

Indigenous Lens On Basic Income



Mamaweswen,
The North Shore Tribal Council
Niigaaniin Services

Who are we?



April 1, 1985 seven (7) First Nations came together in the era of Canada's devolution policy

Niigaaniin Services is a group delivery model of Ontario Works (Financial, Employment & Addictions) to eight (8) First Nations from Sudbury to Sault Ste. Marie Ontario since 2006

Servicing Wahnapiatae First Nation, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Sagamok Anishnawbek, Serpent River First Nation, Mississauga First Nation, Thessalon First Nation, Garden River First Nation and Batchewana First Nation



Basic Income-Indigenous Lens

- Life Stabilization
- Dignity
- Keeping Families Together
- Honesty
- Enhanced Services
- Hand Up not a Hand Out
- HOPE
- Independence
- Reconciliation



Historical Context



1965 Indian Welfare Agreement

- Ontario is the only province to sign the 1965 federal/provincial cost-share agreement respecting social services on reserve
- Agreement recognized federal responsibility for Indians AND provincial responsibility for social services – Ontario extends services to and funds First Nations to deliver; Canada reimburses about 93% of cost (for as yet a limited range of services)
- First Nations retain the right to not accept provincial services extension (e.g. BI) and, in some legislation, the right to opt out



First Nations Sovereignty

- First Nations have the right to choose services that they wish to utilize:
 - Bank Accounts
 - Income Tax Assessments
- Accessing services makes it mandatory to access these
- Agenda with Steve Paikin “The Basic Income Debate”
 - “Child Tax benefit on reserve is \$340 Billion, an estimate based on 30 to 40 percent of First Nations Families on-reserve are not filing.” – Elizabeth Mulholland, CEO of Prosper Canada
- These are complex situations that may hinder the true benefits of a Basic Income in First Nations

First Nations Sovereignty

- There are many different barriers when it comes to First Nations enrolling in Banking and Tax Programs (including but not limited to):
 - 1) Protection of information
 - 2) Fear of Data Collection
 - 3) Adherence to the right to remain sovereign
 - 4) Lack of education on completing enrollment into programs
- Next slides will provide a snapshot of what other barriers First Nations have to contend with

Our Data Shows

- 40% of the North Shore First Nation population (adults, adult dependents, children) is dependent on OW/ODSP financial assistance on average (8 First Nations, 5,100 resident on reserve)
- of these, Niigaaniin staff identify the following core issues:

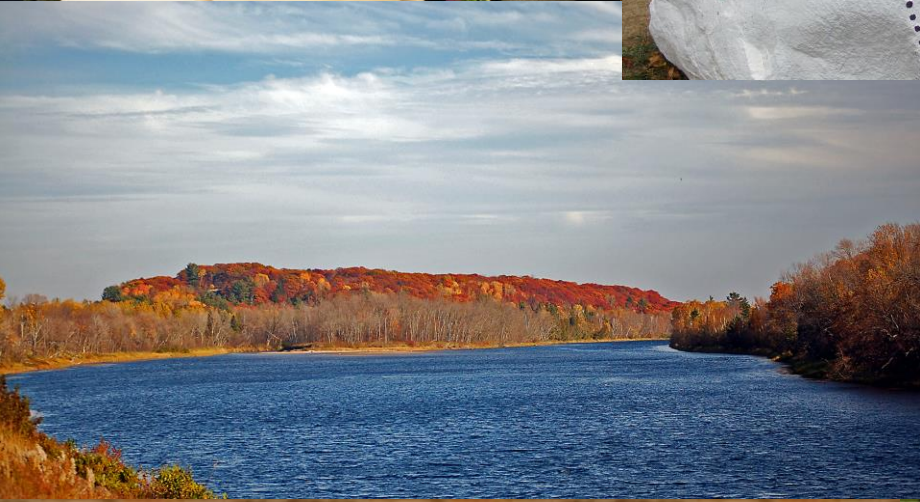
Assessed Need/Barrier Categories	% of Caseload
little or no work experience	56.2%
possible/actual need for Life Skills Training	47.5%
no accredited work skills	46.7%
less than grade 12 education	42.7%
possible/actual need for counselling	41.9%
possible/actual addictions issues	40.3%
possible/actual MH issues	34.0%



GAIN SS Data shows the following

Issue Category	in the past month	in the past year
Internalizing Disorder	50%	90%
Externalizing Disorder	18%	75%
Substance Use	43%	82%
Crime/Violence Exp	10%	70%





MINOBIMAADIZIDAA

- We have skilled staff regularly launching programming to assist Community Members with life skills practices and help them achieve that greater self-reliance.
- With alarming data from previous slides, providing the hand-up before the hand-out will always be our top priority



"This program got me completely outta my depression and self-hating attitude!"

"My Perspective on life has changed. Before this course I had nothing to do and felt like I couldn't move forward."

Mino-Bimaadizidaa

"Together we can move forward and live well!"

Mino-Bimaadizidaa is a healing program consisting of four cycles using an Anishinabe wholistic approach.

- Awakening the Spirit
- Carrying Forward the Spirit
- Healing the Spirit
- Freeing The Spirit

Mino-Bimaadizidaa teachings have been shared with our member First Nations with an awarding 80% success rate.

MINOBIMAADIZIDAA

- When Niigaaniin began, it started with a vision of a bright future.
- No more hurt, poverty, barriers, and crisis; only joy, prosperity, opportunities, and peace.
- We are getting closer to that vision with each day





Miigwech!