



KWAYACIIWIN  
Education Resource Centre  
———— 6.7rΔ.3 ————

# KWAYACIIWIN TABAAHCHIMOWIN

Fall 2019

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added to KERC team

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Counsellor

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## Stay Connected!



@kwayaciiwin

## New Language & Culture Coordinator joins KERC



*From left: Ballena Anderson, Immersion Specialist, Christina Meekis, Executive Director, Anna Phelan, new Language and Culture Coordinator, and Kathy Wesley, Language Specialist.*

We are pleased to announce that Anna Phelan has been hired as the new Language and Culture Coordinator. This is another exciting hire for Kwayaciiwin, as it's a new management position specifically for language and culture. It's been our goal to increase and prioritize the support we provide to schools in this area and this hire sets us on the right track.

Anna will promote and facilitate language and culture initiatives in schools and communities, as well as support the development and creation of

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UPCOMING ISSUES:

**Winter 2019/20**  
December 2019

**Spring 2020**  
April 2020

**Fall 2020**  
September 2020

**Submissions and ideas  
are welcome!**

Submit to:  
KERC Communications  
[info@kerc.ca](mailto:info@kerc.ca)

# Elder's provide direction on preserving First Nations languages

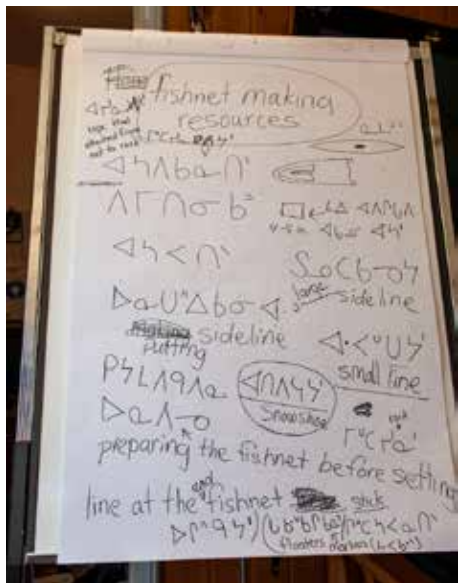
**In late May, over 50 Elder's from 17 First Nations in the Sioux Lookout area gathered to share and discuss the future of First Nation languages and how to keep the old ways of speaking and understanding alive.**

The Elder's Symposium was hosted by a partnership of Keewatinook Okimakanak, Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre, and Independent First Nations Alliance. The three-day gathering featured discussions and knowledge sharing around each language group in the area (Ojibwe, Cree, and Oji-Cree) and a number of hands-on demonstrations showcasing traditional skills.

During the language discussions, the Elders were asked how to properly translate a list of words and terms that were created by the three host organizations. The idea was to have the Elders discuss and share the original ways these words and terms were spoken, or to create words and terms that have no proper translation.

That list will be compiled into a glossary in each language group to be shared with communities, schools, and language/immersion teachers. It will also be available to regional organizations involved in language programming and support.

In addition to the glossary development, Elders were asked to provide guidance to the host organizations about how to preserve the languages. That discussion provided a lot of information that will be used moving forward as each organization supports the continued use of our languages in the area.



## Staff Updates

### Departing Staff

Kwayaciiwin wishes to thank **Deanna Kenny** and **Loretta Mickenack** for their contributions to the organization. We wish them all the best in their new endeavours.

### New Staff and Staff Changes

We are proud to welcome the following new staff to the Kwayaciiwin team and to announce the current staff with new titles:

**Ashley Smith**  
Special Education  
Lead

**Melissa Bortlis**  
Student Learning  
Lead & Special  
Education Support

**Chelsea Trist**  
Mental Health Support  
Counsellor

**Anna Phelan**  
Language & Culture  
Coordinator

**Roylene Ogemah**  
Finance and HR  
Coordinator

## Mental Health Worker Added to KERC Team

**Kwayaciiwin is happy to welcome Chelsea Trist to our team as the Mental Health Support Counsellor.**



**Chelsea can be reached at [ctrist@kerc.ca](mailto:ctrist@kerc.ca) or at (807) 737-7373 ext. 57**

This is a new position at Kwayaciiwin, but one that has been wanted for some time. Chelsea will promote positive mental health and a culture of well-being in the schools by facilitating mental health initiatives for students at risk, by supporting the development and implementation of professional mental health training programs for educators, and by liaising with other agencies and service providers in the area of mental health.

Chelsea has a bachelor's degree in Psychology, a certificate in Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy (CBT), and is currently working on completing a certification in life coaching. She previously worked for Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Hospital in the Mental Health and Addictions program as a Mental Health and Addictions Counsellor, and at the Dryden Regional Health Centre with Crisis Response Services.

The Mental Health Support Counsellor joins our School Support Services and is available as a resource to schools.





Anishinaabek Voices  
OUR STORIES • OUR LAND • OUR PEOPLE • OUR FUTURE

Explore the rich history  
and culture of our region.

Visit the website at:  
[www.anishinaabekvoices.com](http://www.anishinaabekvoices.com)



# KERC Partners in Self-Reg Study

**Kwayaciiwin is happy to announce we have partnered with researchers at Lakehead University to examine the role of self-regulation and how it impacts student success when paired with Indigenous methods of learning.**

The \$196,000 three-year study is a pilot project taking place in Kasabonika Lake First Nation. It will be led by two researchers from Lakehead University, Sonia Mastrangelo and Meridith Lovell-Johnston, with staff from Kwayaciiwin assisting throughout the process. The Self Regulation Institute is also a partner in the initiative.

With lower literacy rates in the North when compared to the rest of Ontario, the goal of the study is to explore if promoting self-regulation (or self-reg) with cultural learning tools, such as storytelling, can help to improve well-being, literacy outcomes, and overall school success. Using a holistic approach, the team will engage with students, educators, and community members in Kasabonika, with a plan to expand to other communities over the next three years.

The engagement process with communities will focus on building relationships between the partnership team, teachers, students, and community members to develop an understanding of self-regulation and literacy that will respect the values and goals of communities. Throughout the school year, the team will provide training for teachers, work with students to help them build their own understanding of self-reg, conduct learning assessments, act as literacy coaches, and use storytelling to have students reflect on their growth with self-regulation. The self-reg team will also involve parents in developing a shared understanding of self-reg and literacy.

Self-regulation is a framework for understanding stress and managing tension in order to cope with daily challenges of life. For students, self-regulation helps in areas of healthy development, such as mental health, learning, resilience, and caring relationships.

For more information about the project, please contact Monika Orzechowska at (807) 737-7373 ext. 32 or at [monikaorz@kerca.ca](mailto:monikaorz@kerca.ca).

# WE'RE HIRING

**Finance and HR Assistant  
Data File Clerk**

visit [www.kwayaciiwin.com/employment](http://www.kwayaciiwin.com/employment)  
for more information



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## MANY PATHS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE  
BUILDING CAREERS  
SHAPING THE FUTURE

Many Paths is about inspiring children and youth to explore the many career options available to them. It profiles Indigenous people from our region from a variety of careers.

Visit the website at:  
[www.manypaths.info](http://www.manypaths.info)

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resources. She will oversee Ballena Anderson, Immersion Specialist, and Kathy Wesley, Language Specialist, in the Language and Culture department. Previously, this department was under the former Academic Readiness Program, which also oversaw our printing and production. However, we realigned our structure to create separate departments. Our staff in both areas will continue to work together and support each other to develop resources and materials for First Nations schools.

Anna, who comes from Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, was previously with Kwayaciiwin as the First Nations Governance Education Coordinator. She was an integral part of our team and we are glad to have her back on board. In her previous role, she was always a strong advocate for language and culture. So we know she'll do great things in this new position.

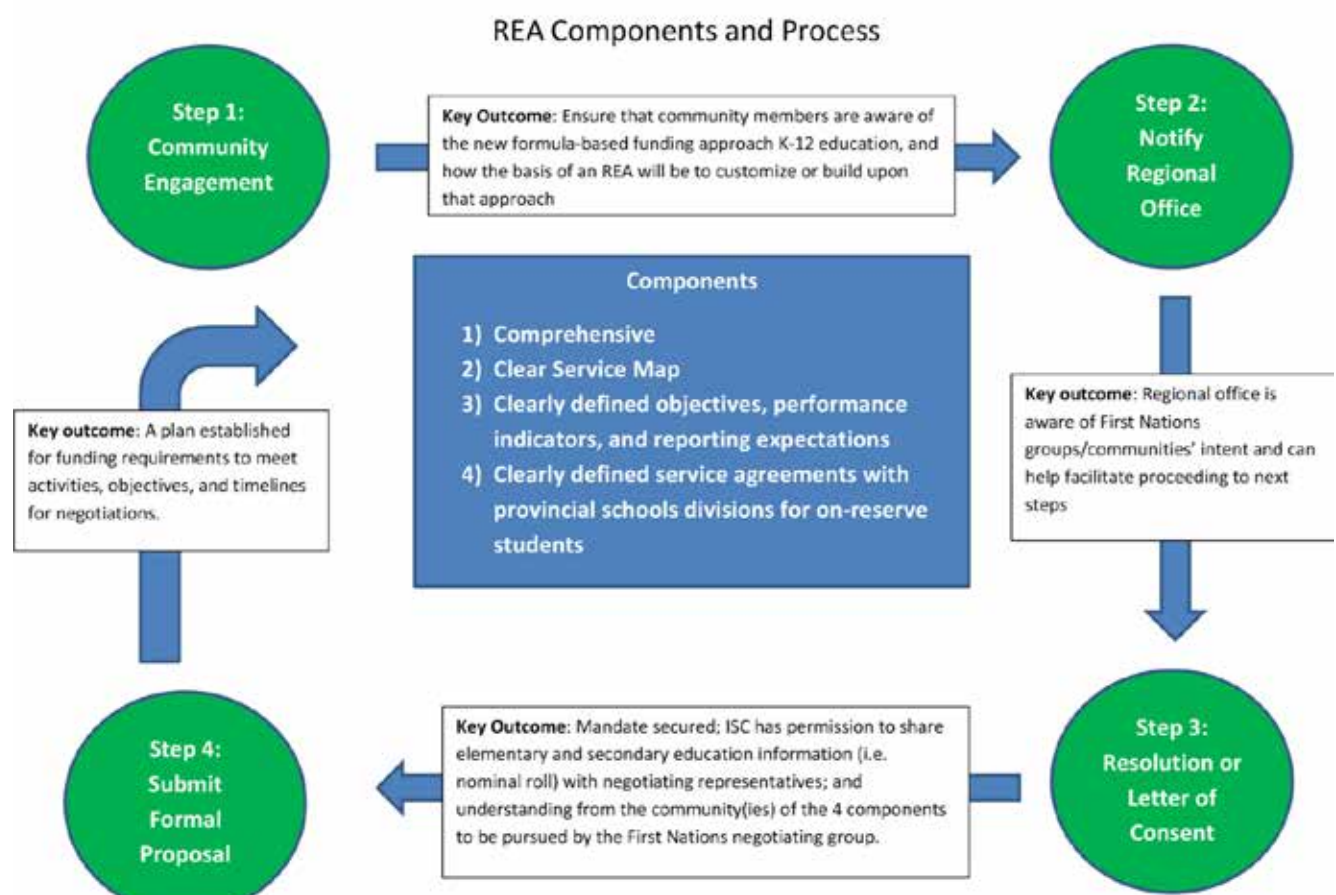
**Welcome back, Anna!**





# REA update: Current Activities

Kwayaciiwin Education Resource Centre is working with communities to establish a new relationship to enter into a Regional Education Agreement. This agreement provides a framework for how education services will be delivered to First Nations.



To begin this process, KERC has engaged with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). KERC has arranged four teleconferences with officials from ISC since November 2018. KERC also organized an in-person visit from ISC, which was held in Sioux Lookout on June 26, and included First Nation leadership and Education Directors.

Based on numerous consultations with senior KERC management, documentation prepared by KERC consultants, and reviewing First Nations “best practices” in other provinces, a draft Framework was completed by KERC. The Framework includes Strategic Plan & Priorities, an organizational structure, local and regional division of responsibility, funding models, an FAQ to explain the rationale and benefits of creating a regional system, a Terms of Reference, and a budget.

Next steps will include:

- Developing Service Agreements (including Service Maps) with the participating communities to determine how best to provide the services they need and negotiating the key issues of governance and funding issues with Indigenous Services Canada;
- An analysis of the new Interim Funding Formula to determine how it can address the needs in each community;
- Developing a local education budget for each community using the new funding figures;
- Keeping participating communities informed on all upcoming education initiatives.

## Immersion and Non-Immersion Kwayaciiwin Curriculum



### In Schools Now

From Grades 1-8

For more information contact:

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# Update: Service Agreements

As of April 2019, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) have implemented an interim funding approach to education and have discontinued proposal-based programs like FNSSP and New Paths. Under this interim funding, second-level organizations such as KERC, will receive multi-year funding, up to three years, to continue supporting First Nations students and schools. This ensures existing services will remain stable while First Nations and KERC work on negotiating a regional education agreement.

For the immediate future, KERC has developed a 'service provider agreement' to be signed by KERC and First Nations. The agreement indicates that second level services will continue to be provided to communities by KERC, as they were in 2018-19 and before.

We view the agreements as laying the groundwork for a formal agreed-upon structure between KERC and the communities, which could potentially form the REA.

KERC will also be developing a 'service map' with each community partner. The service maps will be tailored to each community and will include the following:

- Defining current services
- Analyzing what services are required by communities
- Defining the role of KERC and the role of communities

To help develop the service map, we are working on a gap analysis to determine the needs of communities and what services are currently provided. The gap analysis will also look at whether the Interim Funding Formula from ISC is adequate to meet community needs. This will help in developing an overall budget for education service delivery.

We will be travelling to communities to discuss and share these agreements and services maps, as well as to gain further direction regarding a more formal structure between KERC and First Nations.

## What is a Service Map?

A service map is an identification and analysis of how educational services are delivered to students in your community school.

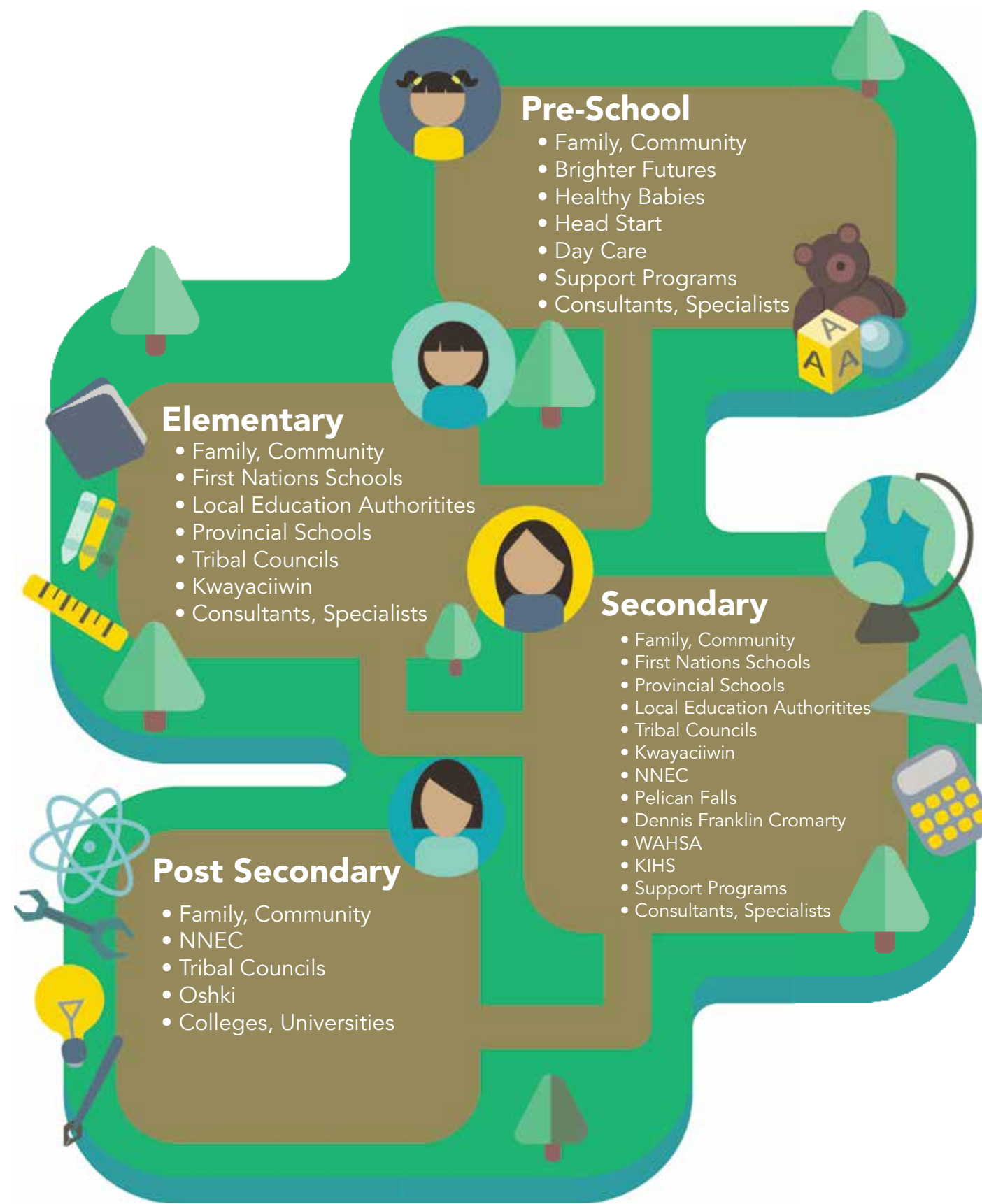
There are generally 3 "levels" of services that work together to effectively provide education to students on a First Nation

- First Level Services – Direct educational services from the First Nation
- Second Level Services – Professional Services for Support in areas such as Special Education, Literacy and Numeracy, from partner organizations and consultants
- Third Level Services – Supports from indigenous organizations such as NAN and COO

## Why is Service Mapping Important?

- To identify and clarify current service delivery for your First Nation
- To identify existing gaps in current service delivery
- To assist you with reconciling current interim funding and eventual permanent funding and effective service delivery
- Is a requirement from ISC for further conversations and work around moving beyond interim funding toward permanent funding and regional education agreements
- Can help to identify opportunities for partnerships to maximize efficiencies in services

# Educating Our Children Together





# ISC, First Nations education leadership discuss education transformation

In late June, Kwayaciiwin arranged an in-person meeting in Sioux Lookout with community and school leadership, KERC staff, and ISC representatives to address specific issues related to the transformation of on-reserve education and the Regional Education Agreement (REA) process.



ISC was represented by Rob St. Pierre, Education and Social Programs Advisor, Education and Social Programs Directorate, Ontario Region, and Milan Pavlicik, Junior Policy Analyst from ISC. headquarters.

Presentations and discussions focused on the purpose and process of developing an REA, which would include a new funding formula to ensure sufficient costing in order to deliver quality education to First Nations students. An agreement will replace the current Interim Funding Formula and proposal-based funding. It will include core, multi-year funding for organizations like KERC, and a service delivery model that would set out the roles and responsibilities of the participating First Nations and First Nations education support organizations. An REA will also permit communities to move funding around to meet local education budget needs. Although funding must

still be spent on “eligible expenditures in accordance with 2019-20 National Program Guidelines for Elementary and Secondary Education.”

Some concerns were expressed by participants about the definition of “region,” which could be a single First Nation and how that would apply to “transferability” between communities and maintaining academic and other standards. Another concern was that the \$14 million allocated by ISC for the development of REAs across Canada was inadequate.

It was acknowledged that further meetings would be useful as there remain questions about funding during the Transformation process and reporting requirements that need clarification.

# KERC participates in Indigenous People’s Day Event at Meno Ya Win



Kwayaciiwin staff participated in National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations on June 21, hosted by Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre and the Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre. A tipi was put up by KERC staff and was used to host language lessons for guests. Event organizers also hosted a mini powwow, BBQ, and a performance by the Asham Stompers.

# New Word of the Week Videos

Kwayaciiwin is pleased to announce our new video series entitled “Word of the Week”. These short videos will be released each week via our social media accounts on Facebook and Instagram and will feature an Ojibwe, OjiCree or Cree word for the viewer to learn. The Language and Culture Department and Print Production and Publishing Departments are working very hard to perfect and make the videos fun for children and veiwers to learn First Nation Languages.

If you have any feedback please contact us at [info@kerc.ca](mailto:info@kerc.ca).

visit [www.facebook.com/kwayaciiwin](https://www.facebook.com/kwayaciiwin) or [instagram.com/kwayaciiwin](https://www.instagram.com/kwayaciiwin) to view previous videos.





# KERC Staff On the Go: Summer Edition

Visit, like or follow our social media pages [www.facebook.com/kwayaciiwin](https://www.facebook.com/kwayaciiwin) or [instagram.com/kwayaciiwin](https://www.instagram.com/kwayaciiwin) to find out what KERC staff is up to through out the school year.





## Kwayaciiwin's Kekeenamawkayo Education Conference

The Kekeenamawkayo Education Conference is held every two years in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

The three-day education conference features workshops, training sessions, and keynote speakers on a variety of issues and topics geared towards helping educators, administration and education leadership gain knowledge and expertise in Special Education, Language teaching modalities such as TPR, K-8 lesson planning and Technology that can be used in the classroom.

The next Kekeenamawkayo Conference will be held in February 2020. For more information about the conference or to register early, contact [info@kerc.ca](mailto:info@kerc.ca).



# Summer Institute and the Great Outdoors

This year’s Summer Institute was held on August 26-28, 2019 at Ojibway Park outside Sioux Lookout. We tried something different this year, holding the gathering outside with limited technology. It came with logistical challenges, but it was an excellent chance to provide participants with the experience of what it’s like to enhance learning opportunities in an outdoor environment.



Our staff provided wonderful workshops around language, science, math, writing, and art and how to engage with the outdoors to provide lessons that coincide with or supplement classroom curriculum. Other sessions included Building Identity, Understanding, and Culture with Renee Southwind, The Science of Self-Regulation with Lisa Bayrami, and Intro to Self-Regulation with Sonia Mastrangelo. We were also provided with a Music in the Classroom workshop by musician Nick

Sherman. It was also entertaining as he sang a few songs and discussed the stories behind them.

We were at the mercy of the weather and it challenged us with rain, rain, and more rain. However, it didn't stop the learning opportunities. And we are grateful to all the participants for taking part throughout the entire gathering.





# Back to School

Back to School time! And if you're an educator, it means time to figure out what resources you need in the class. Working in the North, and especially in remote communities, can be challenging trying to pull together all the resources you need to run a functional classroom. Many of our staff are from the communities or have worked in the communities, so we know firsthand that challenge.

But hey! We got you covered. Kwayaciiwin has thousands of materials available. And we're excited to add some new items to our library, such as Fill-in-the-Syllabics workbooks for students, Fill-in-the-Syllabics teacher resources and charts, such as weather, shapes, and numbers, and some slick new journals with cover artwork by our in-house artist/illustrator, Shoshannah Fox. The journals are available in lined, blank, and half pages.

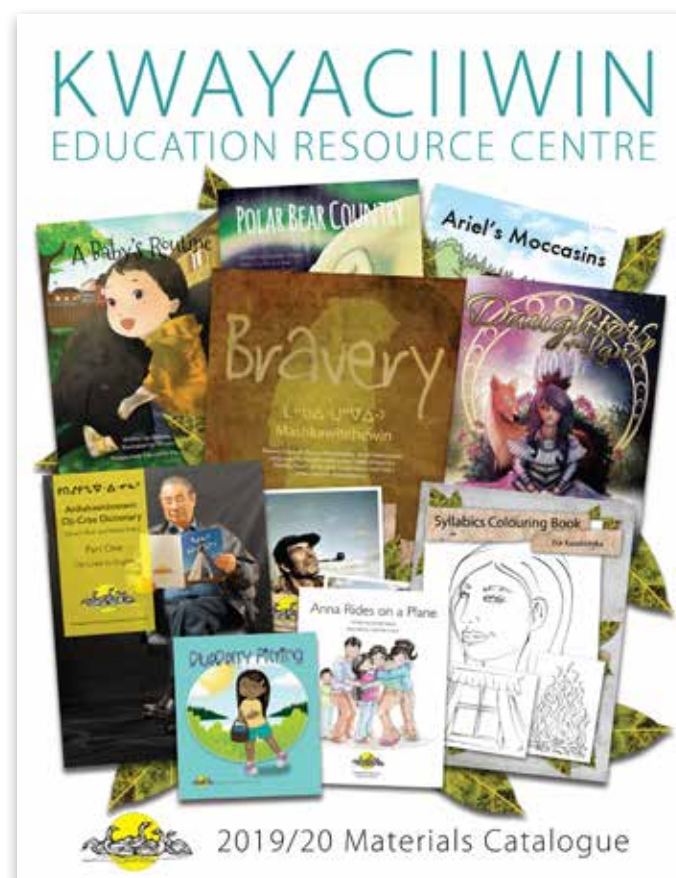
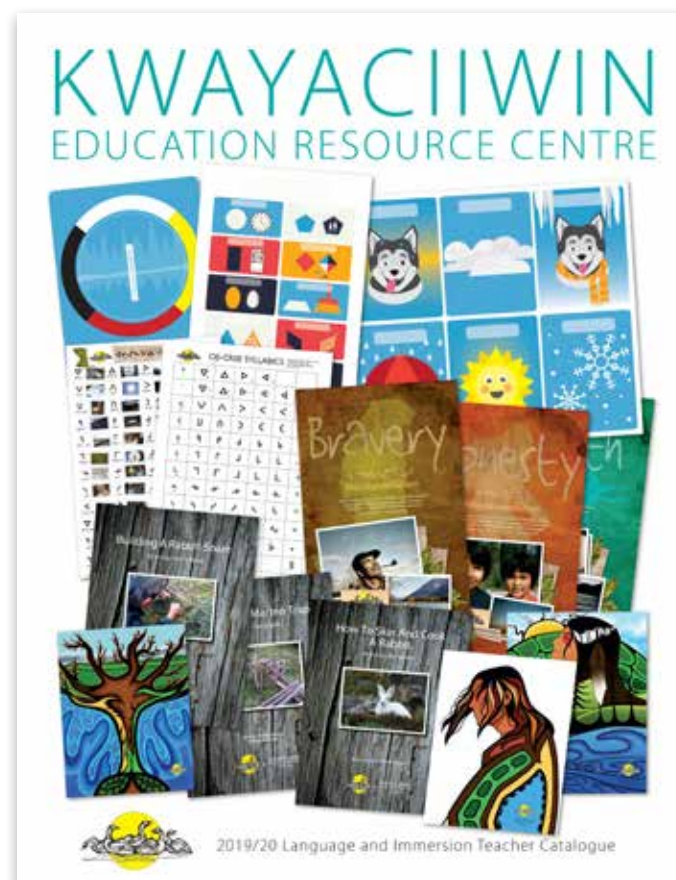
We also have a youth-created book called Warrior by Randy Dunsford. We helped Randy to design, print, and publish a collection of his original poems and writings.

And as usual, we have teachers planners available. We've also updated many of our cultural books!

Visit [www.kwayaciiwin.com](http://www.kwayaciiwin.com) to download our new fall flyer and catalogues.

A couple of final notes for all you teachers out there. We can design and create yearbooks for your schools. So, throughout the school year, document your class. And if you need something that you don't see in our library, let us know. We can help you create custom in-class resources and tools such as calendars, colours, weather, shapes, animals, months, days, numbers, feelings, and more.

**Best of luck to all new and returning educators!**



## New Products and Books



### Fill in the Syllabics Resources

Various titles and in-class learning tools with more to come.

### Journals and Notebooks

Cover Art by Shoshannah Fox  
Lined, blank and half pages.

**\$9.95 each**  
**\$45.95/set**

## Upcoming Events

### Board Meeting

October 29, 2019  
Thunder Bay, Ontario

### Annual General Meeting

October 29-30, 2019  
Thunder Bay, Ontario

### Kekeenamawkayo Education Conference

February 2020  
Winnipeg, Manitoba



KWAYACIIWIN EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE INTRODUCES...

# WARRIOR

BY RANDY DUNSFORD

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