

2019-2020

Annual Report

SEVEN GENERATIONS EDUCATION INSTITUTE



Culturally enriched
quality education for all

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CEO's message



Boozhoo
Ogimaabines Indigoo
Goojijiing Nindoonjii
Bizhiw Nindoodem

Miigwech for taking the time to read the 2019/20 annual report for Seven Generations Education Institute. This year we celebrated the opening of Niizhwaaching Aanikoobijigeng Gikinoo'amaadiiwigamig, our new campus on Agency One land. It was a great day to celebrate the previous work of the late Delbert Horton (Gichi-Aanakwat) as well as a new beginning for the students and communities in this fantastic new state-of-the-art facility.

Within the annual report you will see the accomplishments of your community members and the growth of the organization. Language, culture and traditions continue to be the pillars on which the organization builds its programming. Chi-Miigwech to our Board of Directors for the leadership and commitment to supporting the organization, their communities, and the students and staff.

Miigwech,
Brent Tookenay
Chief Executive Officer

Board of directors

Mitaanjigamiing First Nation
Naomi Field, Chairperson

Couchiching First Nation
Peggy Loyie, Vice Chair

Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation
Clayton Windigo, Secretary/Treasurer

Seine River First Nation
Norman Girard, Board Member

Rainy River First Nations
Gary Medicine, Board Member

Big Grassy First Nation
Fred Archie, Board Member

Big Island First Nation
Daniel Big George, Board Member

Mikinaak Onigaming First Nation
Shawn Kelly, Board Member

Lac La Croix First Nation
Carol Geyschick, Board Member

Naicatchewenin First Nation
Raechel Snowball, Board Member

Mission

Seven Generations Education Institute is dedicated to excellence in lifelong learning and empowerment through language and culture, by providing community-based and student-centered learning opportunities for everyone.

Vision

Seven Generations Education Institute is the leader in providing sustainable, high quality education and training opportunities, which respect our Anishinaabe language and culture, support present needs, and embrace our future of lifelong learning.



Strategic priorities

Leadership & growth

Seven Generations Education Institute will be recognized as a leader in Indigenous education and research with credentials in all program areas.

Learner support & access

Seven Generations Education Institute is committed to the success and well-being of all learners through holistic supports and expanded access for learning opportunities through community outreach, services closer to home, and technology.

Language & culture

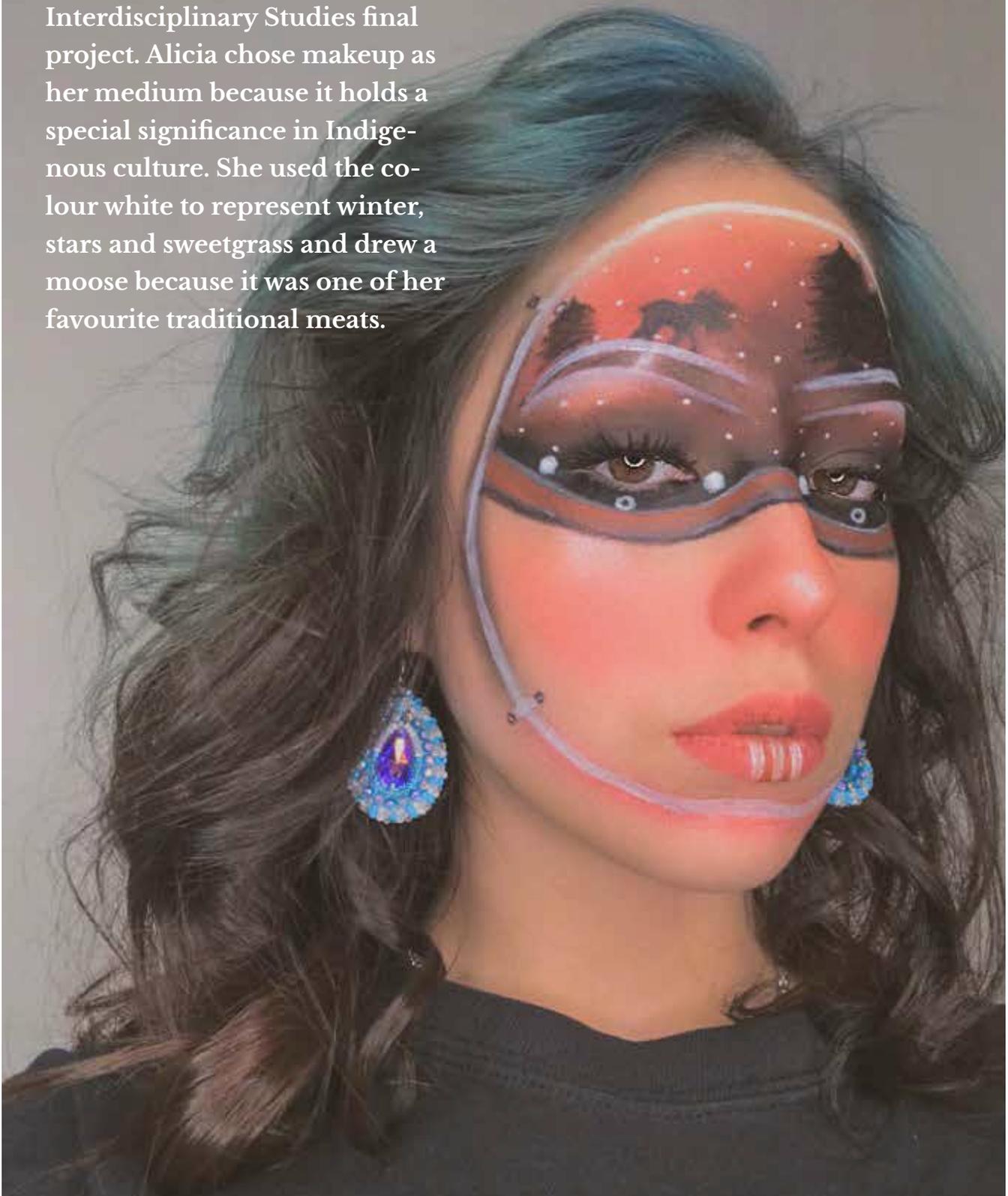
Seven Generations Education Institute will be grounded in Mino-Bimaadiziwin, Anishinaabe teachings and world views, and be a recognized centre for language and cultural learning and research.

Financial stability

Seven Generations Education Institute will have stable and sufficient funding to support and sustain core institutional functions, growth, and increased access for learners as a credential granting education institution.

Alicia Bottle, from the Lac Seul community of Frenchman's Head, expressed her relationship to the land through Indigenous-inspired makeup for her Interdisciplinary Studies final project. Alicia chose makeup as her medium because it holds a special significance in Indigenous culture. She used the colour white to represent winter, stars and sweetgrass and drew a moose because it was one of her favourite traditional meats.

Alicia Bottle
Secondary School Student





Leadership & growth

Seven Generations Education Institute will be recognized as a leader in Indigenous education and research.

- Develop and advance a credential granting strategy for all post-secondary programs and training
- Expand research and evaluation capacity and partnership opportunities to support Indigenous learning and programming
- Increase access to education and training for learners
- Become the education institution of choice
- Expand our facilities as community hubs
- Establish long-term strategic partnerships and relationships that expand academic and training program opportunities
- Develop and implement a staff and faculty compensation and recruitment strategy
- Implement a SGEI brand strategy

Credential granting strategy

SGEI began its accreditation review process with the Indigenous Advanced Education & Skills Council (IAESC) in October 2019.

Expand research and evaluation capacity

SGEI began work on a draft framework for honouring and valuing Indigenous research. This framework contains criteria for conducting research and will go out for community consultation in 2020-2021.

Become the institution of choice

SGEI secured Mastercard Foundation funding for \$535,000 in equipment for the post-secondary department's healthcare lab spaces at its Fort Frances, Kenora and Sioux Lookout campuses.

SGEI's under 25 years-of-age student body continues to grow as campuses expand and provide new supports and experiences for students.

Long-term strategic partnerships

The Anishinaabemodaa program partnered with the Northwest Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) to collaborate on resources, programming, and training.

The Training for Employment department delivered programming in partnering communities, including Mitaanjigamiing First Nation, Iskatewizaagegan #39, Northwest Angle 33, Dogpaw, Grassy Narrows, Onigaming, and Naotkamegwanning First Nation. The training department also partnered with Kitchen Creek

Golf course in Fort Frances, providing wage subsidies for 15 online learners resulting in employment.

The First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP) continued building rapport and supporting partners, including Mikinaak Onigaming, Windigo Island, Lac La Croix, Pegamigaabo and Grassy Narrows schools with literacy, numeracy, student retention and technological initiatives.

Post-Secondary signed educational agreements with Canadore College and Lakehead University (Bachelor of Science in Nursing program) to deliver program-ming. Post-secondary also co-created and facilitated an Education Support certificate program credentialed through Sault College.

SGEI's secondary department partnered with the Keewatin-Patricia District School Board (KPDSB) and Sioux Lookout Area Aboriginal Management Board (SLAAMB) to help students in various training programs earn high school credits and improve math skills.

Compensation and recruitment strategy

SGEI's compensation model is diverse due to various funding agencies. As SGEI evolves, the compensation model will reflect current strategies and improve as the senior management team identifies new positions and the organization changes.

Branding strategy

SGEI's IT and Media department created brand standard guidelines for all visual and written content to elevate the organization's image and reputation. The IT and Media department began evaluating the effectiveness of the SGEI website to provide students and community members a more user-friendly experience.

key
accomplishments



Language & culture

Seven Generations Education Institute will be grounded in Mino-Bimaadiziwin, Anishinaabe teachings and world views, and be a recognized centre for language and cultural learning and research.

- Employ Elders in Residence in all SGEI campuses and learning centres
- Use our Indigenous ways of knowing, learning and teaching to support learners
- Enrich the experience of learners, staff and faculty through our history, language and culture
- Expand our credentialed Anishinaabemowin programs and Indigenous studies programs
- Expand the use of technology in the delivery of language and culture programs
- Implement land-based learning for learners, staff and faculty
- Enhance and expand cultural sensitivity and cultural competency workshops and training

Employ Elders in residence

SGEI hired a Cultural Lead in November 2019 to act as a cultural mentor and support all SGEI students in their cultural journeys.

Support with Indigenous ways of knowing...

The secondary department continued to work with Learning Bird, an Indigenous education platform, to develop resources using traditional knowledge to support student learning.

All secondary course content and curriculum continue to be grounded in Indigenous world views, Anishinaabemowin and language revitalization. Secondary continues its ongoing partnership with Keewaytinook Internet High School (KIHS) to engage students with

weekly cultural activities, including land-based learning, Anishinaabe art projects and employing Elders and knowledge keepers. Upon request, Secondary staff took part in healing circles for students as part of a holistic support method.

Enrich experience of learners & faculty with culture

Fall Harvest, a two-day immersive Anishinaabe cultural experience, also known as Dagwaaginimaawindoosijigewin, was held October 2-3, 2019 on Agency One land. The annual event gathered approximately 600 students from local school boards, 40 Elders/knowledge keepers, and more than 30 post-secondary student helpers to celebrate and learn about Anishinaabe harvesting practices and traditions.

While campuses were closed due to COVID-19, SGEI hosted weekly hand drumming socials for students, staff and community members via Zoom.

The Secondary department partnered with the Paul Martin Foundation to deliver Indigenous Adult Entrepreneurship Facilitator training to local teachers and community leaders.

Expand Anishinaabemowin programming

Twelve learners at the Fort Frances campus, three students in Big Grassy and three students in Big Island completed the Adult Anishinaabemowin Revitalization program.

Expand use of technology

The Anishinaabemodaa team developed new language kits, professional development resources, videos, and information for its Waking up Ojibwe website. The team also developed a new presence on Facebook, which has been highly conducive to building relationships with community language learners, programs, and speakers.

Secondary continues to develop a virtual learning environment to establish SGEI as a progressive education institute and to meet the current and future needs of students.

Land-based learning

This year's FNSSP professional development sessions have incorporated land-based learning and Anishinaabe culture and language including a medicine walk at Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung historical centre located on Rainy River First Nations lands and a hands-on moose knowledge session for partner school educators.

The secondary department developed an interdisciplinary studies course with a focus on land-based learning. With the guidance of Elders, staff and students in Fort William First Nation began construction on an on-site teaching lodge.

Cultural workshops

The Anishinaabemodaa team facilitated eight Anishinaabemowin Family Nights in Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation encouraging families to learn and play together in Anishinaabemowin.

The Anishinaabemodaa team also facilitated the Anishinaabemowin Ando-gikendamowin for Early Childhood Educators annual regional gathering on August 16 in which school board partners, early childhood educators, and Anishinaabemowin students gathered to learn techniques for teaching and using Anishinaabemodaa Language kits. Partnering childcare centres (Couchiching Child Care Centre, Onigaming Child Care Centre, Nigigoonsiwiigiwam Child Care Centre, and United Native Friendship Centre – Zaagi-idiwin Aboriginal Head Start) committed to monthly learning sessions.

As part of their 2019-2020 school-year orientation, all post-secondary instructors received a half-day cultural engagement session to familiarize them with Anishinaabe culture and diverse ways of engaging with students.

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Learner support & access

Seven Generations Education Institute is committed to the success and well-being of all learners through holistic supports and expanded access for learning opportunities through community outreach, services closer to home, and technology.

- Provide access to “wrap around” and support services for learners at campuses including guidance counselling, access to residences and other housing options, in-house child care, and transportation support
- Establish a community presence and sub-offices in communities served by SGEI
- Develop technology-based program capacity and resources
- Implement proactive outreach and student recruitment programs
- Promote a strong brand reputation for linking training with employment

Support for learners

Through the Elementary and Secondary Support Program (ESSP), education assistants at Robert Moore and J.W. Walker schools supported First Nations elementary students while guidance counsellors at Fort Frances High School (FFHS) and Rainy River High School (RRHS) supported grades seven through 12 students with programming, course selection, college and university applications.

SGEI's Mental Health Coordinator continues to provide counselling services to our students and connect them to community partners. The Mental Health Coordinator organized a weekly sexual health clinic for students at the Fort Frances and Kenora campuses, periodic health and wellness challenges and weekly Zoom yoga sessions for SGEI students and staff.

For the first time, SGEI flew Pride flags at our Fort Frances and Kenora campuses in honour of Pride month (June), signifying that Seven Generations Education Institute is a safe and welcoming space for all LGBTQ+ students and staff.

Establish a community presence

SGEI entered into a partnership with Nookiiwin Tribal Council to deliver SGEI secondary programming to communities in the Robinson-Superior area, with Fort William First Nation as the central hub. SGEI is currently communicating with community partners to discuss the possibility of continuing programming in Nookiiwin partner communities.

Technology-based programming capacity

The secondary department provided online post-secondary prerequisite courses to provide greater accessibility for our students. Online classes also allowed for increased capacity to deliver courses and support students via platforms like Google Classroom and D2L Brightspace. Secondary also participated in an Ontario Association of Adult and Continuing Education School Board Administrators (CESBA) research project to provide support to instructors delivering high school credits via D2L.

In January, Greg Rickford, Minister of Energy, Northern Development and Mines, announced that the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporations' (NOHFC) \$2.25 million investment in SGEI's telepresence technology as part of the Connected Classroom project. Telepresence technology, has been installed at the Fort Frances and Kenora campuses allowing for remote instruction. Construction at the Sioux Lookout campus is underway, and installation at Lakehead University begins July 2020.

Outreach and recruitment

Student recruitment began in the Fall of 2019 for 2020 post-secondary programming with career fairs in Winnipeg, Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout, Kenora, Fort Frances, and Dryden. Following pandemic restrictions, virtual engagement sessions were held online, scheduled by discipline.

The post-secondary department used incentives to boost participation and awareness of programming. SGEI held a textbook credit draw over social media as an incentive for prospective students to apply early. To collect historical data, including names and locations of SGEI alumni, post-secondary developed a survey with an Apple watch as an incentive for completion.

Post-secondary and the IT and Media departments are collecting applicant data to target future SGEI students better. In June 2020, SGEI began a trial advertising campaign targeting post-secondary hopefuls using demographic data.

In collaboration with KPDSB, SGEI's secondary department developed an Adult Education Partnership website enabling students to assess their educational requirements and register online for programming.

SGEI's secondary department continued using Employment Advisor assessments to develop learning plans based on student employment/training goals and complete post-graduation follow-ups.

Training & employment

Through the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Training for Employment department facilitated 63 programs, including the Construction Craft Worker, Health and Safety, Sawmill Technician and Life Skills programs. Of the 400 participants, 260 of them found employment or returned to school.

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Financial stability

Seven Generations Education Institute will have stable and sufficient funding to support and sustain core institutional functions, growth, and increased access for learners as a credential granting education institution.

- Establish language and culture as a core funding component
- Long term, secure funding agreements with federal and provincial governments
- Diversify and expand non-government revenue sources
- Support program growth and sustainability using information, data, research and evaluation
- Invest in and leverage funding to support connectivity in communities
- Mobilize political support around a strategy for long term secure funding
- Dedicated capacity for funding proposal development and advocacy

Language and culture as core funding component

Work continues with provincial and federal levels of government as well as with the private sector to establish core funding for the organization.

Long term, secure funding agreements

Our Indigenous Institutes Operating Grant (IIOG) through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities has demonstrated a growth pattern in recent years. In 2019-2020 our IIOG increased by nearly 19% from the previous year.

Expanding non-government revenue sources

SGEI continues its advocacy for private sector funding to support students, communities and the organization.

Support program growth using research

Ongoing achievements from Post-Secondary, Training for Employment, Secondary, Adult Education, and Elementary sectors help support sustainability in funding from government sources.

Support connectivity in communities

During the COVID-19 pandemic, SGEI has provided students with financial support for internet bills, devices, Rocket Hub equipment and software to support distance learning.

The secondary staff implemented a virtual learning environment to provide specialized supports for community instructors in a more efficient and cost-effective manner.

Political support for secure funding

SGEI continues to develop an economy of scale with the goal of providing information and data as to the impact that Seven Generations Education Institute has in the social and financial economies of Treaty Three.

key
accomplishments



Class of 2020

COVID-19 response

Training for Employment

- Clients Served: 400
- Interventions: 1264
- Employed: 177
- Returned to School: 83
- Programs Ran: 63

Elementary and Secondary Support Program

- 17 on-reserve graduates
- 18 off-reserve graduates

Secondary

- 32 secondary graduates
- 35 adult education graduates

Post-Secondary

- 79 graduates

For the safety of our students, staff, instructors, elders and community members, Seven Generations Education Institute closed all campuses to the public starting March 16, 2020.

The Anishinaabemodaa team provided weekly on-line Anishinaabemowin learning sessions with fluent speakers to our partners, educators and communities. Weekly sessions and recorded meetings with Elders and speakers have been made available to the public on the partnership website.

FNSSP reconfigured computers and wifi at partnering schools and supported their transitions to remote learning platforms.

During the Rainy River District School Board (RRDSB) closures, ESSP staff continued to support students, teachers and schools through online learning sessions and chats using Zoom.

From March 23 to June 30, 100 per cent of SGEI's post-secondary programming was facilitated online via Zoom, Orbund and other learning platforms. Students and instructors were provided with necessary technology to access virtual learning environments. Our coordinators and support staff remained accessible to students, applicants and prospects by email and cell phone.



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