colonial laws and legal processes

and it provides the framework for meeting our obligations to protect our families, our children and youth, and ensure a healthy and prosperous future for our people.” – Chief Greg Sarazin

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation is the only federally registered Algonquin community in Ontario with close to 3,000 members including 500 residents. Algonquin territory encompasses the watershed of the Kitchissippi (Ottawa River) in present-day Quebec and Ontario. Pikwakanagan First Nation is situated on the shores of Golden Lake and the Bonnechere River in Renfrew County one and a half hours west of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada.

For more information, please visit www.nigignibi.com and www.algonquinsofpikwakanagan.com

For questions, please contact info@nigignibi.com or communications@pikwakanagan.ca

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