

Day 1 Agenda: July 23, 2025

8:00 am Breakfast		
9:00 am	Drum Group Opening Prayer & Comments	Summer Spade & Karlee Meekis Elder Lucy Rose Kakegamic
Summit Chair - Deputy Chief Terry Metatawabin, Fort Albany FN		
9:15 am	Agenda Overview	Chair Deputy Chief Terry Metatawabin
9:30 am	Welcoming Remarks from NAN Executives	Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum
9:45 am	The Vision & History of Education Jurisdiction Q & A Period	Bentley Cheechoo, Elder & Former NAN Grand Chief Chief Russell Wesley Matthew Angees, Executive Director, Shibogama FN Council
10:45 am Health Break		
11:00 am	Current Stage of Education Jurisdiction Q & A Period	Derek Chum, NAN Lead Negotiator
11:45 pm	Shannen's Dream Video Presentation	
12:00 pm Lunch		
1:00 pm	The Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement	Commissioner Patrick Madahbee, Anishinabek Nation
1:30 pm	The Anishinabek Education System: Kinoomaadziwin Education Body	Tracey O'Donnell, Legal Counsel, Anishinabek Education System
2:00 PM	The Anishinabek Education System: The Long Lake #58 Experience - Transitioning to a New Education System	Chief Judy Desmoulin Claire O'Nabigon, Education Director

3:15 pm	Health Break and special video presentation	
3:30 pm	Panel on "Creating a First Nation Education System" Discussion with, and questions for panelists on their experiences in attaining Education Jurisdiction	Chair Deputy Chief Terry Metatawabin Anishinabek Nation Leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Judy Desmoulin • Claire O’Nabigon • Tracey O’Donnell • Commissioner Madehbee
4:00 pm	Round Table	
4:30 pm	Reflections of Day One	Terri Nolan - NAN Women’s Council
4:45 pm	Comments & Closing Prayer	Elder Lucy Rose Kakegamic
5:00 pm	Adjournment	

Day 2 Agenda: July 24, 2025

8:00 am	Breakfast	
9:00 am	Opening Prayer	Elder Lucy Rose Kakegamic Elder Bentley Cheechoo
9:15 am	Agenda Overview	Chair Deputy Chief Terry Metatawabin
9:15 am	The NAN Education Agreement: The Agreement and The Path Forward for Negotiations for an Education Agreement, Fiscal Agreement & Implementation Plan Q & A Period	Derek Chum, Lead Negotiator
10:30 am	Health Break	

10:45 pm	<p>Panel on “The NAN Negotiations Process”</p> <p>Opportunity for open discussion with and to ask questions of both the Canada and the NAN negotiations team members</p>	<p>Chair Deputy Chief Terry Metatawabin</p> <p>NAN Negotiations Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derek Chum, Lead Negotiator • Mike Sherry, Legal Counsel • Gerry Kerr, Education Advisor • Bryce Gallant, Lead Researcher, Fiscal Team <p>Canada Negotiation Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connor Ferrie-Leclaire, Lead Negotiator, Education Agreement Negotiations • Sara McConnell, Fiscal Agreement Negotiations • Katie Stanley, Implementation Plan Negotiations
12:00 pm	Lunch	
1:00 pm	<p>Funding Under a Legislated First Nation Education System</p> <p>Q & A Period</p>	<p>Bryce Gallant, Senior Research Associate, Waapihk Research</p>
1:45 pm	<p>Panel on “Envisioning a NAN Territory-Wide Education System”</p> <p>A panel discussion envisioning the future of an overarching third-level services entity.</p>	<p>Chair Deputy Chief Terry Metatawabin</p> <p>Wally Mckay - NAN Elders Council</p> <p>Terri Nolan - NAN Women’s Council</p> <p>Leo Metatawabin, Fort Albany FN</p> <p>Roberta Wesley, CBC - Constance Lake FN</p> <p>Myles Thunder, CBC - Sachigo Lake FN</p> <p>Kyra Metatawabin - Fort Albany FN</p>
2:30 pm	Health Break	
2:45 pm	<p>Path Forward for Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A Period 	<p>NAN Education Jurisdiction Team</p>
3:30 pm	Round Table	
4:00 pm	Summary of Event & Next Steps	<p>Chair Deputy Chief Terry Metatawabin</p>
4:45 pm	Closing Prayer and Closing Drum	<p>Elder Bentley Cheechoo</p> <p>Summar Space (Drum)</p>
5:00 pm	Adjournment	

Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler

Alvin Fiddler, a member of Muskrat Dam First Nation previously served as NAN Grand Chief for 2 terms from 2015 – 2021 after several terms as Deputy Grand Chief. He was acclaimed Grand Chief in 2023, and was re-elected at the 2024 Keewaywin Conference in Constance Lake First Nation.

His leadership priorities include rebuilding internal trust, championing health transformation, advocating for education, housing, infrastructure, clean water, justice reform, and asserting First Nations treaty rights in land and resource development with Ontario and Canada. Alvin currently resides in Thunder Bay with his wife Tesa and two children.



Deputy Grand Chief Anna Betty Achneepineskum

Boozhoo Wahchay Aanii! Anna Betty Achneepineskum is Anishinaabe-Mushkego from Marten Falls First Nation (Ogoki Post). As Deputy Grand Chief for Nishnawbe Aski Nation, and as a social justice advocate for many years, she has strived and committed to raising awareness of issues and challenges experienced by First Nations people, families, women, and children.

Anna Betty is a person of action and a strong voice for transformative social change. Her life's work and contributions are driven by a passion to help the most marginalized people, especially the people from the Nishnawbe Aski Nation territory.

In whatever she does, she advocates for equitable access to justice and services, and for improving the quality of life, community wellness and safety for all NAN citizens. She currently resides in Thunder Bay and credits her children and grandchildren as the inspirations for her lifelong work, service, and advocacy.





Derek Chum

MOOSE CREE FIRST NATION

Boozhoo Wahchay Aanii! Derek Chum is a proud member of his community of Moose Cree First Nation. He has a wide range and years of experience working with Indigenous clients and communities. He is former corporate and commercial lawyer and provided strategic and business advice to Indigenous communities and enterprises across Ontario.

We are at the stage of negotiation where we need advocacy and support from leadership. the advocacy will be impactful to the engagement effort with NAN leadership and Membership, the negotiations with Canada, and the Data Sharing Agreements. these are crucial to the success of this process.



Chief Judy Desmoulin

LONG LAKE 58 FIRST NATION

Judy Desmoulin is the Chief of Long Lake 58 First Nation. Judy has been a strong advocate for her community who continues to mentor, support, and build strong lasting relationships. Here are some of her thoughts about Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women: opportunities for people to grow their minds



Bryce Gallant

RESEARCH ANALYST- FISCAL NEGOTIATION TEAM

Gallant holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in International Development from the University of Winnipeg and a Master of Arts in Gender and Development from the University of Sussex. Bryce specializes in project management, community engagement and community-led research, supporting work to decolonize research and center other ways of knowing.



Commissioner Patrick Madahbee

AUNDECK OMNI KANING

The Commissioner on Governance is an ex-officio member of the Chiefs Committee on Governance. As the Commissioner on Governance Patrick coordinates the Anishinaabe self-government initiatives and facilitates the drive to comprehensive self-government. In 2019, the Grand Council Assembly reconfirmed the mandate of the Chiefs Committee on Governance to pursue comprehensive self-government through negotiation and assertion



Elder Bentley Cheechoo

Bentley Cheechoo grew up in Moose Factory. Serving as Grand Chief (insert date) Today he lives in Thunder Bay. As a Knowledge Keeper, he talks at various events about what treaties are and how they came about. His main focus is Treaty 9, the James Bay Treaty.



Marie Elena (Tracey) O'Donnell

LEGAL COUNSEL, KINO'MADZIWIN EDUCATION BODY

Marie Elena (Tracey) O'Donnell is member of Red Rock Indian Band. She has practiced law in Ontario for over 30 years. Tracey argued on behalf of the Native Women's Association of Canada and LEAF in the first Indian residential school case that reached the Supreme Court of Canada - Blackwater v. Plint. She was an elected Bencher of the Law Society of Ontario, formerly the Law Society of Upper Canada, from 2003 to 2007 – the first aboriginal woman elected since the Law Society was founded in 1797. Tracey supported the negotiations of the Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement - the largest self-government agreement in Canada based on the number of First Nations that signed the agreement. She also supported the negotiation of the Master Education Agreement with the Province of Ontario. Tracey continues to support the Anishinabek Education System as legal counsel and advisor to the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body.



Chief Russell Wesley

CAT LAKE FIRST NATION

Russell Wesley is from the Cat Lake First Nation, Treaty 9 Territory. He is the current Chief of Cat Lake and served as Chief from 2013 to 2016. Russell has spent most of his career dedicated to preserving his traditional land and resources while practicing his strong belief in the laws and traditions taught to him by many Elders he has known over the years.

In between leading his community Chief Wesley served as the Education Advisor/Manager for Windigo First Nations Council advocating for education needs at the regional and national levels.

Over his 40 years in senior management Russell Wesley contributed to the development, intergovernmental and government policies at the federal and provincial levels including Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, Health Canada, Ontario Ministries of Aboriginal Affairs, Natural Resources and Forestry and Northern Development and Mines.

From 2005 to 2008, Russell worked for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in several capacities advancing First Nation and Provincial relations.

In 2017, Russell lead and authored the first ever Shared Territory Protocol providing the guiding principles for resource development in the territories shared by Cat Lake First Nation, Slate Falls First Nation and Lac Seul First Nation. Russell is continuing this work through educating municipal and provincial government departments.

In 2022, Chief Wesley negotiated an Anishinaabe Led Impact Assessment with First Mining Gold and Indigenous Assessment Agency of Canada, the first in Ontario. This enabled Cat Lake First Nation to conduct its own indigenous led environmental assessment of the Springpole Gold Project located on Cat Lake's traditional territory.

Russel has been nominated for Canada's Clean50 Individual Leader Award, in recognition of his courageous and principled leadership on environmental protection and Indigenous rights in Cat Lake First Nation.





Elder Lucy Kakegamic

Lucy is from Keewaywin First Nation, she is a life long advocate and supporter of Education, a legacy and passion she continues after her late husband Goyce Kakegamic, who shared that passion for education and advocated for the people across Nishnawbe Aski.



Gerry Kerr

EDUCATION ADVISOR

Gerry Kerr has been a part of the Education Jurisdiction work since the beginning, he has seen the many milestones and challenges. Gerry is an executive manager with over forty years of proven leadership, crisis management, strategic planning and negotiations expertise in a wide range of high profile public and private business scenarios



Claire Onabigon

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

The Education Director for Long Lake 58 First Nation cherishes the time she had with her great grandmothers, learning about her family's deep connections to the lands and waters and people in what is now northwestern Ontario. Those inter-generational conversations inspired Onabigon to break new ground in First Nations education, developing an entirely new history curriculum for students in Long Lake 58, with lessons all about their own families and community



Bazil Batise

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Hailing from Matachewan First Nation, I'm a spry young man who's spent 3 great years at Nishnawbe Aski Nation under the Education Jurisdiction file. Informally, my background has been entirely on the Education Jurisdiction process and surrounding negotiations. My father and grandfather have both worked on the same file, which started way back in 1987. To say it's in my blood would be an understatement. It's been a great time meeting the champions of education across NAN territory over the years, and here's to meeting many more great people.



Serenity Perry

RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Serenity Perry is the Research Coordinator on the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Education Jurisdiction Team. Serenity's community is Fort William First Nation. Serenity has a legal background and enjoys exploring issues surrounding education jurisdiction through engaging in research. Serenity is especially interested in researching areas that impact the NAN communities particularly First Nation education issues. Serenity looks forward to continuing to pursue research that serves to benefit the communities. Serenity is a mother of two and active within the community.



Rheana Gomez

TERRITORIAL COORDINATION OFFICER

My Name is Rheana Marino, and I am the Territorial Coordinator Assistant in the Education Jurisdiction department for Nishnawbe Aski Nation. I am Thunder Bay born and raised living back and forth between Thunder Bay and Southern Ontario, I love my hometown and I love the big city! I have 2 daughters who are my get up motivation everyday, I also have 2 big dogs who keep me outside in this beautiful city I spend most of the nice weather outside as much as I possibly can – it keeps me aligned. I enjoy working in the Education Department because like my manager always says Education is lifelong learning and I understand that now more than ever, looking back on history of Canada and learning and watching the evolvement of Education to First Nation communities has been eye opening.





Jacob Osadec

TERRITORY COORDINATOR

Hello, my name is Jacob Osadec and I'm the newest member of the Education Jurisdiction team at NAN. I previously worked as a Program Coordinator at Oshki-Wenjack, an Indigenous education institute, where I helped deliver community-based programming and worked closely with remote First Nations. Before that, I was in car sales — which taught me a lot about communication and building trust. I'm passionate about Indigenous-led education and believe that real change happens when the communities are the ones leading the way.



Bryan Achneepineskum

EDUCATION JURISDICTION MANAGER

Hello, my name is Bryan, and I'm from Marten Falls First Nation. I currently live in Thunder Bay, where I'm raising my four-year-old son and my fifteen-year-old niece. I'm passionate about education and have experience living and working within First Nations education systems. I've also worked in the health and social services field, where I've witnessed firsthand the challenges that come with an underfunded system. I believe strongly in self-governance as our path forward—and that by working together, we can build a better future.



What is Education Jurisdiction?

Education jurisdiction means that First Nations can operate their own schools and determine how and what they want to teach. They can develop lessons that reflect their culture and select teachers who understand and respect their traditions.

What is the Regional Education Agreement (REA) process?

In NAN Territory, First Nations can participate in a process called REA to secure the funding they need for schools. This funding helps them meet the same standards as provincial schools in their area. REAs assist First Nations in obtaining more funding based on their specific needs, such as their location or the size of their school. While REAs are significant, they do not grant First Nations the authority to create laws regarding education. They do, however, represent a positive first step toward greater control over their educational systems.

Does the NAN Education Agreement include Infrastructure?

The NAN Education team is striving to establish an agreement that encompasses the maintenance and improvement of school buildings and resources. NAN will continue to pursue the inclusion of new schools in future agreement negotiations.

NAN is trying to take over First Nation education.

NAN is working to develop a new Education Agreement with Canada. This initiative began many years ago under the direction of the NAN Chiefs, and recently, the Chiefs have reiterated their support for this process. NAN, the organization, will have no involvement in the education system itself.

How will the Education Agreement that is currently under negotiation impact current student support services and those service providers?

Each community will determine how they wish to see their student supports delivered. Since Tribal Councils have historically provided numerous beneficial support services for community students, NAN recommends that all communities engage in discussions with their local and Tribal Council Education Directors prior to making any final decisions.

Under the new Education Agreement, will education delivery be similar to the provincial system, and how will post-secondary education be included?

It is up to each community to decide how they want their education system to be structured, but fundamental educational standards will be established to ensure that all NAN students have a strong educational foundation that allows them to transition smoothly between the First Nation and provincial systems. The Education Agreement will encompass subjects such as languages, history, and culture for First Nations students.

Currently, the negotiation team is working on an agreement for grades Kindergarten through 12. Future discussions will include post-secondary education.

Education Jurisdiction Through Chiefs' Mandates

89/43 First Nations' Control of Nishnawbe-Aski Education

(Establish Committee to Make Recommendations on Education Matters - Western System Inadequate)

Chief Lindburgh Louttit, Wahgoshig FN

Chief Edmund Metatawabin, Fort Albany FN

90/31 Nishnawbe-Aski Nation First Nations Jurisdiction Over Education

(Develop Jurisdiction Options)

Chief Harvey Yesno, Fort Hope FN

Chief Ennis Crowe, Fort Severn FN

95/18 Maintaining Aboriginal and Treaty Rights-Based Principles for Future Education Jurisdiction Negotiations *(Principles of Negotiation)*

Chief Stan Beardy, Muskrat Dam FN

Chief Barney Batise, Matachewan FN

97/03 Self-Government Proposal

(Authorization to Negotiate Framework Agreement - not education specific)

Chief Ernest Beck, Moose Cree FN

Chief Ivan McKay, Mattagami FN

97/11 Re-Affirmation: Nishnawbe-Aski Nation First Nations Jurisdiction Over Education

(Reaffirm Mandate to Develop Framework, Identify Objectives, Create Timelines, Access Funding)

Chief Ignace Gull, Attawapiskat FN

Chief Stan Beardy, Muskrat Dam FN

98/31 Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Education Jurisdiction Negotiation Budget

(Insufficient Funding from INAC)

Proxy Simon Frogg, Wawakapewin FN

Proxy Ernie T. Sutherland, Missanabie Cree FN

98/75 Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Governance and Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreements *(Approval of Framework Agreements)*

Chief Lawrence Baxter, Marten Falls FN

Chief Dan Kooses, Kashechewan FN

00/05 Governance and Education Jurisdiction Elders' Conference *(Elder Consultations)*

Chief Mike Cachagee, Chapleau Cree FN

Chief Abraham Hunter, Weenusk FN

07/68 Jurisdiction Over Education

(Affirm Jurisdiction and Inherent Right Over Education and Support Ongoing Jurisdiction Work)

Chief Joshua Grogg, Wawakapewin FN

Chief Arthur Moore, Constance Lake FN

13/47 Statement on Treaty Right to Education

(Inherent Right, Education Right Under Treaty #5 and 9)

Chief Gordon Beardy, Muskrat Dam FN

Chief Bart Meekis, Sandy Lake FN

16/19 The Future of Education in NAN

(Mandate to Secure NAN Education Initiatives /Work from Exterior Processes)

Chief Andrew Solomon, Fort Albany FN

Chief Elizabeth Atlookan, Eabametoong FN

16/33 Development of a NAN Education Structure/System

(Develop Options for Comprehensive Second and Third Level Services)

Chief Alex Batisse, Matachewan FN

Chief Andrew Solomon, Fort Albany FN

16/79 Education Jurisdiction

(Move Negotiations Forward, AIP Initialled in 2009 – Need to do Final Sign Off)

Chief Walter Naveau, Mattagami FN

Chief Leo Friday, Kashechewan FN

17/32 First Nation Education System in NAN Territory

(Develop First Nation Education System Framework, Develop Communication Strategy, Advocate for Second Level Service Funding, Obtain/Draft Strategic Needs Assessment)

Chief Chris Kakegamic, Keewaywin FN

Chief Eddie Mamakwa, Kingfisher FN

17/65 Community Engagement Communications Plan – First Nations of NAN Education System *(Communication Plan Approved for Implementation)*

Chief Ignace Gull, Attawapiskat FN

Chief Lorraine Crane, Slate Falls FN

18/23 Support of Participating First Nations: Education Jurisdiction, Agreement-In-Principle *(Support Signing of AIP and Support Use of AIP as a Basis in Negotiations)*

Chief Lorraine Crane, Slate Falls FN

Chief Murray Ray, Flying Post FN

24/04 Active Support for Community Engagement Phase of Education Jurisdiction

(Leadership Confirm Their Support for Ongoing Work in Education Jurisdiction Through Meaningful Community Engagement)

Chief Bruce Achneepineskum, Martin Falls FN

Chief Russel Wesley, Cat Lake FN

