



Newsletter



August Updates

Mnaasged Child and Family Services is excited to bring on two new staff to our administrative team, Staff Trainer & Manager of Infrastructure of Technology.

These strategic additions mark an exciting step forward in strengthening our operational foundation and enhancing internal support across the organization. By prioritizing both continuous staff development and modern, secure technology, we are empowering our entire team to better serve our children and families.

Upcoming Dates

August 14th - Office Closed
Staff Picnic

On^stase' - Green Corn Moon

Manoominike-giizis - Rice Moon

Winaminke Kishix - Corn Is Ripe Month

Member Nations



Message from Executive Director

As we soak in the warmth of summer, I am filled with pride reflecting on the continuous growth happening across Managed Child and Family Services. It has been deeply inspiring to join our staff, children, and families in celebrating culture, connection, and tradition at local Pow Wows throughout the region. Adding to this season's excitement, I am thrilled to share that our Indigenous Knowledge Department recently secured a major Language Grant.

This vital funding will directly support our language revitalization initiatives, ensuring our work remains deeply rooted in heritage and identity. Language is truly the heartbeat of culture, and securing this support is a profound step forward for the communities we serve. I am immensely grateful to our Indigenous Grant Team for their vision, and to everyone on our team for driving our growth and mission forward every single day.



Welcome to the team



Vivian Ojo

Manager of Infrastructure and Technology

Vivian Ojo serves as the Manager of Infrastructure and Technology at Managed Child and Family Services. She oversees IT networks, data security, and digital tools to keep organizational operations running securely and efficiently. By removing technical barriers, Vivian ensures staff can stay seamlessly connected and focus fully on supporting children and families.

Jessica Atkinson-Marusso

Staff Trainer

My career has been centered around adult learning, training, and instructional design. Over the past several years, I have designed and facilitated onboarding programs, delivered workshops and webinars, developed curriculum and learning resources, and created accessible training materials that support learners with diverse needs.

I believe that learning should be engaging, practical, and inclusive.

Whether I'm facilitating a workshop, developing training resources, or supporting someone one-on-one, my goal is always to help people feel confident, capable, and successful. I'm excited to bring that passion to MCFS and to support the incredible work our staff do every day for children, youth, and families.



Indigenous Knowledge Language Grant Multi-media project

Mnaasged Child and Family Services is proud to share the progress of our Language Grant Project, a multi-year initiative celebrating the languages, stories, and cultures of the six member nations we serve: Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Caldwell First Nation, Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit (Delaware Nation), Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Munsee-Delaware Nation, and Oneida Nation of the Thames.



At the heart of the project is a series of six short films, one for each Member Nation.

Each video is told entirely in the community's own voice, featuring an Elder and a community leader sharing their nation's history, connection to the land, and language. From Anishinaabemowin along the shores of Lake Huron and the St. Clair River, to Lunaapeew carried from the Hudson River to the Thames, to Oneida spoken by the People of the Standing Stone, these films capture the living languages of our territories for future generations. Every community guides its own story and approves its video before release.

Indigenous Knowledge Language Grant

Multi-media project (cont.)

The project is also growing beyond film. We have put out a call for Indigenous youth artists to illustrate a multi-stage book series for children, youth, and adults, rooted in the traditional stories, cultures, and languages of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Lunaapeew people, putting the artwork of our young people alongside the words of our Elders.

Looking ahead, our goals are simple but vital: create lasting language resources that families, schools, and programs can return to for years; support intergenerational learning by bringing Elders and youth together; and ensure every recording, image, and story



remains in the hands of the communities they belong to. The videos will be shared on our website and social media as they are completed, with the book series to follow.

To learn more, get involved, or share your gifts with the project, contact Iokarenhtha Elijah 519-289-1117 ext. 226 or Iokarenhtha.elijah@mnaasged.com

CALL OUT FOR YOUTH INDIGENOUS ARTISTS

Mnaasged Child and Family Services is seeking **Indigenous Youth Artists** for a **multi-stage child, youth, and adult book series** focused on the traditional stories, cultures, and languages of the **Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Lunaapeew people.**

**SUBMIT SAMPLES
OF WORK**

GIFT CARD COMPENSATION

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