

# ANNUAL REPORT



SEVEN GENERATIONS EDUCATION INSTITUTE

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a large white feather. The person is wearing a blue denim jacket over a black top with a white floral pattern. The background is a blurred natural setting with rocks and water. The year "2021" is overlaid in large white font at the bottom of the image.

2021

# Message from our CEO

Boozhoo,

Ogimaabines Indigoo, Goojjiing Nindoonjii, Bizhiw Nindoodem.

The past year has been challenging to say the least. SGEI has worked hard to continue to support students and communities. The staff of SGEI have done an incredible job to keep our campuses and classrooms safe. Our community leadership has provided excellent guidance and helped with supporting the direction for SGEI. The commitment from our Board of Directors continues to set the direction for the organization today, and for future generations.

As we continue to work through these difficult times, I am proud to share with you the accomplishments of the students, staff, communities and organization. The foundation has been built for SGEI, and the future is promising. Chi-Miigwech for taking the time to read about our people.

*Brent Tookenay,*  
CEO



# Board members



## Mitaanjigamiing First Nation

Naomi Field  
Chairperson, Executive Member



## Couchiching First Nation

Peggy Loyie  
Vice Chair, Executive Member



## Rainy River First Nations

Gary Medicine  
Secretary/Treasurer



## Big Grassy First Nation

Fred Archie  
Board Member



## Big Island First Nation

Robert Handorgan  
Board Member



## Lac La Croix First Nation

Carol Geyshick  
Board Member



## Mikinaak Onigaming

Shawn Kelly  
Board Member



## Naicatchewenin First Nation

Raechel Snowball  
Board Member



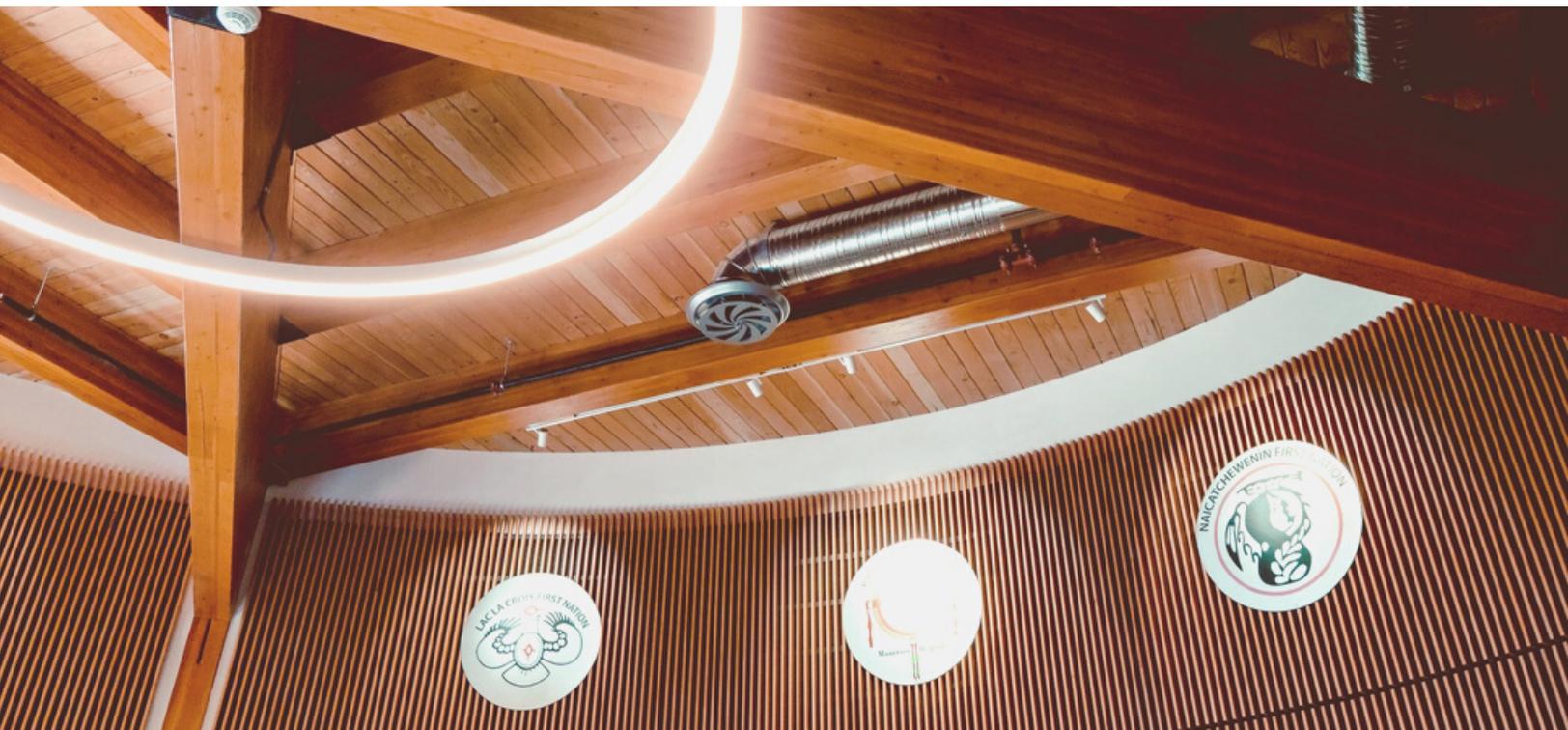
## Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation

Clayton Windigo  
Board Member



## Seine River First Nation

Roger Spencer  
Board Member





## Leadership and growth

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

### IAESC accreditation

In 2020 SGEI was accredited by the Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council (IAESC) to develop its own post-secondary programs. SGEI has since formed an Academic Council to meet criteria set by IAESC, develop policy and procedures, and ensure quality assistance in the development of all new post-secondary programming.

### Online learning support

Covid-19 has made SGEI change the way our students access education. Over the last year, D2L Brightspace has been integrated into the delivery of post-secondary programming. SGEI has hired full-time Online Learning Support Specialists at its Fort Frances and Kenora campuses to support students and instructors in D2L

Brightspace, Zoom, Office 365 and other learning management tools.

### Removing barriers for off-reserve students

SGEI's Secondary School signed a Reciprocal Education Approach (REA) with the Rainy River District School Board to help remove barriers and improve access to SGEI's secondary school programming for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students living off-reserve.

### Virtual office hours

Virtual office hours have been scheduled for students to access Secondary teachers using Zoom. This schedule gives students a chance to connect and receive support in courses including English, Math, PLAR, senior science, and electives if needed.

### New online programming

SGEI's Secondary School offered ENG4C from October to December 2020 and SCH4C from April to June 2021 online via D2L Brightspace.

In partnership with KPDSB, SGEI's Adult Education program introduced the online dual credit Wellness for Life (PPI4T/AS220) course. The course focused on physical, social, intellectual, occupational, emotional, environmental, and spiritual dimensions of health.

SGEI's Training for Employment department modified its programming to deliver virtually via Zoom. Some of the programs we delivered to participants including Soft Skills Training, the Driver's Training G1 Prep Course, and Microsoft Training.

## OSAP micro-credentials

Training for Employment has started the process to run micro-credentials through OSAP. SGEI is approved to deliver 11 micro-credentials including Construction Craft Worker, Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills, Culinary, Driver's Training and Employment Readiness. Students in micro-credential programs will obtain industry-recognized certifications and be able to apply for grants and loans to cover the cost of their training.

## Bail Residency Pilot Program

SGEI's Secondary School is partnering with KPDSB and the Ministry of the Attorney General for the Bail Residency Program pilot project to support the educational needs of students involved with the justice system. The pilot program is scheduled to start in late 2021.

## Highlighting SGEI's unique spaces and services

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, SGEI's Communications and Marketing department began

highlighting the spaces and services that make SGEI unique. Using traditional media campaigns and social media, SGEI highlighted its unparalleled student supports and technologically advanced spaces including the Nursing Labs, audio lab, Makerspace and more.

## Longterm strategic partnerships

Training for Employment is partnering with Skills Advance Ontario (SAO) to deliver programming with a focus on the justice sector. To prepare for programs starting Fall 2021, SGEI has created a committee consisting of regional members from various justice services programs.

Training has partnered with PTP to develop an online Workplace Literacy and Essential Skills (WLES) program, and SGEI's Secondary School and the Solicitor General's office to assist with the development of SPF programming. Through the SPF program, Training has delivered 20 programs this calendar year.

## Organizational brand strategy

SGEI's Communications and Marketing department implemented brand strategy guidelines for external and select internal communications to establish a coherent and recognizable brand. SGEI welcomed a new Marketing Specialist to market programs and worked with Wake Marketing to design and develop a new website that follows brand standards.





*They were not "schools." Our children did not "live" there; they were forced to survive abuse, neglect, and carry the heavy burden of their trauma once released/freed.*



## Language and 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.*

### Cultural learning days

SGEI's Secondary School partnered with Keewaytinook Internet High School (KiHS) to deliver weekly cultural learning days with activities including sewing and beading (moccasins, hats, mittens, etc), making rattles and drums, kayaking, and attending a sweat lodge.

### Anishinaabe engagement training

SGEI's Anishinaabemowin Coordinator and Instructor delivered Anishinaabe Engagement Training to 32

medical professionals in Kenora. Anishinaabe Engagement Training is a fully interactive, thorough and informative professional development training session designed to share essential understandings regarding Indigenous life.

### Koko Jones YouTube series

The Northwest Catholic District School Board and the Department of Canadian Heritage funded four Koko Jones children's shows, a YouTube series that teaches Anishinaabemowin to school-aged children. The Anishinaabemodaa team has completed recording and filming and release is scheduled for September 2021.

### Azhemiinigoziwin program

Beginning in April 2021, SGEI developed a committee to begin planning for the Azhemiinigoziwin (AZH) Program. AZH is a nine-month women's empowerment program focused on helping young women regain their strength by learning important life skills, Anishinaabe teachings, education, and job preparation. Women graduating from this program are empowered to enter their next stage of life-whether that be completing high school, entering post-secondary, or seeking employment-with confidence and success. Classes are scheduled to begin September 2021.

## Cultural learning opportunities for faculty and staff

In June 2021, all SGEI staff and instructors were invited to a staff gathering in which Pebaambines (Dennis Jones) lead the organization in ceremony and shared his knowledge.

From February to April 2021, SGEI's Post-Secondary department organized a series of Indigenous speakers including international thought-leader Winona LaDuke, Leader of the Manitoba NPD Wab Kinew, and former NHL player and philanthropist Ted Nolan. The speaker series welcomed hundreds of SGEI students, staff and local community members.

## Adult Anishinaabemowin Revitalization Program

As of January 2021, a three-year Adult Anishinaabemowin Revitalization program has been offered to 17 students learning the language for 30 hours per week. The Secondary School has partnered with the Revitalization program to help select students obtain their OSSD while learning Anishinaabemowin.

## Mentor/learner program

Anishinaabemodaa has developed a mentor/learner program in which two sets of three students will complete 120 hours of online learning followed by base-level programming before being paired with community Anishinaabemowin speakers for 15 hours per week for the remainder of their three-year apprenticeship.

## Intermediate Anishinaabemowin class

Starting September 2020, Anishinaabemodaa organized an eight-week intermediate Anishinaabemowin class with Aandeg Muldrew. Learners focused on grammar patterns, discourse markers, and word order to improve their conversational fluidity. At the end of the class, learners were able to tell small stories, have conversations on a variety of topics, and ask for assistance with confidence in Anishinaabemowin.

## Language programming

From September 1, 2020, to February 28, 2021, Seven Generations Education Institute delivered 12,148 hours of language programming to community members in the form of professional development, adult classes, community service group training, mentor/learner, and language tables.

## Anishinaabemotadiidaa program

Many organizations contacted the Anishinaabemodaa team for Anishinaabemowin learning opportunities. The team responded by creating a 10-week Anishinaabemotadiidaa program available to the public.

Beginning March 2021, Anishinaabemodaa facilitated Anishinaabemotadiidaa with 26 registered participants from seven Anishinaabe organizations based in Treaty #3 including 11 SGEI staff. This course was offered to local organizations and partnered childcare centers. This virtual course focused on learning basic Anishinaabemowin grammar, developing conversational fluency, and overcoming language anxiety. Participants were asked to complete weekly assignments, attend class once a week, and contribute to the Google Classroom regularly.

## Augmented reality for language-learning

SGEI's IT and Media department is in the process of developing an augmented reality app for students at all three campuses to engage in learning and practice speaking Anishinaabemowin with their peers. SGEI has received a grant from Eon Reality for developing augmented and virtual reality lessons for language revitalization.



## New language course

The second language learners from SGEI's previous Adult Anishinaabemowin Revitalization program developed a language course for communities and students in the school system. This course will incorporate avatar and speech technology to reflect different ways of speaking in different communities.

## Ojibwe learning apps

Anishinaabemodaa developed three Anishinaabemowin learning apps for iOS, Android, and Chrome to help familiarize people interested in learning the language with sounds, vocabulary, and verb conjugation. The Ojibwe Conjugation, Ojibwe Bubbles, and Ojibwe Scramble apps are used in conjunction with other programs offered by the Anishinaabemodaa team

## Ask a Knowledge Keeper

Beginning November 2020, Anishinaabemodaa developed the Ask a Knowledge Keeper virtual series in partnership with the Rainy River District School Board. The goal of these Zoom sessions was to connect students with elders and knowledge keepers and encourage questions about language, culture, and history.

## Virtual Fall Harvest

SGEI developed a virtual Fall Harvest video series to engage students in learning about gillnetting, traditional medicines, residential schools, drumming and treaty teachings. Each video accompanied lessons for students to complete. Videos and lessons were shared online and with RRDSB teachers to incorporate into their lesson plans.

## Land-based learning

SGEI's Secondary School has developed interdisciplinary secondary courses (IDC) that promote cultural and community learning and engagement.

## Staff decolonization discussion group

Beginning in May 2021, SGEI's Post-Secondary team began a weekly discussion group surrounding decolonization. Each week, staff are invited to examine aspects of colonization, think critically, and engage one another in meaningful discussions. A book club is scheduled to start in late 2021.





## Learner support and 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.*

### Student wellness initiatives

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, SGEI's Post-Secondary department focused on maintaining student's physical and mental health through a series of fitness and nutrition challenges, and encouraged students to participate in a variety of self-care exercises including yoga, breathing exercises, and developing a sleep routine.

SGEI collaborated with community elders to Zoom with students to support cultural healing.

SGEI partnered with Waasegizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig Healing Services and Lake of the Woods General Hospital to provide our students with telephone counselling services.

### Summer school programming

SGEI supported students at the Fort Frances and Kenora campuses requiring prerequisite courses for admission into fall programming. Secondary staff provided targeted weekly tutoring sessions for Grade 12 Chemistry, a prerequisite for SGEI's Paramedic and Practical Nursing programs.

### Online learning professional development

Secondary School staff underwent professional development regarding best practices for online learning to help support and engage students remotely. Secondary staff community teachers also provided remote learning support to Rainy River District School Board (RRDSB) remote learning students.

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, SGEI's First Nation Student Success Program (FNSSP) has been providing ongoing technical support to ensure FNSSP-partnered schools have access to Google Classroom and remote learning hardware.

## Keeping communities safe

SGEI's Secondary School continues to follow the Northwestern Health Unit's (NWHU) guidelines for students and staff, as well as SGEI guidelines, to keep everyone safe and healthy. Staff and students continue to undergo screening before attending classes on campus and teachers travelling to communities are also screened before heading out as an extra precaution.

## Driving schools

In February 2021, Training for Employment launched its new Driving School at SGEI's Fort Frances and Kenora campuses. SGEI is now an MTO-approved Beginner Driver Education (BDE) course provider. SGEI employs a blended learning approach involving in-class, in-car, online, and simulated curriculum to provide learners with superior driving education. SGEI has hired three full-time and three part-time driving instructors. Thus far, 16 participants have completed the in-class portion of the SafeStart New Driver Training program and are currently completing their in-car lessons.

## Online learning support specialists

SGEI's IT and Media department has hired two Online Learning Support Specialists at the Fort Frances and Kenora campuses to support instructors with new technology and tools and further engage students in online learning.

## Telepresence rooms

SGEI has completed the construction of two Telepresence rooms at its Fort Frances and Kenora campuses. The telepresence rooms will enable seamless digital instruction and connect classrooms with other campuses. Telepresence classrooms are scheduled to be installed at SGEI's Sioux Lookout campus and at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.

## New software enhancing staff and student efficiency

SGEI staff are now using CourseTune software to help streamline curriculum development. Staff and students now have access to the Office 365 suite to enable collaboration and enhance productivity.

## Information and Communication Technology

SGEI's Secondary School has developed a new secondary course, BTA30 - Information and Communication Technology: The Digital Environment, intended to promote digital literacy skills and meet student gaps reported by post-secondary and training. The development of BTA30 in D2L Brightspace allows for certain modules to be isolated and taught in a training setting as needed.

## Digital recruitment efforts

SGEI's Post-Secondary department has worked with local schools to give Zoom presentations of SGEI's upcoming programs and activities.

The Communications and Marketing department has developed two new inbound marketing initiatives to proactively market SGEI and upcoming programming to community members. In December 2020, SGEI launched a blog featuring student success stories, cultural how-tos, and student resources. In April 2021, the organization launched its monthly e-newsletter, delivering upcoming events, announcements, training opportunities and programming to people's inboxes.

## Supporting employment through wage subsidies

Training for Employment staff have been communicating with our First Nations communities, training partners and employers to maintain and strengthen relationships. More than 40 individuals have been hired by local employers with support from SGEI through wage subsidies.

## Connecting our communities

SGEI provided a signed letter of support to assist Grand Council Treaty #3 with connecting its First Nations communities with fibre to the home in partnership with Bell Canada. SGEI also supported a StarLink initiative for households in its ten governing First Nations communities without fibre internet.





## Class of 2021

*This year due to Covid-19 restrictions, SGEI's graduation ceremony looked a little different.*

### Virtual convocation

SGEI worked with a live streaming company out of Toronto to organize a live virtual convocation ceremony in which staff, graduates and their loved ones could tune in from the safety of their own homes to celebrate this special time. More than 288 participants tuned in to the live ceremony to celebrate our secondary and post-secondary graduates. The event featured live drumming, a blessing from Elder Dorothy Medicine, remarks from dignitaries, a keynote speech from Ted Nolan, awards and bursaries, and diploma presentations.

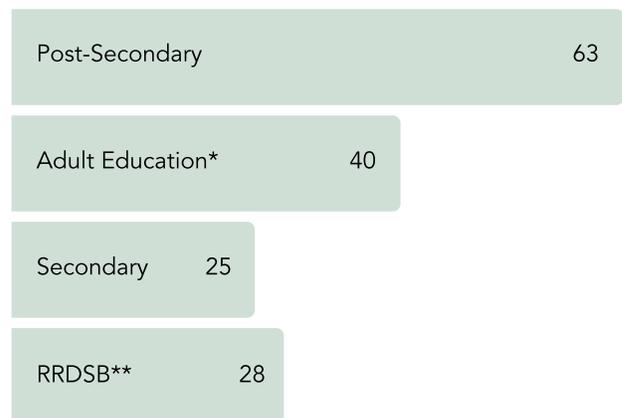
### Training for Employment

Throughout 2020-2021, Training for Employment provided 48 workplace and employment readiness programs and registered 349 participants.

## Post-Secondary Student Support Program

During the 2020-2021 school year, SGEI's Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) funded 203 post-secondary students, 44 of whom graduated. PSSSP distributed \$2,553,845 to students, \$366,000 in Covid-19 support funding, and \$39,900 in scholarships.

## 2021 SGEI Graduates



\*SGEI's Adult Education program is provided in partnership with Keewatin-Patricia District School Board.

\*\*SGEI supports Indigenous students at Fort Frances High School and Rainy River High School through its Elementary and Secondary Support Program in partnership with the Rainy River District School Board.

*Graduates, today is all for you.  
You did it. Graduation is a  
remarkable accomplishment  
that you should be very  
proud of.*

*Celebrate and be sure  
to take some time for  
yourself this evening  
and really reflect on  
all you have  
achieved.*

*Shelly Jones  
2021 Post-Secondary Valedictorian*

