



# GIISHKAANDAGO'IKWE

HEALTH SERVICES

## NEWSLETTER

ZIIGWAN (SPRING) 2026

# OUR MISSION, VISION & VALUES

## MINO AYAWIN - GOOD HEALTH

We are a leader in innovative health care guided by the Grandmother and Grandfather teachings of the Anishinaabeg inspiring knowledge, strength and empowerment for the purpose of lifelong Mino Ayawin (good health).



*Truth*



*Wisdom*



*Love*



*Respect*



*Bravery*



*Honesty*



*Humility*



*Forgiveness*

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### TRUTH

Notable Dates	02
Corporate Highlights	03

### WISDOM

World Water Day	05
Nutrition Month	06
Oral Health Month	07
National Immunization Week	08
Day of the Midwife	09
Brush, Book, Bed - Age 7+	10

### WISDOM (CON'T)

Emergency Preparedness	12
Boating Safety	13

### LOVE

Child & Youth Mental Health Day	14
Memengwaawag Posters	15

### RESPECT

Cultural Corner	17
-----------------	----

### BRAVERY

Healing Spirit	18
Bear Witness Day	19

### HONESTY

Guiding Impact	20
----------------	----

### HUMILITY

Contact Us/Join Our Team	21
--------------------------	----



*Truth*  
DEBWEWIN

# NOTABLE DATES

## RECOGNIZED MONTHS/DAYS

MARCH - NUTRITION MONTH

MARCH 8 - INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

MARCH 22 - WORLD WATER DAY

MARCH 31- NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES DAY

APRIL - NATIONAL ORAL HEALTH MONTH

APRIL 11-13 - CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

APRIL 23-30 - NATIONAL IMMUNIZATIN AWARENESS WEEK

MAY 4-10 - MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

MAY 5 - RED DRESS DAY

MAY 7 - NATIONAL CHILD & YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH DAY

MAY 10 - BEAR WITNESS DAY

MAY 16 - MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN DAY

## RED DRESS DAY AWARENESS WALK

MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2026

Join the Memengwaawag Wellness Workers

**WALK STARTS AT 10:00AM**

Giishkaandago'lkwe BHS office (601 King's Highway) to Fort Frances OPP Station and back

**BBQ LUNCH & REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW**

## UPCOMING OFFICE CLOSURES

Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Good Friday

Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> - Easter Monday

Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> - Victoria Day

The Mino Ayaa Ta Win Healing Centre will remain open with full detox services available during office closures. Please call **807-274-7373** for more information.



If you are in crisis, please call Crisis response Services at **1-866-888-8988**

In the event of an emergency, please call 911 or the emergency service number in your community.



# CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS



## *Happy Retirement!*

In January we celebrated Deb Cousineau, Manager of Children's Clinical Services, as she embarked on her retirement after nearly 6 years with the organization.

Miigwech to Deb's remarkable contributions to children's services, her leadership and the example she set. We are filled with gratitude for the years that Deb devoted to strengthening

Giishkaandago'lkwe's mission, and admiration for the legacy of compassion, excellence and service she leaves behind.

A trusted voice; Deb's dedication elevated our work and inspired us to reach higher, listen more deeply, and always keep children and families at the centre. Her unwavering commitment to Jordan's Principle and her fierce advocacy for families have truly shaped the program in the past several years. Deb will be greatly missed, but her impact will continue to guide the Child's First initiative well into the future. Happy Retirement!

## STAFF MILESTONES

Congratulations to our staff who reached a milestone year of service in 2025:



**JOSH COUNCILLOR  
5 YEARS**



**JANE CALDER  
5 YEARS**



**TASHA WOOD  
5 YEARS**



**CHANTAL KAUN  
5 YEARS**



**BETH FREEMAN-  
WROLSTAD  
5 YEARS**



**VICTOR ARMIT  
5 YEARS**



**TARRA PETERSON  
5 YEARS**



**SARA ROACH  
10 YEARS**



**DEB COUSINEAU  
5 YEARS**



**KATE NORMAN  
5 YEARS**

- COLLEEN JOLICOUER - 5 YEARS**
- BOBBI MAXWELL - 5 YEARS**
- ALEX BRUYERE - 5 YEARS**

\*Photo not available



## STAFF HOLIDAY PARTY

In early December our staff gathered at the Fort Frances Curling Club to celebrate the holiday season.

After a traditional opening with our drum and hand drummers, a communal feast was enjoyed, with a competitive trivia game following. Santa even made an appearance to hand out gifts.

It was a day to celebrate the previous year and spend time with colleagues outside of the office.



## HAPPY RETIREMENT

Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services would like to celebrate and recognize Wayne Smith on his retirement after 36 years of leadership, dedication, and unwavering service as the Chief for Naicatchewenin First Nation.

Wayne has carried the responsibility of leadership with strength, humility, and vision. He has always been an amazing advocate for his community and our organization as a Board member, protecting the Anishinaabe values and traditions, and laying the foundation for future generations. Through challenges and change, Wayne's commitment to his community and to our organization has remained steady and true.

Wayne's leadership has not only guided decisions — it has strengthened relationships, uplifted those he worked with, and helped shape a path forward grounded in respect, resilience, and pride. The impact of Wayne's work will be felt for generations to come.

Serving as Chief is not simply a position; it is a calling. For 36 years, he answered that call with integrity, courage, and heart. The time, sacrifices, and tireless efforts he has provided all of us will never be forgotten.

As Wayne steps into this well-earned retirement, we hope he does so knowing that his legacy is strong, his contributions are deeply valued, and that we are all better because of his leadership and guidance. On behalf of all who have walked this journey with him, we share our deepest appreciation for all that he has done.

***Congratulations on your retirement and on 36 remarkable years of service!***





Truth



# WORLD WATER DAY

MARCH  
22

*Where water flows, equality grows*

World Water Day, held on 22 March every year since 1993, is an annual United Nations Observance focusing on the importance of fresh water. World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.1 billion people living without access to safe water. It is about taking action to tackle the global water crisis.

## FOCUS ON SAFE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

The Safe Drinking Water Program continues to play a vital role in protecting and promoting the health of the communities we serve. Access to safe, clean drinking water is a fundamental public health priority, and this program supports ongoing efforts to reduce waterborne illness and ensure safe water consumption across all serviced communities.

Environmental Health staff worked closely with community partners and water system operators to conduct regular water sampling, review results, and follow up on any identified concerns in a timely and effective manner.

A key component of the program is public education and awareness. Community members are provided with information on safe drinking water practices, boil water advisories, and steps to take if water quality concerns arise.

The program also emphasizes prevention and preparedness, supporting communities in maintaining safe water systems and responding quickly to potential risks. This proactive approach helps reduce the likelihood of waterborne illness and supports overall community well-being.



**WATER AS LIFE: FOR THE ANISHINAABEG WATER IS A SACRED, LIVING SPIRIT ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL AND CEREMONY. WATER IS ALWAYS INCLUDED IN CEREMONY AS IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE.**



# NUTRITION MONTH

## NOURISH TO FLOURISH

Did you know March is Nutrition Month? Why not use this opportunity to make family-friendly and healthy meals while the kids are out of school during March Break. Instead of spending hours on screens, **challenge your kids to plan a menu, find a recipe, write the grocery list and cook a tasty meal!** Even young children or siblings can be involved in the planning process; **from washing vegetables, measuring and mixing ingredients or setting the table.**

## THEMES & RECIPES FOR INSPIRATION

### *Baked Potato Bar*

Serve baked potatoes and have everyone pile on their own toppings: pulled pork, bacon, chili, cheese, steamed broccoli, green onions, and jalapenos.



### *Sheet Pan Chicken Fajitas*

Add chopped onions, bell peppers and raw chicken breasts to a sheet pan. Drizzle with vegetable oil and a packet of fajita seasoning. Toss ingredients until well coated. Bake at 400° for 35-40 minutes, stirring halfway through. Serve in a warm tortilla. Decorate the table with colourful paper chains or balloon cactus centerpieces.



### *Breakfast for Dinner*

St. Patty's Day waffles. Dye the batter with green food colouring and serve with a green smoothie! For the smoothie, blend ¼ cup water, 2 ice cubes, 1 cup spinach, ½ cup green grapes, ½ cup frozen mango, ½ banana, ¼ cup vanilla Greek yogurt, and 1Tbsp ground flax (optional) in a blender until smooth.





# ORAL HEALTH MONTH

**April is Oral Health Month in Canada!** Good oral hygiene plays an important role in Mino Ayawin (Good Health). Check out the resource below for helpful tips on caring for the teeth and mouths of infants and young children, adapted from Dental Hygiene Canada.

## Caring for Your Child's Baby Teeth

Baby teeth usually come in between 6 months and 2½ years of age. Even though they are temporary, baby teeth are very important. They help your child eat; learn to speak clearly, and save space for adult teeth.

Cavities in baby teeth can cause pain and infections and may affect your child's growth and development. The good news is that healthy habits started early can help protect your child's smile.



## Simple Tips for Healthy Teeth

- Gently wipe your baby's gums with a clean, soft cloth after feedings.
- Avoid sharing saliva with your child (for example, licking pacifiers or spoons), as this can spread cavity-causing germs.
- Do not put your child to bed with a bottle containing anything other than water.
- Once teeth appear, brush twice a day using a tiny amount of toothpaste (about the size of a grain of rice).
- Use a clean teething ring or a cold, wet cloth to soothe sore gums when teeth are coming in.
- Schedule your child's first dental visit by their first birthday.

## Your Child's First Dental Visit

At the first visit, the dental hygienist will gently check your child's mouth, answer your questions, and show you how to care for your child's teeth at home.

As your child grows, they may recommend extra care, such as:

- **Fluoride treatments:** These help make teeth stronger and protect against decay.
- **Sealants:** A protective coating placed on back teeth to help prevent cavities.

## Other Ways to Help Your Child's Smile

- Offer healthy meals and snacks, and choose water or unsweetened drinks.
- Create calming bedtime routines like rocking, reading or singing instead of long bottle use, which can affect jaw development.
- Look inside your child's mouth regularly. If you notice anything unusual, book a visit with your dental provider.
- Help your child brush and floss until at least age 8, or longer if they still need supervision.

Be sure to watch our Facebook page during the week of April 4-10, as the Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI) team celebrates National Dental Hygienists Week™.



# NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION WEEK

**APRIL  
23-30**



## VACCINATIONS MATTER!

They are one of the most effective public health interventions of our time, responsible for preventing millions of illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths worldwide. Vaccines not only protect us as individuals from preventable diseases but also protect the communities we live in. This is achieved through community immunity (also known as herd immunity)—when enough people within a population are immunized against a contagious disease, it helps safeguard those who cannot be vaccinated, such as newborns or individuals with certain medical conditions.



## VACCINES OVER A LIFETIME

For children, vaccines help build early immunity to protect them against serious diseases such as measles, pertussis (whooping cough), and polio.

The need for protection continues into adolescence, with important vaccines like those for meningitis, HPV, and hepatitis B.

Adults need protection too—vaccines help maintain immunity, particularly against both seasonal and non-seasonal communicable diseases such as influenza, pneumonia, COVID-19, RSV, and shingles. Staying up to date with recommended immunizations throughout the life course helps prevent outbreaks, reduces pressure on healthcare systems, and ensures we continue to protect our communities for generations to come.

As the immunity we receive from vaccines can wane over time, and as new vaccine developments emerge, it is essential for both children and adults to stay up to date with their vaccinations. There's often a misconception that vaccines are just for kids—but that couldn't be further from the truth. Vaccines are important for everyone, at every age, throughout the life course.

**TALK TO YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE ABOUT GETTING UP TO DATE ON YOUR IMMUNIZATIONS BECAUSE IT IS NEVER TOO LATE!**



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIDWIFE

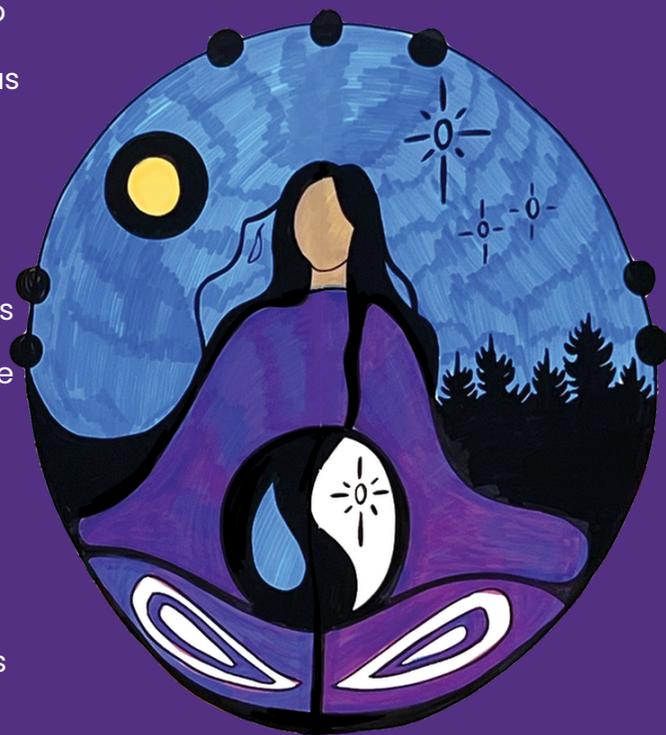
In celebration of International Day of the Midwife on May 5th, we would like to celebrate the Power of Indigenous Midwifery, a practice that blends clinical excellence with ancient cultural knowledge. For our Communities, Indigenous Midwifery is a movement to bring birth home, reducing the need for stressful medical evacuations from our communities and returning birth to the land.

Indigenous Midwifery care supports Anishinaabe families through all aspects of birth, honouring language, culture and traditions. Indigenous midwives uphold birth as a deeply profound and sacred event. Indigenous Midwives provide holistic care through the lifecycle, incorporating traditional medicines, ceremonies, teachings and language into care. Reclaiming these practices restores autonomy, strengthens cultural identity, and improves health outcomes for our Communities.

Special recognition goes out to Elder Midwife, Elaine Ross who is originally from NorthWest Angle #33 on the border of Minnesota, Manitoba, and Ontario. This is where Treaty #3 was signed. Elaine has been blessed with Knowledge that she shares, and continues to pass on as requested.

Her desire to bring birth back to our Communities was a long process. She merely wanted to be a champion. However, the creator had different plans and she progressed toward becoming a Ondaadiziike (Midwife). In the beginning, she was guided by the Elders and their memories, teachings, and stories of days gone by. She was inspired by the midwives she met, and who shared their experiences and skills with her. Elaine was encouraged by friends and family who supported her journey to becoming a midwife, and continues to always be open to learn from the families, babies, and through opportunities that she is afforded. This, she will hold in her bundle to provide Traditional Birth, back to our Communities of Southern Treaty Three.

Chi-Miigwetch to Elaine for all she does in supporting families and Communities in Southern Treaty 3 and for her work in bringing birth back to Community!



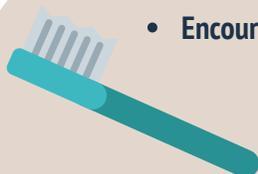
As a community, you can support the empowerment of families by supporting Indigenous Midwifery and Birth work. You can be a part of returning birth to Community by:

- Learning the creation story and your birth story and talk to your children about their birth
- Listening to Elders and ask what birthing in your Community used to look like
- Exploring Midwifery education pathways
- Attending birthwork training or support people in Community who are interested in pursuing education in this field
- Finding opportunities for learning traditional birthing practices and knowledge
- Sharing resources with clients, co-workers, health leadership and provide information to Chief and Council
- Identifying priorities for advocacy
- Ensuring Midwifery is considered in strategic planning
- Supporting families to advocate for culturally safe birthing



**GIISHKAANDAGO'IKWE**  
HEALTH SERVICES  
CHILD'S FIRST INITIATIVE  
CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

# Brush, Book, Bed Age 7+



## GIZIYAABIDE'ON – BRUSH

- Brush 2 times a day for 2 minutes with a fluoridated toothpaste (the size of a small green pea.) Always ensure to brush teeth before bed.
- Encourage children to clean between their teeth every night using either floss or floss picks. Assist until they are able to floss on their own (usually around 9 years old.)
- Limit sugary foods and drinks to mealtimes.
- Encourage children to drink only water between meals.



## MAZINA'IGAN – BOOK

- Have the child find words they know and read them out loud or take turns by each reading a page.
- Link the story to a personal experience. Example “remember the time we saw a bear...”
- Highlight words that rhyme “floor and door... they rhyme, can you think of another word that sounds the same.”
- Show the child that words are everywhere... on food boxes, on street signs and at the store. Celebrate the words they read.
- Be a good reading role model by letting children see you read.
- In addition to reading a book, try oral story telling. Sharing stories and traditional teachings are both important and impactful.



## NIBAAWIN – BED

- Half an hour before bedtime reduce stimulants (loud noises, bright lights, TV or other screen devices.)
- Bedtime should start at the same time and have the same steps each night.
- At this age some children start to express worries or anxiety about the day's events. Listen to these worries, provide comfort and help children feel at ease about the situation.
- Journaling might be a way for children to find comfort at bedtime. Write or draw a picture about what is worrying them.
- Allow children to have some independence. They are learning self-care and how to follow routine. Simple routines will build positive sense of self.





**GIISHKAANDAGO'IKWE**  
HEALTH SERVICES  
CHILD'S FIRST INITIATIVE  
CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE

# Brush, Book, Bed Age 7+



## EXTRA TIPS FOR A HEALTHY NIGHT SLEEP

- Routine should be the same between all adults and households where the child sleeps.
- Screen time should not be part of the bedtime routine, with a daily limit of 2 hours.
- Research shows spending too much time in front of a screen can hurt a child's language development, as well as physical and mental health.
- Avoid high sugar and caffeinated drinks before bedtime.
- School age children sleep 9 – 12 hours in a 24 hour period.
- Be consistent and firm when establishing a bedtime routine.
- Set limits with love.





# MAY 4TH-10<sup>TH</sup> IS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

## EMERGENCY GRAB BAG LIST

This checklist will help you get ready in 15 minutes!

### PERSONAL NEEDS

- Clothes (3 pair)
- Cloth or medical masks (3 pcs)
- Personal medication + first aid kit
- Toiletries & Personal Hygiene (toothbrush, soap, diapers)

### TOOLS & ENERGY

- Tools & Energy
- Powerbank
- Small flashlight
- Lighter
- Batteries
- Mini radio

### FOOD & DRINK

- Instant food (dry bread, biscuits)
- Bottled mineral water (min. 1L)
- Vitamins / supplements

### IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

- Identity card, ATM, marriage certificate
- House / vehicle letter
- Written emergency contact





# SAFE BOATING AWARENESS WEEK

**MAY  
17-23**

## KEY TIPS



**WEAR A LIFE JACKET**

**STAY SOBER**



**BE PREPARED  
(YOU & YOUR VESSEL)**

**TAKE A BOATING  
COURSE**



**BE COLD WATER SAFE  
(LAYER UP & PACK DRY CLOTHES)**



Love  
ZAAGI'DIWIN

# CHILD & YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH DAY

## HONOURING OUR ROOTS, NURTURING OUR FUTURE- CELEBRATING CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH DAY

As the snow melts and the first buds of the willow and maple begin to show, we are reminded of the natural cycle of renewal and growth. **This May 7th, 2026 we celebrate Child and Youth Mental Health Day** - a time to wrap our arms around the younger generation and remind them that they are seen, heard and deeply loved.

Children are our sacred gifts. Their well-being is tied to the health of our land, our stories and our community. Mental health isn't just about the mind; it is about the balance of the spirit, the heart, and the physical self.

### How We Can Support Our Youth:

- **Listening with Heart:** Creating safe spaces for our young people to share their feelings without judgement.
- **Cultural Pride:** Sharing our songs, languages, and traditions to build a strong sense of identity.
- **Connecting to Land:** Encouraging time outdoors to gather medicine, walk the trails, or sit by the water.
- **Normalizing the Conversation:** Letting them know that asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

*This season let's show our youth they never have to carry their burdens alone.*



### ACCESSING OUR SERVICES

If you would like to access child and youth mental health services please reach out

For more information or to make a referral, please call:  
**(807) 274-2042**

Or complete a referral form found at:  
**[www.fftahs.com/accessing-our-services](http://www.fftahs.com/accessing-our-services)**



*Love*



# LOVE DOES NOT HURT.

END THE VIOLENCE NOW.

It's a widespread problem ~ Of every 100 incidents of sexual assault, only 6 are reported to the police

## May is Sexual Violence Prevention Month

If Help is Needed  
contact

Memengwaawag  
Wellness Worker's

807-274-2042

sgalusha@fftahs.org or  
chmorriseau@fftahs.org

### A Numerical Representation of the Truth

- 60% of sexual abuse/assault victims are under the age of 17
- Over 80% of sex crime victims are women
- 80% of sexual assault incidents occur in the home
- 15% of sexual assault victims are boys under 16
- 57% of aboriginal women have been sexually abused
- 80% of assailants are friends and family of the victim



*Love*



# May 5th, 2026 Red Dress Day

Red Dress Day, observed annually on May 5, is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ people (MMIWG2S+) in Canada. Red dresses serve as a visual symbol to remember victims, representing their absence, and a call for justice.



**Walk Starts @  
10:00am**

**BBQ Lunch and  
Refreshments  
to Follow**

## **Join the Memengwaawag Wellness Workers in an Awareness Walk:**

Giishkaandago'lkwe BHS office (601 King's Highway) to Fort Frances OPP Station and back

### **Red Dress Day**

**Actions:** People are encouraged to wear red, hang red dresses, and attend vigils or walks to advocate for change. The day highlights the ongoing crisis of violence, often tied to colonialism, which disproportionately affects Indigenous communities in Canada.

For more information, contact:  
Sara Galusha 807-274-2042 ext. 4232  
Charla Morrissette 807-274-2042 ext. 4248



Respect  
MANAJI'DIWIN

# CULTURAL CORNER

## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE DAY

National Indigenous Languages Day will be celebrated on March 31, 2026, as a day to recognize, honour, and support the vital Indigenous languages, cultures, and history of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples through awareness and revitalization efforts.

### Purpose

To raise awareness about the richness and diversity of Indigenous languages and support their preservation and revitalization.

### Significance

Languages are central to Indigenous identity, culture, and worldview, connecting people to their land and history.

### Activities

Challenge yourself to using some of the language you know. You can also celebrate by attending a local language table in your area. Check with the local school or friendship center.



MOOSE HIDE  
CAMPAIGN

CAMPAGNE  
MOOSE HIDE

Moose Hide Campaign Day, held on May 14th, is a day where all Canadians are called to join together to take a stand against violence towards women and children. The Moose Hide Campaign was founded in B.C. more than a decade ago as a grassroots movement to inspire Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys, and all Canadians, to commit to taking actions against domestic and gender-based violence.

## SPRING LANGUAGE

Waabigwan

Flower

Gaawanzh

Stem

Aniibiishan

Leaves

Aaniin minik aniibiishan  
gii-andawendaman?

How many leaves do  
you need?

Agindan aniibiishan.

Count the leaves.

Agodogwen iwe  
agindaasowin?

What number is it?

Atoonan aniibiishan  
imaa gaawanzh

Put the leaves on the  
stem.

Mii iwe!

That's right!

Gojitoon miinawaa!

Try again!



# HEALING SPIRIT

## MINO AYAA TA WIN TREATMENT CENTRE

### WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT

#### MEDICALLY SUPERVISED WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT (DETOX)

- ♥ 3 beds available; first come, first serve basis
- ♥ Nursing staff on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- ♥ Short term; length of stay varies by individual
- ♥ For adults 18 years and older
- ♥ Case management; referrals to RAAM, assist with aftercare plans
- ♥ Clients must complete a pre-screen questionnaire with nurse to determine eligibility

To complete a pre-screen please call  
(807) 274-7373  
to speak with the on duty nurse

### RAAM

#### RAPID ACCESS ADDICTION MEDICINE

- ♥ The overall goal of the RAAM model is to stabilize patients in the short term and subsequently link them to community care provider(s) for ongoing monitoring, support and rehabilitation of their substance use disorder
- ♥ RAAM is accepting of all clients 16+ - no referral is necessary
- ♥ RAAM provides evidence based addiction medicine, which includes Buprenorphine (Subobone/Sublocade), and alcohol urge reduction medication



To make an appointment, please call  
(807) 274-2042 ex. 6230  
or text/call (807) 789-2025



## MENTAL HEALTH DIRECT LINE

If you are in need of urgent same day/walk-in mental health stabilization supports, please call the Mental Health Direct Line.

**1-807-271-0212**

Available Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

If you are in a crisis outside of business hours, please call **1-866-888-8988** or text **741741**  
In the event of an emergency, call 911 or the emergency service number in your community



*Bravery*



# BEAR WITNESS DAY



May 10 is a day where we honour Jordan River Anderson, the founder of Jordan's Principle and his family, for the generous gift of Jordan's Principle to ensure First Nations children get the services they need, when they need them. In 2005, the family of Jordan River Anderson gave the sacred gift of his name to the creation of Jordan's Principle.

Celebrated annually, Bear Witness Day honours Jordan River Anderson and invites people of all ages to "Bear Witness" to ensure Jordan's Principle is fully implemented!

## HONOURING JORDAN RIVER ANDERSON

**October 22, 1999—February 2, 2005**

"Jordan could not talk, yet people around the world heard his message. Jordan could not breathe on his own and yet he has given the breath of life to other children. Jordan could not walk but he has taken steps that governments are now just learning to follow." - Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director First Nations Child & Family Caring Society

Jordan River Anderson was a young boy from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba who was born in 1999 with multiple disabilities. He lived over two years in a hospital because federal and provincial governments could not agree on who would pay for his at-home care. The reason for this is that federal and provincial/territorial governments cannot agree on which government should pay for services to First Nations children on reserves so they typically do not provide the service until they can sort out the payment issue. Unfortunately, Jordan died at the age of 5 before he could experience living in a loving home.



### MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> IS ALSO SPIRIT BEAR'S BIRTHDAY & AN IMPORTANT DATE IN HISTORY

Bear Witness Day is celebrated on May 10 because this is an important date in the history of Jordan's Principle at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. The Tribunal's first non-compliance order called for Canada to fully implement Jordan's Principle by May 10, 2016.

Unfortunately, it took several more years and many non-compliance orders (September 2016, May 2017, November 2017, November 2024 and January 2025) against Canada before real progress was made.



# GUIDING IMPROVEMENT

Your feedback assists us to guide some of the actions shared with you in our Strategic Plan.

## CLIENT SATISFACTION SURVEY

“  
*The Anishinaabeg will lead the organization so that  
Giishkaandago'lkwe successes are the communities' successes*



Scan the QR code to  
**share your thoughts**  
on how best to  
**support you.**

*To achieve this, we will:*

- Be a partner in advocating for an improved and connected Anishinaabe health system.
- Engage and action the direction from community leadership, workers, and members in all aspects of our work...

*~ 2023-2028 Strategic Plan (Direction One)*

## NEWSLETTER SURVEY



Scan the QR code to  
**share your thoughts**  
on what is most  
**valuable to you.**

“  
*Deepen the mutual understanding and relationships  
between the Anishinaabeg and Giishkaandago'lkwe*

*To achieve this, we will:*

- Promote education and awareness of Giishkaandago'lkwe services, so that more clients access the full scope and balance of services available to them...

*~ 2023-2028 Strategic Plan (Direction Two)*



*Hamility*  
DABASENDIZOWIN

# CONTACT US

## LOCATIONS & HOURS

 (807) 274-2042

### Administration

1458 Idylwild Drive  
Mon. to Thurs. 8:00am–4:00pm  
Fri. 8:00am–3:30pm

### Child's First Initiative

780 Kings Hwy  
Mon. to Thurs. 8:00am–4:00pm  
Fri. 8:00am–3:30pm

### Behavioural Health Services

601 Kings Highway  
Mon. to Thurs. 8:30am–4:30pm  
Fri. 8:30am–4:00pm

### Human Resources

540 Kings Hwy (Unit B)  
Mon. to Thurs. 8:00am–4:00pm  
Friday 8:00am–3:30pm

### Maternal Child Health

375 Scott Street  
Mon. to Thurs. 8:00am–4:00pm  
Fri. 8:00am–3:30pm

### Mino Ayaa Ta Win Healing Centre

Fire#1107 Highway 11  
Mishkiki Miikaan Road  
Mon. to Fri. 8:00am–4:00pm

### Home & Community Care

300 Sinclair St  
Mon. to Thurs. 8:00am–4:00pm  
Fri. 8:00am–3:30pm

### Children's Oral Health Initiative

375 Scott Street  
Mon. to Thurs. 8:00am–4:00pm  
Friday 8:00am–3:30pm

### Diabetes & Foot Care

540 Kings Hwy (Unit D)  
Mon. to Thurs. 8:00am–4:00pm  
Friday 8:00am–3:30pm

### Public Health

540 Kings Hwy (Units E & F)  
Mon. to Thurs. 8:00am–4:00pm  
Friday 8:00am–3:30pm



To find our Newsletters and more on our website, [www.fftahs.com](http://www.fftahs.com) scan the QR Code. To request a copy of the Newsletter by mail or e-mail, please call (807) 274-2042, press 0.



# JOIN OUR TEAM

At Giishkaandago'lkwe Health Services our competitive compensation, work schedule, opportunities for training and development, and our benefit plans provide our employees with an incredible work life balance.



- Full-time, permanent positions
- 100% Employer Paid Benefits
- Pension Program (HOOPP)
- 4 Weeks Vacation (*to start*)
- Cultural Learning Opportunities
- Excellent work/life balance



For current postings and details on how to apply visit: [www.fftahs.com/careers](http://www.fftahs.com/careers) or scan the QR code.