



Newsletter



September Updates

Mnaasged Child and Family Services is actively expanding its team and currently hiring for 5 key positions dedicated to supporting child, family, and community well-being.

These 5 active openings are just the start, with additional career opportunities launching in the near future. We invite passionate professionals to explore our current job postings today and stay tuned for upcoming roles as our agency continues to grow.



MCFS
Job Postings

Upcoming Dates

September 7th - Office Closed
Labour Day

September 30 - National Day for
Truth and Reconciliation & Orange
Shirt Day

YeyAthókwás - Harvest Moon

Manoominike-giizis - Rice Moon

**Winaminke Kishix - Corn Is Ripe
Month**

Member Nations



Message from Executive Director

As we enter this season of transition and harvest, I want to express my deepest gratitude to Shelia Firth for her extraordinary dedication to Mnaasged Child and Family Services. Having served on our Board of Elders since the very beginning, Shelia has been a foundational pillar of our agency. Her profound wisdom, gentle guidance, and commitment to cultural integrity have helped shape Mnaasged into the organization it is today, ensuring that our path remains rooted in traditional teachings and the well-being of our children and families. We are deeply honored by the time, heart, and spirit she has given to our organization and community.

As we look toward the fall, we carry this strong foundation forward into a season of renewed growth. Autumn is a time for gathering, reflecting, and preparing for what lies ahead. With new team members joining our ranks and expanded services rolling out across our regions, Mnaasged is poised to deepen our impact while continuing to honor the vision laid down by our Elders. Thank you to our staff, leadership, and community members for your ongoing commitment as we walk this path of growth together.



Melissa Patriguin

Executive Director

Mnaasged Child and Family Services



Welcome to the team

Bobbi Gagne

Regional Services Manager – West

My name is Bobbi Gagne (Whiteye), and I am honored to join Mnaasged Child and Family Services as the new Regional Service Manager – West.

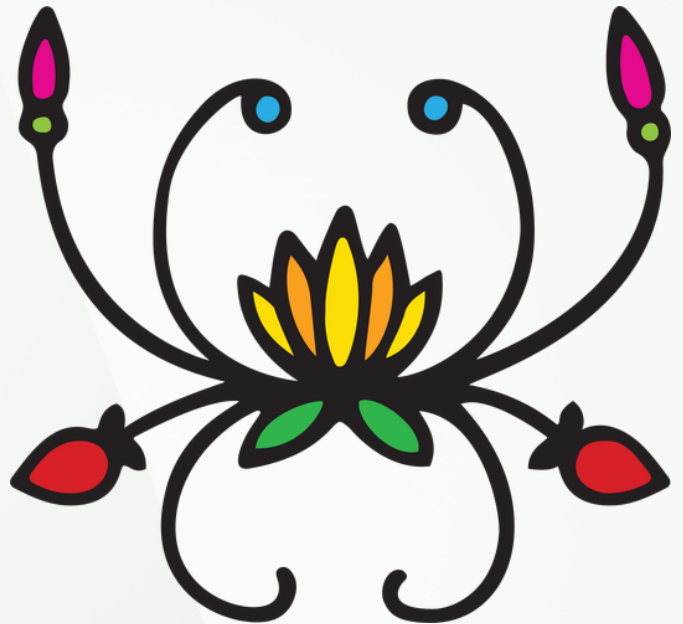
As a member of Walpole Island First Nation (Bkejwanong Territory), I have dedicated over a decade to supporting First Nations children, youth, families, and communities.

My work is rooted in the belief that services must be respectful, culturally grounded, and focused on keeping children safely connected to their families, communities, culture, and identity.

Professional Background: I bring over 10 years of experience across child welfare, crisis intervention, First Nations governance, and senior leadership. My career has spanned front-line practice to organizational development, including roles as an Authorized Child Protection Worker, First Nation Band Representative, and Program Manager of Child and Family Services.

Program & Policy Leadership: Background in prevention services, advocacy, policy design, and working directly with First Nations to strengthen community-led services.

Training & Mentorship: Experienced OACAS trainer specializing in staff orientation, skill-building, and ongoing mentorship, as well as a certified Circle of Security Parenting facilitator.



Orange Shirt Day

On September 30th, Mnaasged Child and Family Services stands in deep solidarity with Residential School Survivors, intergenerational Survivors, and the precious children who never returned home.



Orange Shirt Day is a solemn reminder of the systemic attempt to sever Indigenous children from their families, cultures, and ancestral lands through the residential school system. Inspired by Survivor Phyllis Webstad, whose orange shirt was stripped away on her first day of school, this movement reaffirms a core truth: every single child deserves to grow up feeling valued, safe, and loved within their family, community, and culture.

At Mnaasged, Every Child Matters is the foundation of our daily work. We remain fiercely committed to breaking intergenerational cycles of trauma, keeping children safely connected to their culture and First Nation communities across Southwestern Ontario, and honoring the strength and resilience of the families we serve.

How You Can Honor the Day:

- **Wear Orange:** Wear an orange shirt on September 30th to honor Survivors, remember the children who never made it home, and spark meaningful conversations about truth and healing.
- **Listen & Learn:** Reflect on the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and take time to learn the true history of the land and communities around us.
- **Gather in Community:** Participate in local Sacred Fires, walks, and memorial gatherings hosted across our member First Nations.

Community Support & Crisis Resources:

- **National Indian Residential School Crisis Line:** 1-866-925-4419 (24/7 toll-free)
- **Hope for Wellness Help Line:** 1-855-242-3310 (24/7 mental health counseling and crisis intervention)

Honoring Sheila Firth's Years of Dedicated Service Mnaasged Elder's Council

Mnaasged Child and Family Services extends a heartfelt Chi-Miigwech to Sheila Firth of Aamjiwnaang First Nation for her exceptional leadership, wisdom, and care while serving on the Mnaasged Elders Council.



As a foundational member who has served on the Council since the beginning, Sheila has played an instrumental role in shaping Mnaasged's path, ensuring our agency remains grounded in traditional teachings, cultural integrity, and family well-being.

Her long-standing service, gentle guidance, and dedication to our children and communities have left an enduring mark on our organization. Mnaasged expresses its deepest gratitude to Sheila for her years of commitment and for walking alongside us in this good work.

Questions?

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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

lokarenhtha Elijah

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