



SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK

NEWS

Binaakwii Giizis

Falling Leaves Moon | October 2026



SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK NEWS

Binaakwii Giizis | Falling Leaves Moon | October 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS



OPEN HOUSE AND JOB FAIR	6-7
TURTLE CONCEPTS VISIT SAGAMOK	8-9
KOOGNAASEWIN UPDATE	10
GREENHOUSE PICKLE MAKING	11
MASSEY SOLAR PROJECT OPEN HOUSE	12-13
STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT	14-15
CELEBRATING ERNESTINE BOB'S RETIREMENT	16
THE 2026 ROBINSON HURON TREATY GATHERING	17-20
3 NOLAN HOCKEY CAMP	21
NEW MENTAL WELLNESS INTAKE DAYS AT BIIDAABAN	22-23
Z'GAMOK ANISHNAWBEK MEMBERSHIP LAW DEVELOPMENT	24-25
OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS	26-27



METAGAMA ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE

The Metagama Road Bridge over the East Branch of the Spanish River will be **closed and impassable during October** while the deck is being replaced.

Please take this into consideration if you plan to travel in the area.



SCHEDULED POWER OUTAGE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 | 6AM - 7AM

Hydro One will be conducting a **planned power outage** that will affect Sagamok Anishnawbek for approximately 1 hour on **November 8, 2026**.

www.hydroone.com



**COMMUNITY REMINDER:
TO REPORT A NON-EMERGENCY
INCIDENT, CALL:**

1 (888) 310-1122

**ASK FOR THE SAGAMOK
OFFICER ON DUTY**



**Z'GAMOK ANISHNAWBEK
Membership Law Development**

Elder Interviews

Share Your Stories, One-on-One

Elders, your stories are the **foundation** of our membership law. To share your story, contact:

Rhea Assinewe | assinewe_rhea@sagamok.ca



**SAGAMOK
ANISHNAWBEK**

Sagamok Naandwedjige-Gamik
Community Wellness Department
4005 Espaniel St
Sagamok Anishnawbek, ON P0P 2L0
Phone: 705-865-2171
Fax: 705-865-3131

Mental Health Resources

We all experience struggles that we need help with, and may not receive the support we need within our families and social circles.
If you are in crisis or need help, reach out.

CRISIS LINES

Suicide Crisis Hotline
Call or Text: 9-8-8
24/7 Support

HSN Crisis Intervention: Crisis Line
Call: 1-877-841-1101
Mon-Fri | 10AM - 10PM

Sudbury Warm Line (Pre-crisis Peer Assistance)
Call: 1-866-856-9276
6PM - Midnight

Kids Help Phone
Call: 1-800-668-6868
Text: 686868
Chat: kidshelpphone.ca
24/7 Support

Indian Residential School Survivors Society
Call: 1-800-721-0066
6PM - Midnight

National Residential School Crisis Line
Call: 1-866-925-4419
24/7 Support

LGBTQQ22SI Youth Crisis Hotline Trevor Project
Call: 1-866-488-7386
24/7 Support

Talk Suicide
Call or Text: 1-833-456-4566
24/7 Support

COMFORT LINES

Good 2 Talk (Post-Secondary Student) Helpline
Call: 1-866-925-5454
24/7 Support

Hope for Wellness (First Nation & Inuit) Helpline
Call: 1-855-242-3310
Mon-Fri | 10AM - 10PM

Talk 4 Healing (Aboriginal Women) Helpline
Call: 1-855-554-4325
6PM - Midnight

Seniors' Safety & Support Line
Call: 1-866-299-1011
24/7 Support

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, **call 911 right away.**

UNDERSTANDING **BULLYING** *& SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS*

Bullying can be influenced by experiences at home, at school, with peers, and in the wider community. It can have serious effects on students and the school community. Research shows that bullying can increase the risk of anxiety, depression, and sleep problems. Another interesting fact is that bullying can affect bystanders too, not just the student being bullied.

WHAT IS BIIDAABAN DOING?

Research shows that school-based programs can help reduce bullying. Based on reports from students themselves, the school was able to lower bullying by 70% within the last school year.

Biidaaban continues to use the WITS Program, Zones of Regulation, and Seven Grandfather Teachings to help students build positive relationships, manage emotions, show respect, and respond to bullying.

Families and schools can work together to teach empathy, respect, and healthy ways to solve conflicts.



**SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK
EDUCATION**

NEED HELP?

If you or your child is experiencing bullying after school hours, please contact Anishinabek Police Services (APS) at **1-888-310-1122**.

Upcoming Community Open House and Job Fair: Explore Opportunities on Transmission Projects

A message from Sagamok Development Corporation:

Our Nation, in collaboration with the Waasmoowin Opportunities and Consultation Council (WOCC), Hydro One and Valard Construction, is inviting you to attend a Community Open House and Job Fair and Business Engagement event associated with Waasmoowin and Hydro One's North Shore Link and Northeast Power Line projects.

The Community Open House will provide members the opportunity to learn more about the projects, receive updates, ask questions and provide feedback.

The Job Fair and Business Engagement event will provide you the opportunity to explore potential employment, training and business opportunities.

Potential employment roles may include:

- Skilled trades and apprenticeships
- Heavy-equipment operation
- Construction, labour and site-support roles

Additional opportunities are expected to be identified as the projects advance. Requirements will vary, and opportunities may be available for experienced workers as well as individuals interested in apprenticeships, training and entry-level career pathways.

WOCC will support training opportunities to help First Nation members build the skills, certifications and qualifications needed to pursue project employment, while working with project unions to establish clearer pathways to union membership, apprenticeships, training and employment.

Local businesses and entrepreneurs are also encouraged to attend to learn about potential contracting, procurement and supplier opportunities connected to the projects.

Community Open House Details:

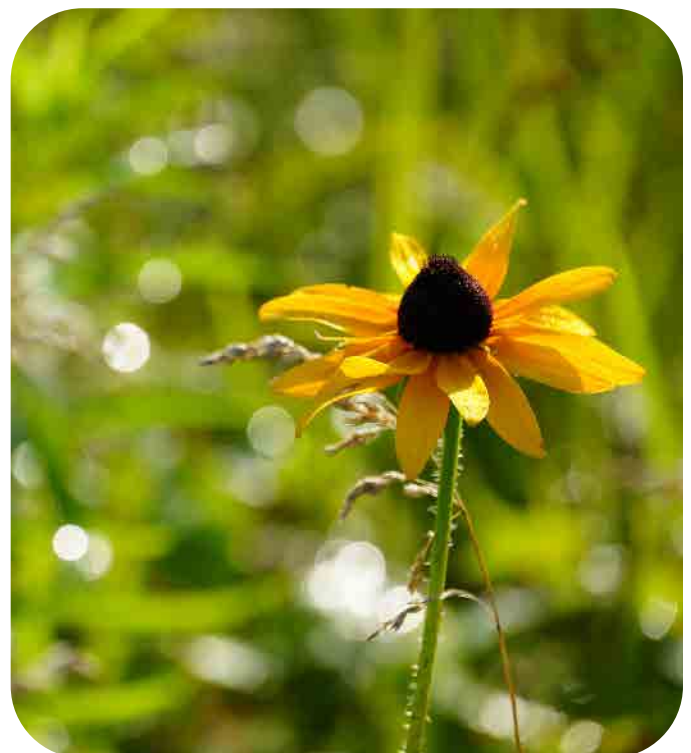
- Monday, October 19, 2026
- Time: 4:30 PM to 7: 30 PM
- Location: Millenium Centre, Unit #8, 610 Sagamok Rd, Sagamok Anishnawbek
- Can't make it in-person? Join online: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/277324405317746?p=t7urnkqst7qmptH05U>
Meeting ID: 277 324 405 317 746
Passcode: jp2R9Vb7

Job Fair and Business Engagement Details:

- Tuesday, October 20, 2026
- Time: 4: 00 PM to 8: 00 PM
- Location: Millenium Centre, Unit #8, 610 Sagamok Rd, Sagamok Anishnawbek

Members interested in employment or training are encouraged to bring an updated resume and connect with project employers, unions and the WOCC Employment & Training Team at the Job Fair. You can also register interest with WOCC at waasmoowin.com/employment-training or by contacting careers@waasmoowin.com.

We look forward to seeing you there!





You're invited to our

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE and JOB FAIR

& BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

Meet employers, explore career and business opportunities, and share your questions and feedback on Waasmoowin and Hydro One's North Shore Link and Northeast Power Line projects.

COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE



MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026
TIME: 4:30 PM TO 8 PM



**Millenium Centre, Unit #8,
610 Sagamok Rd, Sagamok
Anishnawbek**



DINNER AT 5 PM

Join:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/277324405317746?p=t7urnkqst7qmptH05U>

Meeting ID: 277 324 405 317 746

Passcode: jp2R9Vb7

JOB FAIR & BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026
TIME: 4 PM to 8 PM



**Millenium Centre, Unit #8, 610
Sagamok Rd, Sagamok
Anishnawbek**



REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Questions? Contact:

Jithu_Nikitha@sagamok.ca

More info: waasmoowin.com



waasmoowin
Opportunities and
Consultation Council



Turtle Concepts Visit Sagamok



On September 9, Dave Jones (Founder), Dan Jones (Co-Founder), Emma Morrison, David Jackson and Desirae Schell of Turtle Concepts held a “Choosing Life with Joy & Happiness” event here at the Sagamok MEC. Facilitated by Darlene McNaughton, the event supported National Suicide Prevention Day by exploring the value of personal confidence.



From the start, it was clear that the Turtles were exceptionally skilled at engaging audience members. While many events require that participants wait silently while the event sets up, the Turtles used that time to socialize. By introducing the Kendama, a traditional Japanese toy made of a wooden stick, ball, and connecting string, the Turtles were already planting the seeds for the lessons to come. The goal of the game is hand-

eye coordination: players must land a wooden ball on one of the cups or spikes on the toy’s handle. The fun of an unassuming toy quickly turned to frustration when participants struggled to land or balance the ball. To teach patience, the game was introduced as an entertaining way to get active and practice endurance. It also gave the audience a way to interact with both the Turtles and themselves.

In an enclosed circle, the event began with a catwalk; the Turtles cycled back and forth in sync to the center, striking poses as they addressed different sections of the audience. Participants laughed and joked along with them as they danced. Audience members were not left seated for long, as they were shortly asked to stand and exercise. Once they were up, Dave asked each person to give positive affirmations to their neighbours. The Turtles would intermittently pose jokingly as they spoke, embodying an ironic yet authentic confidence.

To break the audience out of their shell, the Turtles often asked for applause—holding up different signs that cartoonishly said “say Howah,” or “say awww!”—and, after enough repetition, others started joining in unprompted. The once shy room quickly became a collection of active participants. When the rest of the Turtles eventually joined Dave

after their introductions, he asked them a series of short questions. A few Turtles refused, and others mumbled. The stark contrast to their personalities just moments ago highlighted the absurdity of their newfound shyness. The once daunting task of being forwardly confident now seemed like the only sensible option if the alternative was the Turtle's new approach. Embodying the notion that ideas are "caught, not taught," the Turtles demonstrated their teachings by showing the audience how natural confidence can feel.

Breaking character, the Turtles returned to their normal demeanour. They were asked, "What made you choose confidence?" highlighting the idea that confidence is chosen—something you actively work toward, not something you are born with.



Throughout the session, audience members went from timid to eager. It was clear that this newfound confidence (introduced by the Turtles asking them to participate) could be replicated in their personal lives through routine. Instead of having to break out of their shell by participating in an event, the Turtles showed the audience that confidence isn't something you're born with, but something you can build with the right conditions.

The Turtles addressed suicide prevention by focusing on self-confidence and the contrast between outward appearances and internal feelings. They observed that when someone passes, others often describe them as "kind" or "perfect," rarely noting signs of sadness. Dave emphasized the importance of kindness, as we cannot know what others are experiencing, and encouraged celebrating the living. He stressed that we should not wait to express appreciation for those around us.

Shortly after this, participants played "Have you ever," sharing every day or unusual experience



in the center of the room. Audience members who answered "yes" exchanged seats with others nearby. The activity began with simple questions and progressed to more personal ones. When everyone stood, it demonstrated that while we all encounter challenges or awkward moments, we are not as alone in our experiences as we may believe.

By the end of the event, the Turtles clearly stood out among other presenters for their remarkable ability to engage the audience; it was clear they were a cut above many. Previously reserved attendees became expressive during the final discussion. Those who remained quiet received encouragement and support from other audience members, without being asked. The impact of the event was evident and unfolding in front of you as you participated.

But why self-confidence? While mental health and suicide are complex issues, the Turtles focused on preventing self-harm through self-love. The idea is: Confidence fosters a positive self-image, which improves mental health and reduces suicidality. For the Turtles, the message was clear: choose life, beginning with self-confidence.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who participated, and Miigwech to the whole Turtles Concepts team and to Darlene McNaughton for facilitating the event!





With Mamaweswen, The North Shore Tribal Council's (NSTC) Koognaasewin project ending on June 30, 2026, Sagamok's Koognaasewin initiative is continuing to ramp up. A Draft Koognaasewin Law, specific to Sagamok, is currently in review, and Child and Family program expansion, policies, procedures, and work plan development. **Negotiations with Canada and Ontario are scheduled to begin this month (October).**

As Sagamok's Koognaasewin initiative moves ahead, we are committed to providing the community with important updates and continued opportunity for engagement. We've recently launched a **new web page** and **blog series** dedicated to this goal. Our first blog was published in the September Community Newsletter, and is also available online. Future Koognaasewin blog posts will dive deeper into the details of Sagamok's Koognaasewin System Design, Service Delivery Model, and Work Plan. We'll also explore the Draft Koognaasewin Law so everyone can better understand how the Koognaasewin Law and accompanying System Design will shape future Child Wellbeing programming.

We encourage you to visit the NEW Koognaasewin web page to stay up to date:

www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com/koognaasewin-child-wellbeing

For more information about Sagamok's Koognaasewin initiative, please contact:

Shelly Pascall, Koognaasewin Community Engagement and Implementation Coordinator 705-863-1062



KOOGNAASEWIN LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

We are seeking Sagamok artists to create an authentic logo for Sagamok Koognaasewin, which means "Raising Our Children" in Anishinaabemowin.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 17

Submit to **abitong_jasmine@sagamok.ca**



Greenhouse Pickle Making

Community members participated in the craft of pickle making on August 20 at the youth and fitness center. From 10 am to 2 pm residents were invited to learn about the pickling process using cucumbers from the Maa Jii Chi Ge Win (Sagamok Greenhouse). With space limited to 15 participants, many were eager to join. Hosted by Adam and Angela White, members got the chance to connect with their inner food preserver. Whether you're encouraged by the prospect of self-sufficiency or eager to learn about food preservation and biochemical processes, this day was for you!

The event provided both the materials needed for pickling and the knowledge behind

the process for anyone curious—each participant received a jar with their own cucumber and an opportunity to ask questions; mirroring the process itself, Adam and Angela created the perfect conditions for attendees' knowledge to ferment. Adam discussed different pickle-making solutions, noting distinctions between brine and regular vinegar. Specifically, he mentioned that vinegar is about 5% acidic, whereas something like pickling vinegar is about 7%. Both brine and vinegar yield a similar product, but the main difference is speed.

Those who attended learned the basics, like how brine pulls moisture out of the vegetable over time and how the saltwater environment creates space for microorganisms to ferment the vegetables. Vinegar, however, supplies acid directly,

allowing for the pickling to progress much faster.

After the cucumbers were cut, the solutions were made, and the conversations were shared; the jars were stored. Pickling can take up to three weeks to finish—to truly unlock the flavours of each pickle; the cucumber must fully absorb the brine!

Miigwech to Adam, Angela, and all the participants—achieving food independence is a key step toward sovereignty. Growing food right here in Sagamok soil is an incremental but important step towards community self-determination, both materially and symbolically. Successful learning relies on both dedicated teachers and willing students! Thank you to all those who are committed to both learning and teaching.



Massey Solar Project Open House



On September 11, an open house was held for the community at the Multi-education Centre (MEC) to view and discuss a presentation on the proposed Massey Solar Project. Held from 12 pm to 3 pm, the meeting aimed to share information and answer questions about the project.

The Massey Solar Project is a planned large-scale solar energy development proposed by Massey Solar Inc.—an affiliate of Potentia Renewables Inc. (Potentia)—that aims to supply renewable energy to the Ontario PowerGrid from a set location in the township of Sables-Spanish Rivers. The project locations is approximately 14 kms from Sagamok and will cover about 680 acres (275 hectares) with an expected project lifespan of around 20 years. Construction is not likely to begin before 2028, with commercial

operations set to start in 2029.

With key growth projections estimating Ontario's total energy to rise 75% over 2025 levels by 2050, the importance of planning for Ontario's future energy demands is clear. While Northern Ontario invests more in mining and other industrial industries, electricity demand is expected to rise close to home—the Massey Solar Project is just one of several plans for energy development across Ontario.

The planned project is located near existing 230kV transmission lines, making it an opportune location to connect to Ontario's electrical grid. The project is planned to deliver 141 MWs of solar energy to Ontario's grid. Presenters from the Potentia team at the open house explained that this project will produce roughly 263,060

megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity annually. This is the equivalent of providing emissions-free electricity to about 27,000 homes in the region.

The Massey Solar Project will create a community benefit fund for the Township of Sables-Spanish. The project will also create around 150 jobs during its construction, with much fewer during operations

Sagamok is still considering its position and negotiating benefits from this project. With the project in the early development stage; this was the first public meeting for Sagamok and provided an introduction to the project and allowed the community to provide initial comments. The project still requires a Renewable Energy Approval before construction can

begin. This includes studies related to Species at Risk, wildlife habitat, ecological features, groundwater, streams and wetlands, and other environmental considerations. Sagamok will continue to monitor and review this work and all reports prepared for the project.

Community feedback is also an important part of the project development process. If you have further questions or comments on the project, please contact the Claims & Negotiations Unit at 705-865-2421 x 551.

Miigwech to all community members and staff who attended the Open House. We will continue to use Sagamok communications channels to post updates on the project and future meetings and open houses.

Proposed Project Timeline

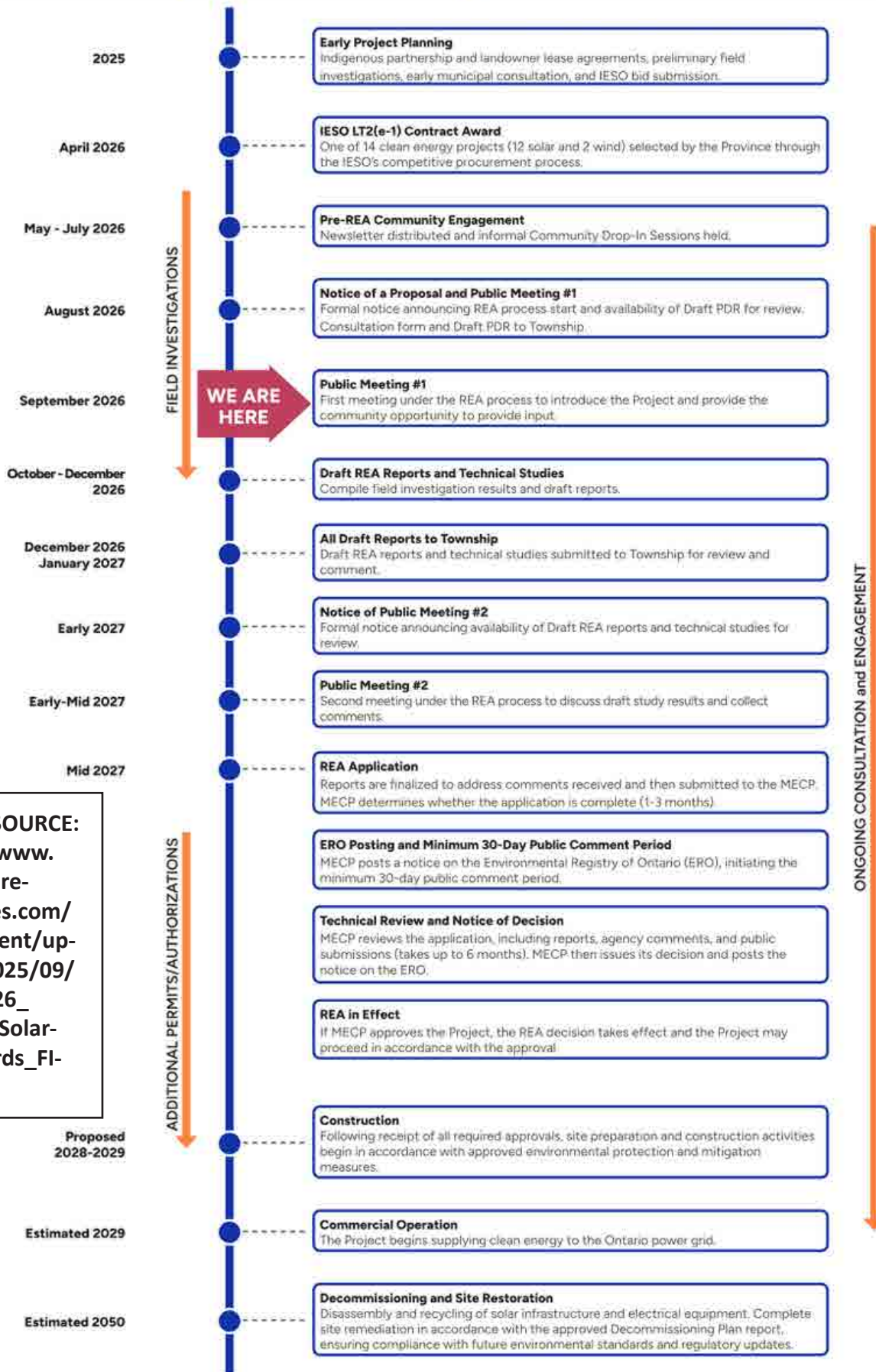


IMAGE SOURCE:
https://www.potentiarenewables.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Sept-2026_Massey-Solar-OH-Boards_FINAL.pdf



STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT—INTERVIEW WITH BRENDA OWL

For many, family is the highest priority, yet familial relationships can be complex and unpredictable. One way to look at it is to think of working with your family like a sports team. We acknowledge that each member plays a unique role, and everyone's actions affect the group. And, like a sport's team, families also benefit from practicing strong communication, collaboration, and consistent support, even during difficult times. However, it can be hard to see what to prioritize when working on family dynamics; this is why attending programs that offer practical tools and resources, such as Sagamok's Strengthening Families Program, is an effective way to assess and improve your family dynamics.

To highlight the quality of this service, we interviewed a past Strengthening Families graduate for testimony. After almost 25 years living outside of the community, Brenda Owl (a resident of Sagamok) foresaw many struggles returning home for the first time. Not

by reason of Sagamok itself, but because moving is hard—especially for families. As a mother of four (with two children directly affected by the move), Brenda prioritized her family's health above all else. Originally attending the program in October 2025, she thought it would be best to join the Strengthening Families program to help manage her family's transition.

The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is a family skills training program that takes place for 10 weeks. Conceptualized as a tool to support family relationships with the goal of "reducing youth delinquency," the program is a shining example of Sagamok's continued effort to provide community support—so let's take a moment to explore!

Held every Tuesday evening from 5 pm to 7 pm, the program supports up to 10 families. With ages ranging from three to eighteen, both youth and adults get a variety of social interactions and learn a range of skills across the parent-child spectrum—each class uses a mix of presentation and interaction.

Classes use student discussions, instructions, and the presenter's lessons as the primary teaching tools. Many lessons, Brenda noted, were

not about grand revelations, but rather tools to help manage everyday life. One of the main takeaways from the classes was the value of listening.

Brenda explained that many classes felt stress-free and informal, so participants could speak freely and joke with each other. This wasn't a trivial note, as it highlights something she believed was pivotal about the class:

The best learning comes from like-minded parents, where open dialogue is encouraged, and the end goal is strengthening families.

From casual stories to direct advice, the environment inspired Brenda to learn a lot from both her teachers and fellow students. Remarking that because we all get busy in life, it is useful to sometimes be reminded of the basics. Often, it isn't that we lack the tools, but the knowledge of how and when to apply them.

In the class, miniature goals were set each week, like "remembering to breathe," to challenge community members with bite-sized goals that were both manageable and beneficial. Each lesson often included specific goals like reaching out to someone

or giving a compliment—exploring the power of starting small but staying consistent.

Although Brenda couldn't point to a specific moment in the classes that changed her worldview, she shared something more subtle. Because she feels the classes were effective, she's not sure of the exact ways they impacted her. That is because the experience was internalized so well that it's hard to separate what she learned, since it has become part of her routine so subtly.

The classes themselves may not lead you to an "ah-ha!" moment, but that was never the goal. Because parenting is unique to every parent, so too is every lesson. Meaning, the lessons you learn may never have been taught but rather caught—caught in a conversation with another parent or child, in an interaction between two people, or by observing yourself internally.

Going forward, Brenda would like to see more Indigenous-based teachings. Mentioning that what was learned and discussed in the class was effective and beneficial for most parents, but she would also like to see more of the lessons reflect Indigenous-specific struggles. She ended by saying her kids really enjoyed meeting others their age and getting an opportunity to socialize. Brenda highlighted the

program's primary function: strengthening bonds. With this final note, encouraging anyone who feels they may benefit from a casual, more listening-focused program with a strong hint of interaction with participants to reach out.

If this seems like a program you would benefit from, it starts October 13th and will be held every Tuesday evening from 5-7pm at the Multi-Education Centre (MEC.) Sagamok has held this program three times, and this will be its fourth. If you miss it this time, don't hesitate to show interest and prepare for the next one! Remember, only 10 families can be supported at a time, so reach out to Susan Sonnenburg soon to secure a spot for your family. Miigwech to Brenda Owl for taking the time to share her experience! And thank you, Susan, for facilitating it.



Moss Bag Making (Sept 29-30)



Ernestine Bob – Happy Retirement



After 37 years of steadfast service in her role with the Community Wellness Department (CWD) as the Medical Transportation Coordinator, Ernestine Bob was honoured on September 11 with an open invitation to community and staff members to gather at the New Community Hall for her retirement party and send-off.

The celebration of Ernestine's commitment to her community, her career, and her family, was well attended by peers, coworkers, family, and friends. The head table was decorated with gold foil star balloons, white/black/gold accessories, tablecloths sprinkled with themed confetti, banners, and more balloons emblazoned with 'Happy Retirement'. Ernestine was the center of attention, surrounded by her immediate family. Her face was alight with a steady smile, but her humility remained in check. The 25C day was sunny and bright, matching the faces and heartfelt wishes of all who gathered in Ernestine's honour. So much gratitude and acknowledgement of 37 years of faithful service and dedication was shared in the speeches of colleagues and friends who chose to stand and offer sentiments to Ernestine about her labour of love with Sagamok and its community members/families, and their special journey together.

As those gathered shared warm stories of appreciation and snippets of Ernestine's challenging but rewarding role -- organizing transport for members needing extended medical care or relocation in some cases -- and jovial comments about Ernestine saying she will 'never retire' or 'what

will you do with all your time now?', many quizzed her and her family about 'what does retirement look like for you, Ernestine?' as gazes travelled seemingly futuristic across the distant, clear view of the North Channel from the hall grounds.

Paula Swift, Director of the Community Wellness Department, welcomed everyone and shared heartfelt words about Ernestine and her important role in the community. "She will be missed!" Paula said. "Ernestine has been with Sagamok for longer than I have been alive," She noted, adding that they even had a practice run without her after she jokingly said, "she would never retire." She then said sincerely, "Thank you for keeping our families together with all of the health needs you've encountered," and highlighted that "when a family was being sent out West to receive care," it was always Ernestine who made the arrangements. Paula continued, "We are sending you off today with a family getaway trip and these patio and family-time gifts to celebrate your years of service and to show our gratitude."

Ernestine's grandson, Parker, was present for the celebration, and helped his grandmother retrieve her meal and favourite dessert -- homemade banana cream pie (by special request) and prepared lovingly by Roberta Swift. Mile high coconut cream pie was also on hand, and a commemorative cake, decorated with "Happy Retirement, Ernestine." The celebratory catered hot meal was delicious and consisted of prime rib, meatloaf, and lasagna with garlic bread, plus salads; all crowd favourites! The celebration was personal, intimate, and filled with congratulations and best wishes to Ernestine, and her family, as she embarks on her next chapter in life. Chi miigwech, Ernestine for your many years of loving service and devotion to our community.



Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering 2026

This September 8 to 10, Wasauksing First Nation and Shawanaga First Nation co-hosted the 2026 Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering to celebrate its 176th anniversary. Guests were invited to Wasauksing First Nation to attend in person and listen as panelists spoke about carrying forward treaty awareness, land, and youth-led initiatives. Spanning three days, the gathering offered a wide variety of presentations, booths, and workshops. With so much opportunity and information across multiple days, let's dive into what happened on the first day!

The event began on a temperate Tuesday in Wasauksing, and police welcomed attendees. With the venue at capacity and many guests present, their help was greatly appreciated. From directing parking to aiding pedestrians, their support was felt. As cars crept along the roads around the main stage, vendors

sat and fanned themselves while chatting with oncoming guests. Customers, old friends and families all shared the joy of conversation as the event began rolling out.

Each year the treaty gathering features a variety of informational booths, crafts, and services, and this year was no exception. Booths like Georgian Bay Biosphere, Koognaasewin, the Anishinabek Education System, and Sagamok's own Woodland Wealth (owned and operated by Carol Ann Budd here in Sagamok) were present, along with many more vendors offering handmade jewelry, art, and clothing.

The main stage, located to the left of the booths in a large, enclosed hockey rink, served as the event's focal point. Chief Shane Tabobondung welcomed the crowd as people rustled to find their seats. Shortly after thanking the

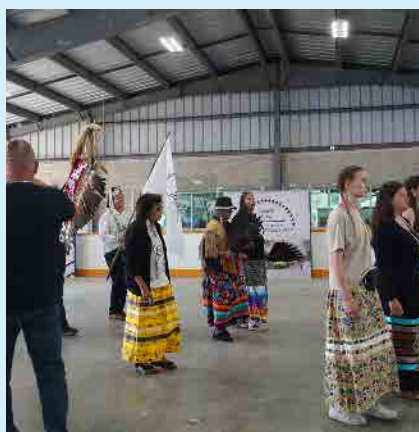


Creator for a beautiful day, Chief Tabobondung noted that the "strength of the youth fills his heart," and they "needed the space to grow," thanking everyone who attended. As he thanked everyone for coming out, a little pup wandered into the crowd. Gracefully weaving up and down the aisle and between rows, the pup drew a strong parallel with the words being spoken; as Chief Tabobondung welcomed from the stage, the pup welcomed the crowd from the floor.





After the pup was escorted away and the grand entrance concluded, speakers such as Chief Angus Toulouse, Dean Sayers, Mike Restoule, and other dignitaries took the stage. Former Chief Warren Tabobondung (Wasauksing First Nation) and Chief Adam Pawis (Shawanaga First Nation) welcomed attendees and provided an overview of the Robinson treaty gathering. Chief Warren opened with impassioned words, urging the crowd to actively participate by being “proud of who we are,” “proud of what we achieved,”



and “proud that we are still here.”

Shortly after the agenda overview and welcome, Chief Angus Toulouse, Leroy Bennett, Dean Sayers, Martina Osawamick, and Grace Martin-Wirta reflected on the origins and purpose of this year’s gathering. Moderator

Kerry Assiniwe opened the conversation with an honest, heartfelt confession, saying that sometimes she is “concerned” and wonders whether “the youth fully understand and appreciate the wisdom of their elders,” and when they speak, “do they fully grasp the power of their word?” This was not meant to denigrate the youth attending, but to highlight the strength of those about to speak.

Chief Angus Toulouse began his speech in Anishinaabemowin, then continued in English: “Identity and language are intertwined,” Chief Toulouse stressed. The importance of youth learning and preserving the language is to continue heritage and tradition. He emphasized the need for more opportunities and programs to support this goal. For many, learning the language is a top priority as language shapes identity and forms the basis of conceptual understanding. Because we derive our awareness (Identity) of self through language (our internal thoughts), it’s no exaggeration to say that language literally defines who we are. This sentiment was echoed by Leroy Bennett, “We have the ability to look at the past, present and future,” but are robbed of our future when we don’t have the

language and the ceremony—also noting that the biggest voices for the youth trend towards social media these days, and that it’s important that



communication to the youth is diversified.

In a similar vein, Leroy discussed how we communicate at different levels, saying that traditions, fasting, and similar practices also serve as forms of communication. He emphasized that communication extends beyond words, allowing individuals to connect with their ancestors through actions. And that if you live in a manner that’s congruent with your spirituality, you will have a “somewhat easier path,” jokingly mentioning that no one’s path in life is easy.

Abruptly, the microphone cuts out, the screens on stage go black, and you hear Leroy call out from a distance, “Oh no!” which makes the crowd burst



into a mix of gasps and laughter. As Leroy delivers a speech that emphasizes language and the importance of being heard, the mic cuts out at the perfect moment to underscore the point. It's impossible to know whether Creator was watching at that moment, but if they were, they certainly used it as a perfect example of irony to help cement the idea in the audience's mind.

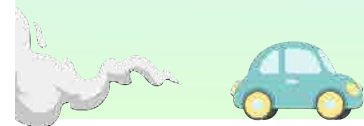
After about an hour, the power returned, and the audience enjoyed a Robinson Huron Treaty Youth Advisory Presentation. The group, which included Chad McKay, Daynara Cyr (*Zhaashkwe Naangosh*), Jared "Gaagaagi" Commanda, Jacob Genereux, Tierra Madahbee-Abotosaway, Julianna Grant, Grace Martin-Wirta, and Aurora Ominika-Enosse, discussed ways to help future generations continue the treaty, culture, and community. Each youth spoke passionately about rediscovering their identity and connecting to their roots. They discussed planning and brainstorming a meaningful, fulfilling youth gathering and encouraging Youth as leaders as part of their youth advisory goals. With the question in mind, "What would you say is a priority for the youth of today?" The panel discussed creating spaces for people and meeting them where they're at. Reaffirming as a group that when speaking to the youth, you can't get frustrated with them when they're not ready. Specifically, they said they're working to create open, comfortable spaces that invite youth rather than demand them. They closed their presentation with a call to

action, encouraging audience members to share tobacco with Elders, community, and others they respect as opportunities to learn, while challenging the community to embrace new experiences and remain open to learning.

The gathering closed with a presentation by Serpent River's Waterways Collective, an Anishinaabe, youth-led collective that focuses on reconnecting community members through activities such as paddling. From reseeded to restoring traditional food sources, the collective teaches members how to safely canoe their waters and restore community. The panelist spoke about finding fish with nodules, a clear sign of contamination, and lamented the damage to wildlife and land. The brief presentation introduced the collective as a group of inspiring youth seeking to reconnect to the water and land.

Miigwech to Wasauksing First Nation and Shawanaga First Nation for hosting the

2026 Robinson Huron Treaty Gathering this year, and to all who presented and attended. From discussions on language by Chief Angus Toulouse and Leroy Bennett to the youth-led organization and the Waterways Collective, each panelist refocused on the central topic of connecting back to our language, our land and our communities. To carry the treaty forward, we must gather and connect with each other!



Free Essential Travel

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER

Mondays - Fridays

9:00AM - 4:00PM

Sagamok, Massey or Espanola Grocery Stores

Call 705-863-2531 to book a ride.



3 Nolans Hockey Camp

The 3 Nolans Hockey Camp took place at the Espanola Recreation Complex from 10:00am to 6:00pm on Saturday, September 12 and Sunday, September 13, 2026.

Participants trained with Jordan Nolan, a former NHL player and three-time Stanley Cup winner with the LA Kings and St. Louis Blues, as well as his brothers Brandon Nolan, a former Carolina Hurricanes player, and Ted Nolan of the Detroit Red Wings.

Children were grouped by age and experience for on-ice skills sessions led by Brandon and Jordan. On Saturday, an off-ice roundtable allowed the brothers to share their journeys and highlight the importance of education, emphasizing that completing school is essential for future success.

Miigwech to the Nolan brothers for hosting the camp, to Darian Jones for the photos, and to the youth for their dedication to improving their skills on the ice!





Dear Parent/Caregiver and Student,

Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik, in partnership with the Community Wellness Department's Mental Health & Addictions and Youth Wellness Hub Team, is pleased to offer Mental Health Intake Services for students and families.

To make services more accessible, an Intake Day will be available at Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik on the first Thursday of each month, beginning October 1, 2026. Students and families can meet with an Intake Worker to discuss strengths, concerns, goals, and available supports. The intake appointment is the first step in connecting with mental health services that best meet the needs of the student and family.

Intake services are also available at the Community Wellness Department Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Families may choose the option that is most convenient for them.

Following intake, services may be provided at Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik in a confidential space, at the Community Wellness Department, or at another location that best meets the needs of the student and family.

Participation in mental health services is voluntary.

For students under 12 years of age, parent/caregiver knowledge and consent are required. For students aged 12 and older, students may access services with their informed consent. Parent/caregiver involvement is encouraged whenever appropriate and with the student's knowledge and agreement. Information shared during intake and ongoing services is confidential and managed in accordance with professional standards, organizational policies, and applicable privacy legislation. Confidentiality and its limits will be reviewed during the intake appointment.

We look forward to working together to support the mental health, wellness, and success of our students.

For more information, please contact:

Scott Restoule, Principal, Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik, 705-885-2387

Darlene McNaughton, YWHO Lead, Sagamok Naandwedjige-Gamik, 705-865-2171, ext. 156

Wanda Clayton, Mental Health & Addictions Manager, 705-865-2171 Ext 152



Gweyaksijigewin Teg
Sagamok Community Justice Program
P.O. Box 610, 610 Sagamok Road, Unit 2
Sagamok Anishnawbek
Telephone: 705-865-1884

ANISHNAABE AADZIWIN DBAAKNIGE OGIMAAWIN

Victim Services

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Anishinaabe Aadziwin Dbaaknige Ogimaawin Victim Services program offers support and assistance to Sagamok Anishnawbek community members who have been victimized. The program provides referrals and connections within Sagamok and outside the community. It assists victims through the Miwdoodaa Mino Maadziwin Diversion program and the justice system. The program creates a healing and wellness plan with victims to restore sense of safety and well-being. Additionally, will provide assistance with forms and victim impact statements.

The program also provides services to address lateral violence and intergenerational trauma within Sagamok Anishnawbek community.

PROGRAM SERVICES

- Understanding of Diversion process
- Understanding of Criminal Justice System
- Emotional Support
- Court Accompaniment
- Assist with Victim Impact Statements
- Assist with Victim Quick Response Program+
- Referrals to internal and external Services

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- Member and/or resident of Sagamok Anishnawbek
- Person who has been a victim of crime

JOSLYN PAIBOMSAI

Anishinaabe Aadziwin Dbaaknige Ogimaawin

Victim Service Coordinator

paibomsai_joslyn@sagamok.ca

610 Sagamok Rd, Unit 2

Tel: 705-865-1884 ext. 504

Cell: 705-863-5074



Z'GAMOK ANISHNAWBEK MEMBERSHIP LAW DEVELOPMENT

Still Listening, Still Gathering

Membership Law Development: Update October 2026



A membership law that honours who we are and who we have always been.

Since August, the work to build our own membership law has kept moving.

In August, more than 50 community members, Elders, Knowledge Holders, families and youth came together at Biidaaban Kinoomaagegamik for Identity, Belonging, Connection. You shared stories about our family names, about children raised by the whole community, about our language, about sharing, the land and its medicines, our doodem, and what it means to welcome people home. 88% of those who completed an evaluation said the gathering strengthened their sense of belonging.

Those stories have not been sitting on a shelf. The Membership Law Development Team has been working through everything that was shared, and we have been out listening again. At Fall Harvest on October 6 and 7, 28 people took part, including 19 youth. We sat with community members for a fireside chat, and we heard from our Grade 7 and 8 students, because the young people this law will affect most deserve to be heard.

What's next

- Elder interviews: one-on-one conversations at a time and place that works for you. A family member or support person is welcome.
- The Stories That Hold Us Together: A Full Day with Our Elders (date to be announced).
- Off-reserve engagement sessions, because members living away from home are part of this too.
- More youth sessions.

Did you know?

Being registered is not the same as being a member. Registration is with Canada and gives access to certain programs. Membership is with Z'gamok and gives you the right to vote and take part fully. Z'gamok is a Section 10 band, so our community decides who belongs.

How your voice becomes the law

You share. We listen and record. We organize what we heard. The law is drafted using your words. The draft comes back to you for review. When it reflects who we are, the community adopts it.

Community voices lead this process.

Get involved

Visit Membership Law Development and Engagement on the Sagamok Anishnawbek Members Portal for information and upcoming events, or contact Rhea Assinewe, Special Projects Support, at assinewe_rhea@sagamok.ca.

Miigwech to everyone who has shared their time, their stories and their teachings so far.

Visit the **Membership Law Development and Engagement Web Page** on Sagamok's Members Portal for Ongoing Updates





Photos taken during “Z’gamok Anishnawbek Membership Law | Community Engagement Session” on Aug 11-12, 2026

OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



FAMILY WALKING CHALLENGE

4 Week Challenge Starts October 21

WEDNESDAYS 4-5PM
Chute's Provincial Park

For more information, contact
Julianne: 705-863-0659
trudeau_julianne@sagamok.ca

Career Fair



OCTOBER 22 | 10AM – 3PM

New Community Hall

linklater_lorrieann@sagamok.ca

2027 Community Calendar



Would you like a chance for your photos to be featured in the **Sagamok 2027 Community Calendar**?! Submit your photos of our beautiful community for a chance for your photo to be featured in **Sagamok's 2027 Community Calendar**!!

Deadline: October 30th

Send submissions to: newsletter@sagamok.ca

INFANT MASSAGE CLASSES

Ages 0-12m or Prenatal Parents
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

6 Week Program

Beginning October 15, 2026

Youth Centre | 12:00PM-1:30PM

Natasha Bourgeois | 705-863-0554

Binaakwii Giizis Full-Moon Ceremony

Falling Leaves Moon

October 26th | 6- 8PM | Location: Saswin

Hosted by Martina & Lise Ozaawaamik.
Pipe Ceremony & Women's Teachings
Bring a chair & tobacco.

* Ribbon skirts encouraged. Dress according to weather. *

jacobs_sarah@sagamok.ca | 705-863-0337

www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com

ScrapbookKing Club

OCT 4, NOV 8 & DEC 6

5:00PM-6:30PM

Lifelong Learning Centre

Natasha Bourgeois
705-863-0554

MEALS AND SUPPLIES PROVIDED

GROCERY PROGRAM

Grocery Vouchers for Sagamok-Registered Members with Children Aged 0-6.

PICKUP MONDAYS | 9AM-4PM

53 Kokoko Rd

Natasha 705-863-0554 • Julianne 705-863-0659



Annual General Meeting

» SAVE THE DATE — NOVEMBER 7, 2026 «

Darla Boston | 705-865-2421

OPPORTUNITIES, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS



**SUDBURY BARRIE TRANSMISSION LINE
COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE**

Thursday, October 22 | 4:30PM
610 Sagamok Rd, Unit #8 (Council Chambers)

HYDRO ONE, WORKING WITH FIRST NATIONS

WWW.SAGAMOKANISHNAWBEK.COM

Caregiver Drop Ins

This group is focused on Parents/Caregivers and does not require registration
Good conversation, stories, toys and snacks.

Date: Every Wednesday
Beginning October 14, 2026

Time: 12:00pm to 1:30pm

Location: Youth Centre

For more information, please contact Natasha at 705-863-0659

Trespass By-Law

SECOND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION

NOV 3 | 1-3PM & 4:00-6:30PM
New Community Hall

Barry Petahtegoose | 705-863-0620

Car Seat Cover Workshop

with Misty Bob

Oct 20 | 10AM – 3PM
Lifelong Learning Centre

Lunch Provided
Transportation Available

Julianne | 705-863-0659
trudeau_julianne@sagamok.ca



Dwagi Giizhagat

FALL FUN DAY

OCTOBER 24 | 10AM-3PM
Multi-Educational Centre

GAMES • BOUNCY CASTLES • BINGO • DOOR PRIZES • AND MORE!

Gail Trudeau | 705-863-2531

Urban Community Outreach

For Members of Sagamok

Membership Services • Off-Reserve Member Christmas Gift Cards
• Sagamok Department Updates • Koognaasewin • and More!

**OTTAWA
NOVEMBER 14-15**

**TORONTO
NOVEMBER 21-22**

Additional Event Details Available Online

Jasmine Abitong | abitong_jasmine@sagamok.ca

Community Service Hours Opportunity

MEMORIAL ROUND DANCE



We're looking for community members and students to help with this year's Memorial Round Dance. Contact us!

southwind_andrew@sagamok.ca

CATERING TENDER

Event: Memorial Round Dance
Date: Saturday, December 5, 2026

All Details Available Online

www.SagamokAnishnawbek.com/Sagamok-Posts





SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK

NEWS 

CONTACT:

I.T. and Communications Department
newsletter@sagamok.ca