



Newsletter



June Update

Mnaasged Child and Family Services is excited to announce the addition of two new staff members this month. We are pleased to welcome Chantel Proulx as our new Director of Services, and Iokarenhtha Elijah as our new Indigenous Knowledge Coordinator.

Both bring a wealth of knowledge in their respective fields, and their expertise will greatly strengthen Mnaasged's Capacity Development.

As we move into the summer months, keep an eye on our channels! Mnaasged will be posting more job opportunities and looking forward to connecting with everyone at upcoming community events.

Upcoming Dates

June 21st - National Indigenous Peoples Day

National Indigenous History Month

- Strawberry Moon (Ode'imini-giizis)
- Strawberry Moon (Aw^hihte)
- Strawberry Moon (Wteehiimiwi Niipaahum)

Member Nations

Mnaasged is proud to have partnership
with our communities
"Working together, we can move forward"



A message from Executive Director

Building strong relationships with our First Nations partners is an important part of our journey towards designation. Over the coming months, I will be visiting Prevention Teams in the communities we serve to begin meaningful conversations about how we can work together to support children, youth, and families.



These visits are an opportunity to listen, learn and better understand the strengths, priorities, and needs of each community. I am excited to connect with Prevention Workers, share updates on our designation process, and explore ways we can develop collaborative partnerships, protocols, and service approaches that are grounded in the values and voices of the Nations we serve.

I look forward to these conversations and the relationships that will grow from them.



Thank you,
Melissa Patriguin

Welcome to the team



Chantel Proulx *Director of Services*

Chantel Proulx is the Director of Services with Mnaasged Child and Family Services and brings over 15 years of experience in child welfare across both mainstream and Indigenous agencies.

Her work has been rooted in supporting children, youth, and families through complex life situations while building meaningful relationships grounded in compassion, collaboration, and culturally responsive practice.

Chantel's educational background includes Child and Youth Work, a Bachelor of Social Work, and a Master of Social Work with a focus in Indigenous studies. Alongside her work in child welfare, she has also spent more than eight years providing part-time therapy services in private practice, supporting individuals and families navigating crisis, trauma, and mental health challenges.

As a leader, Chantel values connection, community, and relationship-based practice. She is committed to supporting the vision of Mnaasged Child and Family Services by helping create safe, supportive environments where children and families feel empowered, heard, and connected to culture, community, and wellness. She believes strongly in the importance of honouring children as gifts and supporting families in ways that strengthen resilience for future generations.

Outside of her professional role, Chantel is a busy mom of three who values health, wellness, and personal growth. She enjoys training for running races and HYROX competitions and is passionate about coaching and encouraging others to challenge themselves, build resilience, and achieve their goals.

Welcome to the team (cont.)

Iokarenhtha Elijah ***Indigenous Knowledge Coordinator***

She:kon Sewakwe:kon! Iokarenhtha ne' ionkiats, wakathohion:ni niwaki'taroten tahnon Kanien'keha nikahwentsioten. Deshkan Ziibing nitewakenon.

Hello everyone! My name is Iokarenhtha Elijah. I am Wolf Clan, and Mohawk Nation is my nation. I live in Deshkan Ziibing (Chippewa of the Thames First Nation).



As the Indigenous Knowledge Coordinator with Mnaasged Child and Family Services, I support the integration of Indigenous knowledge, culture, language, and traditional teachings into services for children, youth, and families. My work focuses on strengthening cultural identity, fostering meaningful relationships, and ensuring services are culturally grounded and reflective of the communities we serve. I look forward to working alongside the communities Mnaasged serves, building relationships based on respect, reciprocity, and shared learning.

Much of the knowledge that guides my work comes from lived experience and the teachings shared by my family. I was raised by parents and grandparents who were first-language speakers and respected leaders within our Haudenosaunee communities. Growing up in the Longhouse, attending language immersion schools, and living within Akwesasne Mohawk Territory, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Six Nations of the Grand River provided me with strong cultural foundations that continue to shape my personal and professional life.

I hold an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies with a minor in Sociology, a Certificate in Leadership and Management in the Not-for-Profit Sector, and I am currently completing a Diploma in Mental Health and Addictions through Canadore College. For the past 20 years, I have been involved in Indigenous language and cultural revitalization, and more recently have worked in mental health and harm reduction. I believe that culture, language, community connection, and identity are essential foundations for healing and well-being.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my five children, supporting them in their activities, creating artwork, and attending live music events whenever I can.

Indigenous History Month

The Summer Solstice and Indigenous People's Day June 21st

As National Indigenous Peoples Day approaches, Mnaasged proudly honours and celebrates the strength, resilience, and vibrant cultures of the Oneida, Lenape, and Anishinaabe Nations we serve.

We recognize the wisdom of Indigenous teachings, the richness of cultural traditions, and the strength of community connections that continue to inspire healing, nurture belonging, and support brighter futures for children, youth, and families.



Meet the staff

New page, new faces!

As we begin to hire on new faces that will be working in your communities we are striving to include more transparency. Recently we just updated our staff page to include pictures of the staff currently working for Mnaasged Child and Family Services.

Over the next few weeks we will also be posting more informational graphics of new staff! We are excited to bring on quality and experienced workers who will be working in our Member Nations communities.



Additional Questions?

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www.Mnaasged.com/staff-list

