

# Unique Role of Indigenous Institutions in Ontario

Rebecca Jamieson, Chair IIC, and President of Six Nations Polytechnic

Marsha Josephs, Executive Director, IIC

# Indigenous Education

## History of Inequity

- Almost 50 years ago, the National Indian Brotherhood issued a call for Indigenous control of Indigenous education
  - This continues to resonate today following the establishment of Indigenous Institutes and the enactment of the Indigenous Institutes Act in Ontario.
- First Nations-controlled institutions have been delivering programs since the 1970's without proper supports from governments that are available to provincially and federally mandated post-secondary institutions.
- The formal education system is dominated by Eurocentric knowledge and hegemonic structures.
  - Colonialism contributes to the marginalization of Indigenous students.
  - Feelings of not belonging and diminished self-worth due to racism and discrimination at mainstream institutions.

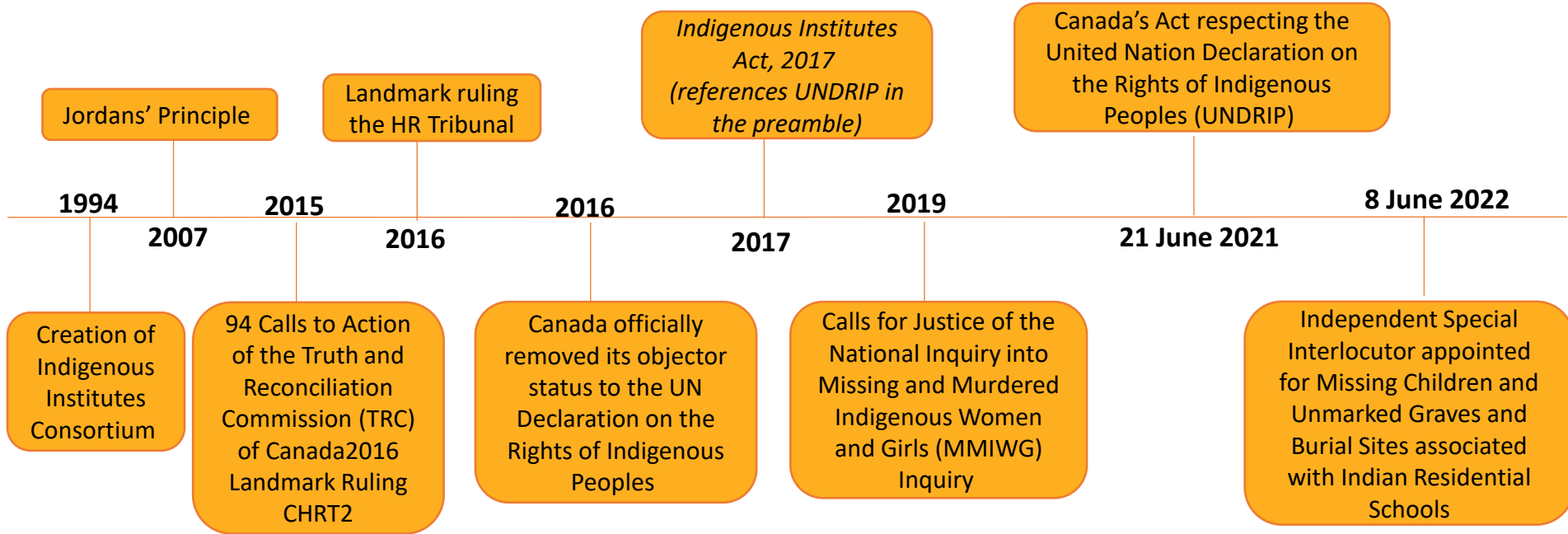
ONLY INDIGENOUS  
EDUCATION THROUGH  
INSTITUTIONS FOCUSED ON  
INDIGENOUS RESILIENCE  
AND SELF-DETERMINATION  
CAN BE CONSIDERED  
INDIGENOUS EDUCATION.

“EDUCATION HAS GOTTEN US  
INTO THIS MESS, AND  
EDUCATION WILL GET US OUT”

THE HON. SENATOR SINCLAIR



# Oppression To Resilience



# First Nations Control of First Nations Education

Indigenous Institutes are unique in delivering culturally relevant education

Governance

Grounded in  
Indigenous  
pedagogy

Student services  
(wrap-around  
supports)

Program  
development  
and delivery

Language and  
culture  
programming

Personnel and  
community  
capacity building



# Map of IIs and Mandating First Nations



**Anishinabek Educational Institute (1, 1A)**  
Anishinabek Nation (39 First Nations)

**Iohahi:io Akwesasne Education & Training Institute (2)**  
Mohawk Council of Akwesasne

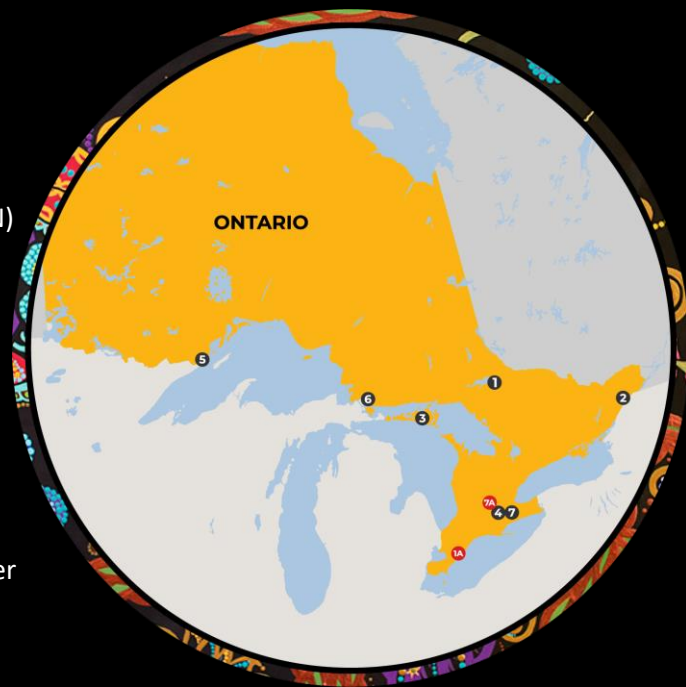
**Kenjgewin Teg (3)**  
Sagamok Anishinawbek,  
Sheguiandah First Nation,  
Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation,  
M'Chigeeng First Nation,  
Zhiibaahaasing First Nation,  
Sheshegwaning First Nation,  
Whitefish River First Nation

**Ogwehoweh Skills and Trades Training Centre (4)**  
Six Nations of the Grand River

**Oshki Pimache-O-Win: The Wenjack Education Institute (5)**  
Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)  
(49 First Nations)

**Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (6)**  
Garden River First Nation,  
Batchewana First Nation

**Six Nations Polytechnic (7, 7a)**  
Six Nations of the Grand River



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# Closing the First Nations Education Gap

## About the Indigenous Institutes Consortium (IIC)

- Incorporated non-profit organization established in 1994.
- Represents the collective and collaborative efforts of seven Indigenous-owned and operated post-secondary and training institutes across Ontario.
- Raises awareness and increases the profile of Ontario's Indigenous Institutes, learners and communities, and support the development of member Institutes.
- Instrumental in the establishment of Ontario's *Indigenous Institutes Act, 2017*.
  - Recognition of important role Indigenous Institutes play as a pillar of PSE
  - Credential recognition of certificates, diplomas, and degrees at Indigenous Institutes



# Co-creation of Ontario Legislation

## Indigenous Institutes Act, 2017



Ontario is the only province that recognizes Indigenous Institutes as a pillar of post-secondary education.



One of two pieces of Ontario legislation that references UNDRIP in the preamble.



Legislation creates an obligation for the province to provide “regular and ongoing” operating funding to the nine Indigenous Institutes.



Through the recognition of the Indigenous Advanced Education Skills Council, creates a pathway for Indigenous Institutes to develop and deliver independent programs.



Purpose of legislation is to enhance educational opportunities for Indigenous students, and to promote the revitalization of Indigenous knowledge, cultures and languages.



# Indigenous Advanced Education and Skills Council

## Indigenous controlled and governed entity

- Provide recommendations to the Minister regarding which II should receive funding
- Provide approval to Indigenous Institutes to grant diplomas, certificates and degrees
- Provide approval to Indigenous Institutes to use the term “university”
- Establish a quality assurance board and the standards and benchmarks the Council must apply in assessing Indigenous Institutes.
- Establishes standards regarding the interests of students at Indigenous Institutes.

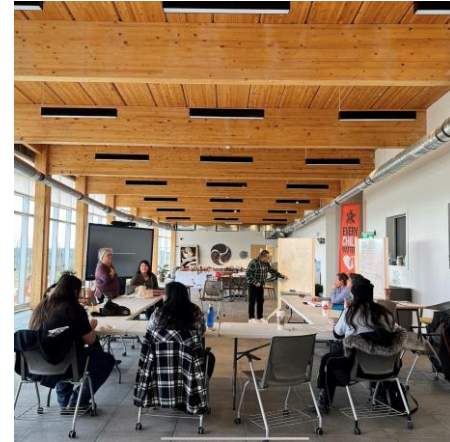




# About Indigenous Institutes

## Delivering Social and Economic Benefits

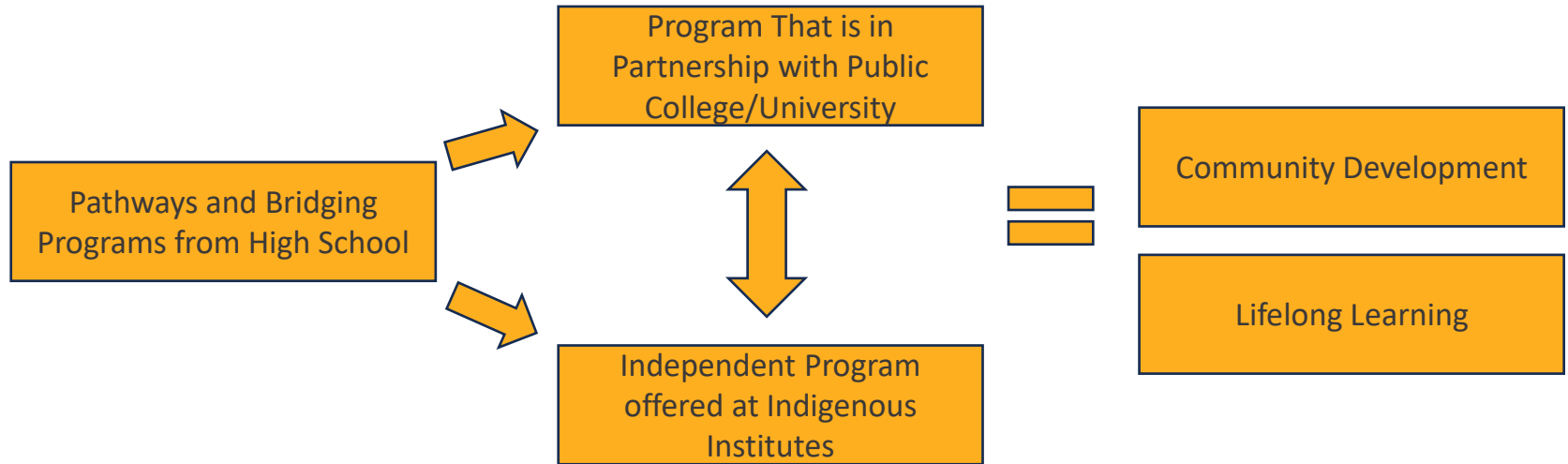
- Programs grounded in Indigenous culture, language, and knowledge
- Offer accredited certificates, diplomas, degrees, and life-long learner opportunities
- Serve First Nation learners in 99 communities across Ontario servicing 173,225 people
  - Serve remote, isolated, urban, northern, on-reserve, and off-reserve across Ontario
- Serve more learners who would not have transitioned to post-secondary education and training
  - Over 3300 learners, about 75% of whom are full-time
- Our campuses are community hubs that are utilized by the entire community
- 90 percent of graduates transition to good jobs



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# Dual Educational Pathways

## Community Capacity Development



# Modes of Delivery

## Flexible Delivery Options

Hybrid

In Person

Virtual

Delivered in  
Remote  
Communities



# My Choice, My Path.



# Advancing Reconciliation

Indigenous Institutes are actively involved in reconciliation

- Increasing numbers of non-Indigenous learners are enrolled in our culturally grounded programs
- Language revitalization
- Strengthening relationships



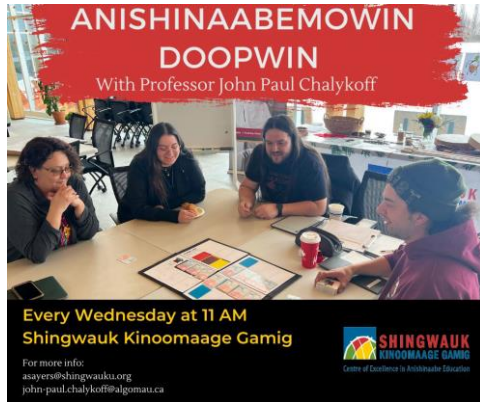
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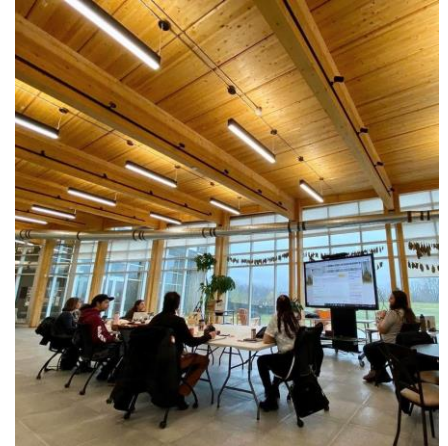
# Language at Indigenous Institutes

Featuring: Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig

“Language provides a sense of identity that creates confidence for Indigenous learners; knowing who they are as an Anishinaabe person can help propel them into achieving professional and personal goals,”  
- Lauren Doxtator, Director of Academics at Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig



Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig (in partnership with Algoma University) is one of the only places in Canada that offers a three-year undergraduate degree program in Anishinaabemowin, the Ojibwe language. Our program offers basic to advanced-level instruction in the Ojibwe language and culture. Within the program, students gain a functional level of fluency in the language and thoroughly investigate the challenges posed by the written word. Students individually and collectively examine social structures and values within Anishinaabe society, and also study the Anishinaabe worldview and philosophy.



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# Social and Community Justice

Increasing opportunities for communities to learn from their own experts and grow our own  
Indigenous Institutes are knowledge centres of history, culture, language, and well-being

**NURSERY RHYMES & SONGS IN MOHAWK**



Attention all parents, grandparents, caregivers, educators and more! Learn nursery rhymes and songs in Mohawk! Facilitated by Kristi Talbot, this six-week, online program features a few songs each week. Each session will be presented virtually and is one hour in length. Must be over 16 years of age to register.


**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS | 6PM TO 7PM  
STARTING APRIL 5, 2023 | ENDS MAY 10, 2023**

 Lifelong Learning Unit

Register by contacting Nancy Gallo  
nancy.gallo@snpolytechnic.com

SHINGWAUK KINOOMAAAGE GAMIG PRESENTS  
**AADIZOOKAAN**  
ANISHINÁABE WINTER STORYTELLING  
SERIES with Michael Migizi Sullivan  
Please join us for a virtual traditional Anishinaabe winter  
storytelling in Ojibwemowin live on TEAMS.  
**Thursday, March 9, 2023 @ 5:30 PM**

**MICHAEL MIGIZI SULLIVAN SR, PhD**  
FACULTY DIRECTOR OF NATIVE STUDIES  
LAC COURTE OREILLES OJIBWE UNIVERSITY



Scan the QR code  
to Register and receive  
link to view



**Thursday, March 9, 2023  
5:30 PM**

To view live in person  
Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig  
1491 Queen St. East  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
Amy Sayers at [asayers@shingwauku.org](mailto:asayers@shingwauku.org)  
705-998-2490 Ext# 207

 [www.shingwauku.org](http://www.shingwauku.org)


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**POLICE FOUNDATIONS DIPLOMA PROGRAM  
STARTS IN SEPTEMBER 2022**

**APPLY TODAY | [oshki.ca](http://oshki.ca)**

**IOHAHI:IO**  
AKWESASNE EDUCATION & TRAINING INSTITUTE



**Basket Making with Carrie Hill**  
Fancy Basket

This workshop is part of  
an educational series

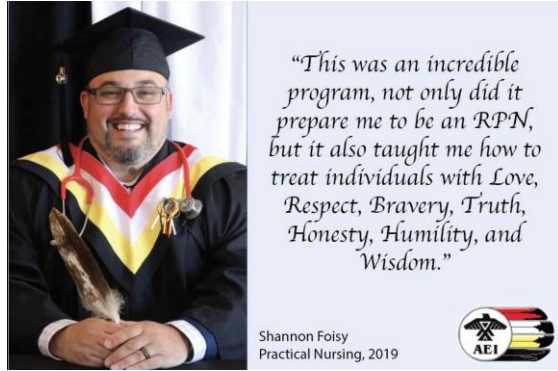
The Event Will Be  
Held On:  
**Dec 7 & Dec 8  
5pm-8pm  
Iohahio**

613 575 2754 | [info.iohahio@ambe.ca](mailto:info.iohahio@ambe.ca) | [iohahio.ca](http://iohahio.ca)



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# Health Care, Child Care, and Long-term Care



Indigenous Institutes are training and transitioning learners into high demand jobs.

Hear from Dr. Amy Montour, SNP alum, about her experience at an Indigenous Institute

There is an urgent need for more nurses and PSWs who are training, working and staying in their communities. Indigenous Institutes have unique capacities to provide pathways to health care education that link our learners to community health care employees.

In early 2022, Indigenous Institutes were included in a \$34 million investment over four years to increase enrolment in Nursing and PSW programs at Indigenous Institutes. This will result in the training of approximately 340 new practical nurses, 60 registered nurses, and 400 PSWs over four years.



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# Skilled Trades Training

Indigenous Institutes offer welding, metal fabrication, carpentry, electrician, safety training, employment readiness, and more!



Ogwehoweh Skills Trades Training Centre  
2d · 🌐

What a full circle moment when our Trades Instructors run into their program graduate, Maye Miller, on the same job! 🥰👏👏

Maye Miller is a graduate of our WRITE program! To learn more about Maye and her experience, read her success story here: <https://osttc.com/2022/03/09/meet-maye-miller/>

We're so happy to see Maye thriving in her career!



👍❤️ 73

4 comments 16 shares



- Students offered employment while still taking the programs and training
- Blended learning environments from theory, to safety, to hands-on training experience, direct to employment
- Mobile trades training classroom to remote communities in Northern Ontario
- Employer satisfaction



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# Economic Growth & Recovery

## Solution to economic and social challenges

- Lifelong learning
- How Indigenous Institutes pivoted during COVID
- Indigenous population is growing four-times faster than the rest of the population
- Indigenous population is younger overall
- Between 2016 and 2026, 350,000 Indigenous youth will turn 15 and can become potential members of the workforce
- Has the potential to boost Canada's economy by **\$27.7 billion annually**
- Indigenous Institutes in Ontario are recognized in legislation as a pillar of PSE, which is unique in Canada, and mechanism to establish quality assurance for the granting of credentials





Wherever you want  
your path to take  
you, whatever stage  
of your journey,  
you belong here.

This is your choice  
and we will help  
you get where you  
need to go.

"When I'm in the classroom, they feel more relaxed because there is someone from the community who they feel really at home with. As a grandmother, I bring my experience and that atmosphere to classroom time."

*Doreen, Grandmother and Elder  
Anishinabek Education Institute*



"Shingwauk focuses on Anishinabe studies instead of general Indigenous studies, and as a historian that was important. Our classes are different, we have outdoor activities, there is a lot of discussion, and we sit in a circle which is a traditional way of learning and teaching."

*Neolin, Anishinabe Studies  
Shingwauk Knowledge Society*



"It's my first year in college and I wasn't sure where I wanted to go, but I knew I wanted to go into the healthcare field, and this is a good start for me. I was a stay-at-home mom, now I'm a student."

*Savannah, Personal Support Worker  
Iokahia Akwesasne Education & Training Institute*



"I've come to really enjoy welding as a passionate artform, and it's given me a lot of self-confidence. There are only a few students in the course and that gives you more time with the teacher."

*Samantha, We Are Welders Program  
Six Nations Polytechnic*



"The way they blend tradition with teaching really caught my eye. I got out of our ways and traditions and this was a perfect opportunity to get back in touch with myself. They promote that and encourage you. There is no judgement here."

*Daan, Welding and Pipelining  
Kenjegin Teg*



"I chose police foundations because I'm looking for a career that I felt that I would enjoy doing. Here we're able to leave our community and come back. We come in and out during the semesters. It's better than relocating my whole family."

*Nakalia, Police Foundations Student  
Oskishwenjack Education Institute*



"Before I started, the welding booths were so small that I couldn't fit in, so they made me my own little booth to work in. All my life I was in some sort of construction, I like hands-on work and the skilled trades are coming back to life."

*Galtan, Welding  
Ogwehoweh Skills and Trades Training Centre*







Indigenous  
Institutes  
Consortium

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For more information:

Marsha Josephs, ED [mjosephs@iicontario.ca](mailto:mjosephs@iicontario.ca)

Rebecca Jamieson, Chair [rebecca.jamieson@snpolytechnic.com](mailto:rebecca.jamieson@snpolytechnic.com)

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