

Our Goals

The sacred responsibility for supporting our families takes us as Indigenous people back to the past to prepare ourselves for the future. The concepts, principles, and the values practised are the strengths we need now to encourage and ensure healthy families, which in turn will be the foundation of strong and healthy communities.

The overall goal of Tikinagan Child and Family Services is to keep our children with us, and within our community.

The goal challenges us to:

- Nourish the values and principles of our people
- Draw our strengths from the people we serve
- Develop skills and resources at the community level to address child welfare issues

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**Working Together
Since 1984**

Read our origin story, which began back in 1984, by scanning the QR code.



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Serving 30 First Nations



Here we are
as a part of
Ontario!



And here we
are as a part
of Canada!



INTERACTIVE MAP
SCAN ME





First Nations Mandate

Tikinagan is mandated by the Chiefs in our jurisdiction to provide services in a manner that is sensitive to the unique needs of the Indigenous child and family, Indigenous culture and traditions, and the concept of the extended family.

In establishing Tikinagan as an Indigenous child welfare agency, the Chiefs were committed to providing services to children and families in whatever manner necessary to prevent them from becoming “at risk”. Tikinagan was formed, not only to provide child protection services, but also to provide family support and intervention services, to assist and seek out resources for families to overcome their difficulties, and to broaden the social services network for the benefit of our children and families.

Provincial Legislative Mandate

As a Children’s Aid Society, Tikinagan has been mandated, since 1987, under provincial legislation to provide services to ensure that children are protected from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect, abandonment and other forms of maltreatment.



Customary care

is an integral element of

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin

For many years, Tikinagan has hired and trained local First Nation members to be frontline workers, supervisors and senior managers within the agency. We work to develop as many resources as possible at the community level, including community offices with supervisors and front line staff; training opportunities for staff and foster parents; regular, specialized and treatment foster homes; and, agency-operated homes and Youth Healing Centres for children in care. Services are culturally responsive and supportive of traditional values and customs.

Since a core value of our model is accountability to the First Nations, Tikinagan workers are required to consult with the First Nations and First Nations Representatives on all case management decisions. First Nations are involved in all child welfare cases and work with Tikinagan to develop service plans for families and placement options and plans of care for children in care.

Customary care is an integral element of Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin. This means the First Nation Chief and Council have the authority to declare children to be placed in Tikinagan care when removal from their home is required. The First Nation, parents, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin caregivers and children in care sign a Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Care Agreement for children coming into the agency's care. Tikinagan retains the authority to use the court system as a last resort to ensure that children are protected, but uses it infrequently.



Keeping Families Connected

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We want to keep our children at home. Even when they can't be with their parents, we do not want to see them sent away from their own communities. That is why Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin places children in foster homes in their community or in a community nearby. By means of a Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Care Agreement, our children are placed where they can be safe close to home while their parents are regaining their stability.



Read more:
When Tikinagan Visits Your Home



Read more:
When Kids Come Into Care





Principles

- The primary responsibility for the safety and well-being of our children is with the family. If children cannot be cared for within the family, then the extended family should care for the children.
- At the community level, the safety and well-being of children is everyone's responsibility and anyone who is aware of children in need of protection should ensure that the children and their families receive the assistance needed. The primary purpose of service to families is to help keep them intact and ensure that children are safe and well.
- Our services are family-focused, community-based, First Nation-controlled, and First Nation-delivered. The community establishes methods for resolving disagreements with respect to families and children.
- Tikinagan works with family and their children to prevent the children from being harmed and to keep the children with their families and in their own communities wherever possible.
- Where the First Nation is providing services, Tikinagan will collaborate and work together with the First Nation.



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