

SHK DAY

IGNITING THE SPIRIT WITHIN



Annual Report 2018-2019





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Shkoday Board of Directors & Staff

SHKODAY:

IGNITING THE SPIRIT WITHIN

Shkoday is a community-based organization helping Indigenous children create a brighter future. The organization ignites the spirit within to support families, children and youth on their journey to a well-balanced life.

Through holistic and cultural programming, Shkoday is passionate about connecting families to their community, culture and inspiring role models. This sparks a sense of belonging and nurtures the identity and spiritual fire in every child, youth and family member.

Shkoday's knowledgeable, warm and caring staff share and carry on love, skills, language and knowledge, to encourage and facilitate cultural education and programming for children, youth and families.

Through the Aboriginal Head Start, Biwaase'aa and High School programs, Shkoday works with children and youth from the ages of 2 to 6 and 7 to 18 years of age, and also provides support services for parents, so they can all contribute to a healthy community.

VISION

Children are honoured as gifts from Creator. We are here to help guide their young spirits. Our responsibility is to see and nurture a strong Anishnabek identity in children, youth, with families, community members and partners.

MISSION

Shkoday Abinojiwak Obimiwedoon will exist to support children, youth and caregivers on their life journey by providing a healthy environment and experiences that reflects the cultural values of the extended family and community. In all of our programming, we will see and nurture the spirit/fire in every child, youth and family member through the presence of strong, caring people who share and carry on the love, skills, language and knowledge.

“ Culture and tradition is the inner fire and heart of what Shkoday does to nurture a strong Anishnabek identity. ”



GITCHI-MEEGWETCH!

To our Funders:

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)
- Northern Ontario Heritage Fund (NOHF)
- Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (CSRP)
- United Way of Thunder Bay



MESSAGE FROM

THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Board of Directors and management we are pleased to submit the Annual Report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019.

This past year has been exciting, challenging and rewarding at Shkoday Abinojiiwak Obimiwedoon. We began the year with the implementation of the newly developed Strategic plan where we identified the following four priorities:

1. Continue to provide programs and services that are based on the vision, culture and Anishinawbe ways of knowing and being.
2. To have a strong and healthy workplace and governance structure;
3. Work with community partners to better serve community and meet organizational mandate;
4. Build sustainability through evidence, research and advocacy.

We have had the opportunity to review policies and by-laws, making strong decisions regarding reconciliation and inclusion which will enhance our governance structure. We continue to navigate on a path of well-being and hope, utilizing the guidance and support of our Board of Directors, community members and staff.

Shkoday staff continue to provide quality programming and care to our children and youth as we nurture their cultural and traditional education in a wholistic manner. We are committed to sharing knowledge and programming that addresses their needs and enhances their self-awareness, enlightenment, self-esteem and well-being. This is being done through cultural teaching and awareness programs that improve ones physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. We are happy to see evidence of this during our ceremonies in both the Aboriginal Head Start and Biwaase'aa programs, and when we see our children speaking their ancestral language,

acting in a manner that follows the Grandfather Teachings, or dancing or drumming at a POWWOW.

We strongly believe that our core values are integral to our collective gain, growth and success of our children, youth, families and society as a whole. To recognize success and growth in our programs we continue to meet with government and non-government organizations for additional financial support or partnerships, and are looking at ways to continue to evaluate and enhance our programs to meet the needs of our community. This past year we were successful in obtaining funding for the Biwaase'aa program for an additional year. Although we still do not know the outcome for the 2019-2020 year, we are hopeful that the Ministry will continue to fund the Biwaase'aa program based on our successful track record. The Aboriginal Head Start program continues to be the mainstay program, as funding from the Federal government is in place until March 2020. We will be discussing continuance of AHS in the fall of 2019.

The Board of Directors and team of Shkoday look forward to the coming year, and will continue to work for the betterment of our future generations.

In closing, we would like to thank the Board of Directors, Shkoday leadership and all our staff and volunteers for their continued dedication and commitment to the organization.



Marilyn Junnila,
Executive Director



Paul Francis Jr.,
President of the Board



STRATEGIC PLAN- STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



Over the past year Shkoday has taken steps to establish board sub-committees, with a Sustainability, Communication, and Cultural Committee created. The organization is now working on establishing a Board Governance Committee for 2019, to assist with board recruitment, and undertake the formation of a Parent Council.

CULTURE AND TRADITIONS

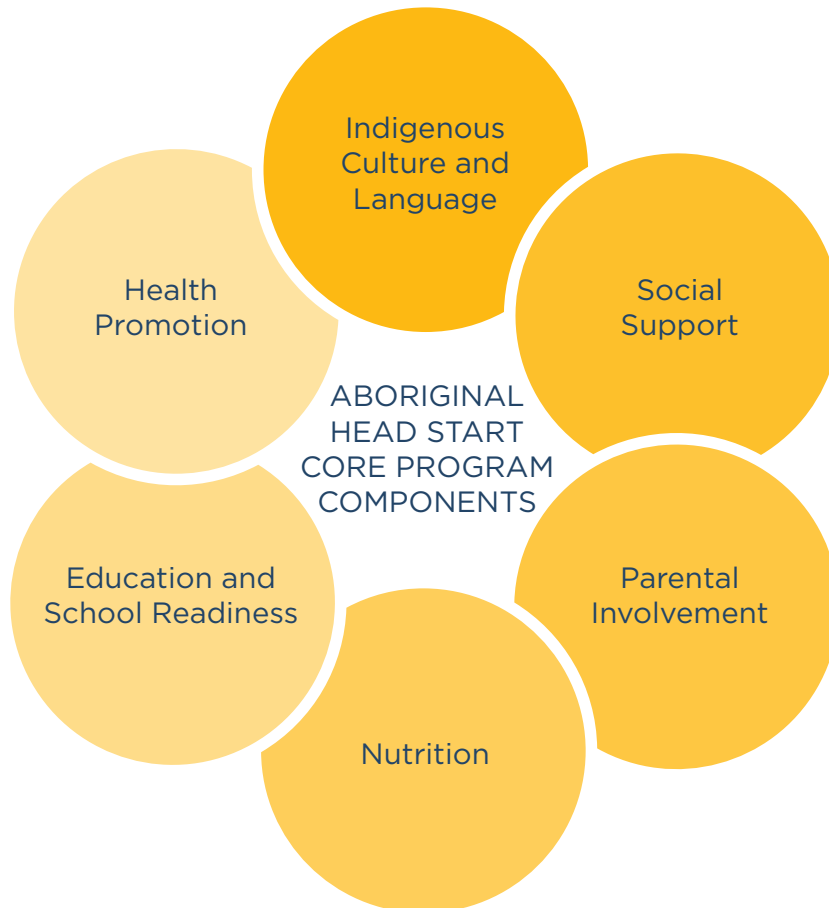
Culture and traditional teachings are at the heart of what Shkoday does as an organization, and we work to strengthen cultural identity in every program and through multiple activities. Traditional knowledge- keepers and Elders are a part of the Shkoday programs. Shkoday recognizes the importance of a balance between western education methods and traditional cultural knowledge.

“When our culture is a part of our lives, we are leaving tracks in the snow. This is what we are bringing with us as we move forward with and for the children.”



THUNDER BAY ABORIGINAL HEAD START REPORT

Thunder Bay Aboriginal Head Start provides wholistic programming that is designed for children ages 2-6 years of age. Preschool children are enrolled in the alternating full-day program based on the Public Health Agency of Canada's Head Start program objectives and the Provincial Ministry of Education supporting document *"How Does Learning Happen, Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years (2014)"*.



The four foundational conditions of How Does Learning Happen.



Classroom activities include a variety of experiences such as creative art, fine/gross motor activities, science, dramatic play, music, language and culturally appropriate experiences. Children participate in a stimulating, culturally appropriate environment where they form good work habits, learn to socialize with others and practice problem solving techniques. The programming is made to help children improve their listening and speaking skills and become more self-confident and independent. Children leave the program with school readiness skills, excited about learning and ready to succeed.

Shkoday Abinojiiwak Obimiwedoan - Aboriginal Head Start program is licensed through the Ministry of Education and under the Child Care And Early Years Act, 2014 for a capacity of sixty-two (62) children attending alternate day programming throughout our four classrooms. One classroom is funded by the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board. The other three classrooms and the entire Aboriginal Head Start program is fully funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).



Highlights

2018-2019

Consistently had

62

children enrolled
in Aboriginal
Head Start



On average had

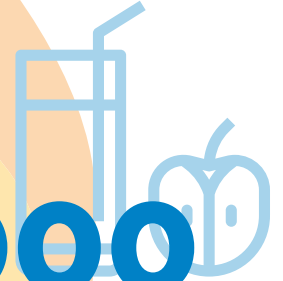
32

children on our
wait list

Over

30,000

meals/snacks were
prepared and served
during the school year



Provided Dental
Hygiene to

72

children

Meet, Greet and
Eat days - Seasonal
feasts, orientation
day and Graduation -
Served more than

1,000

parents, caregivers
and children



Cultural/Language
sharing and knowledge
exchange - Average

72

children/
week

+25

parents



Special Events Throughout The Year Included:

- Orientation Day
- Fall Feast
- Winter Feast
- Christmas Celebration
- Winter Carnival
- Easter Celebration
- Spring Feast
- Graduation Day celebrations

Children and parents also attended various outings including swimming, picnics, visiting the animals, visiting Santa, the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, libraries, and various Pow Wows and educational events.



BIWAASE'AA REPORT

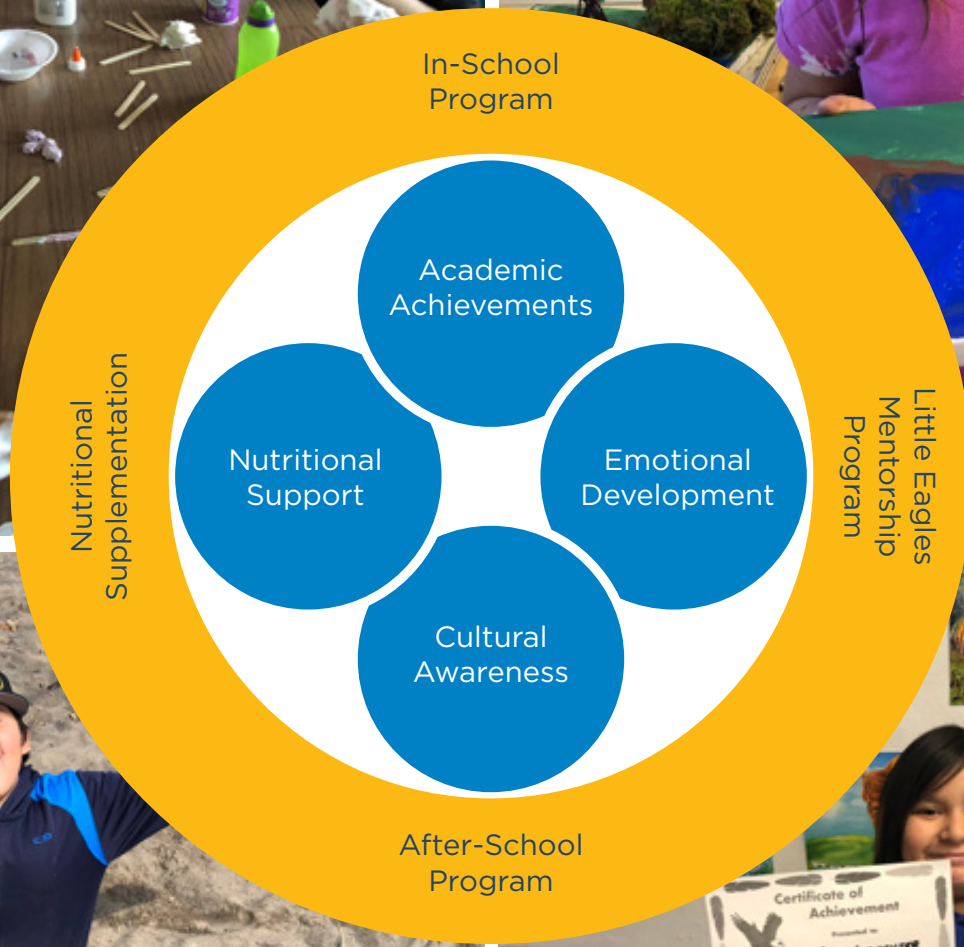
Biwaase'aa has a goal to increase the life skills of Indigenous children, youth and their families through strategies of academic improvement, emotional development, cultural awareness and nutritional support.

Biwaase'aa partners with seven elementary schools and one high school to provide a safe place for students ages 7-18 years of age to access academic and life skills, inclusive to cultural teachings.

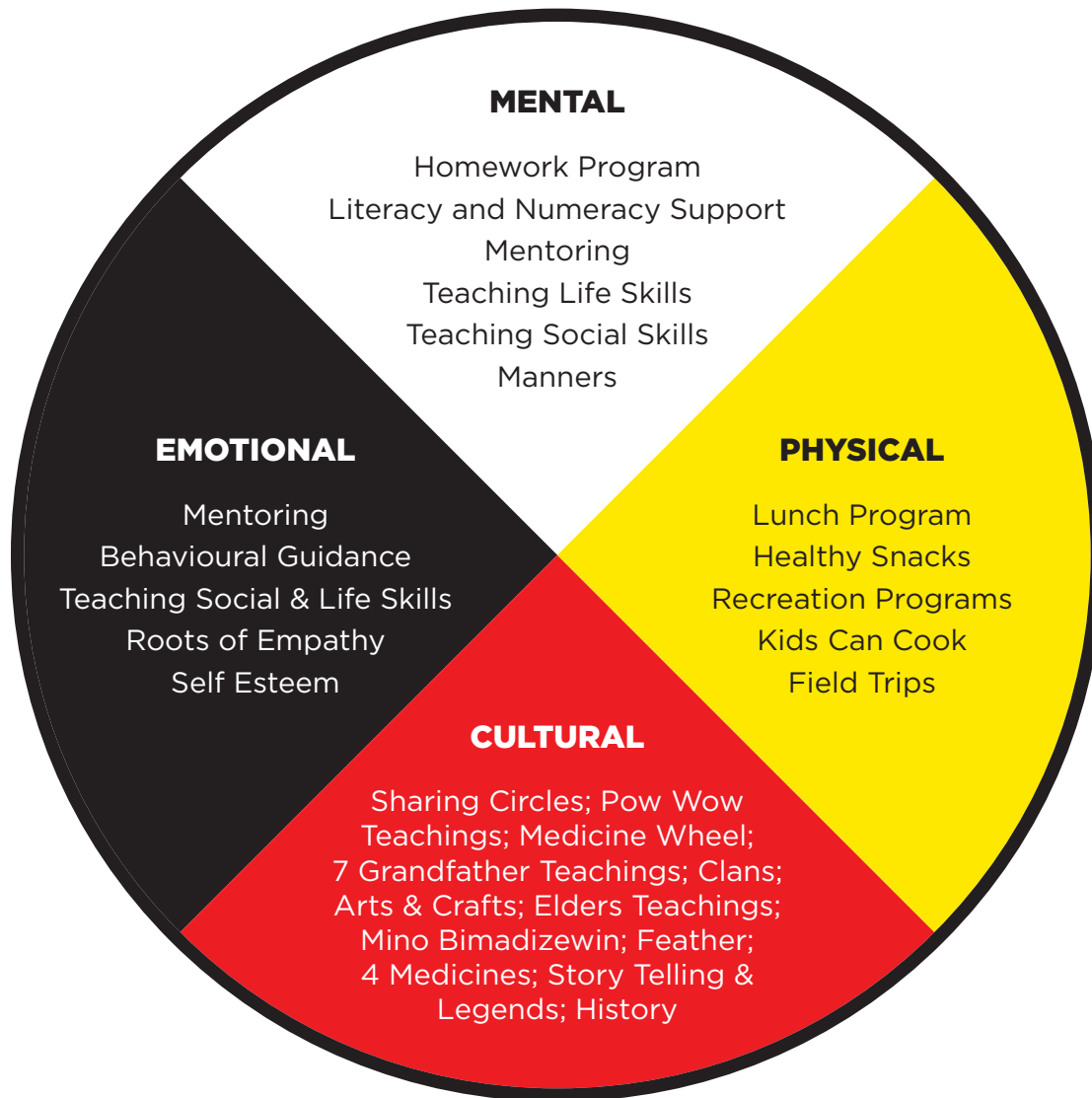
The Biwaase'aa staff build trust and establish a positive rapport with students which in turn increases student success and achievement through:

- Mentoring and role models
- Literacy and numeracy support
- Cultural and traditional knowledge exchange
- Presentations with students and parents/caregivers.





All programs are based on the teachings of the Medicine Wheel and is designed to meet the needs in the following component areas: cultural, mental, physical and emotional.



Little Eagles Mentorship Program

This program is a part of the In-School programing, which is a seven-week program designed using the 7 Grandfather Teachings: Respect, Love, Wisdom, Bravery, Honesty, Humility, and Truth. Through traditional teachings, stories, sharing circles and interactions with community leaders and Elders, youth learn about the importance of cultural identity, values, beliefs and tradition. Students experience improved self-esteem and confidence; learn life and living skills that help deal with racism, bullying and peer pressure all the while improving their academic performance.



After-School

Activities are immersed in Indigenous culture and traditions that provides youth the opportunities that many do not otherwise have access to encompassing their physical, cultural, mental emotional wellbeing.



In-School

The Biwaase'aa In-School component allows for the establishment of trust, rapport and security which increases student academic performance. The program includes going into classrooms to speak about various topics relevant to Indigenous people. Students have access to role modeling/mentorship, literacy and numeracy support, cultural teachings and presentations, powwows and feasts, and cultural outreach services.



Nutritional Supplementation

Healthy food helps to meet students' nutritional needs which in turn will improve their ability to learn, engage in physical activities and develop positive eating habits that aid in growth and development. Traditional teachings related to food and hunting, gathering, harvesting are shared with the students and their families at special cultural events.



Highlights

2018-2019

Average
parental
engagements
per month:

433 or **54**
contacts per school

After-School
attendance per
month is on average

215
students/month

Lunch/Nutrition/
Snacks:

333

meals/snacks are
provided each month
per school

In-School
registration:

49
students per
school



SHKODAY ABINOJIIWAK OBIMIWEDOON

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

Paul Francis Jr.
President

Touchan Fiddler
Vice President –
resigned Nov 6, 2018

Sarah Nelson
Secretary

Bryanna Scott
Treasurer

Cherity Calder
Resigned Oct 23, 2018

Melissa Roberts
Director

Kristy Boucher
Director

Ernie Kwandibens
Spiritual Advisor



MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION STAFF

(Full and part-time)

Marilyn Junnila
Executive
Director

Joanne Blackstar
Finance

Randi Cameron
Finance

Aila Drazenovich
Administrative
Assistant

Melissa Hanlon
Human Resources

ABORIGINAL HEADSTART STAFF

Carmen Michon
RECE Supervisor, Resigned March 2019

Micheal Belmore
Family Support Cultural Coordinator

Fred Caputo
Transportation Driver

Rose Card
Transportation Driver and
Maintenance/Cleaner

Tina Gardner
RECE

Tuula Granholm
Cook, November 2018

Jenn Mayo
Cook

Morgan Bannon-Ogima
RECE

Eugema Ings
RECE

Karly Stewart
RECE

Kayla Vecchio
RECE

Bailey Vanderwees
RECE

Chrissy Hamlin
Part-Time casual staff



BIWAASE'AA STAFF

Kelvin Redsky

Program Manager

Mary Jane Wolfe

Program Manager Assistant

Youth Outreach Workers, After School Assistants and On-Call staff:

- Trivena Andy, ASA
- Victoria Barber, YOW
- Kayla Berthlette, ASA
- Tyrel Bruyere, On-call
- Coral Chisel, YOW
- Lily Chouinard, ASA
- Lisa Chum, YOW
- Alex Copenace, YOW
- Janine Frogg, ASA
- Danielle Frykas Montgomery, YOW
- Dustin Gagne, YOW
- Richard Jourdain, ASA
- Megan Kakepetum, ASA
- Dannell McGinnis, YOW
- Lyndahl McGinnis, ASA
- Dakota Meshake, YOW
- Fawn Meshake, YOW
- Sage Moses, ASA
- Ziigwen Moses, ASA
- Leona Morris, ASA
- Kimberley Noland, On-call
- Alynne Peacock, YOW
- Faith Redsky, YOW
- Ryan Saarinen, YOW
- John Slipperjack, ASA
- Tia Scott-Bedard, ASA
- Alexandra Soulias, ASA
- Doug Turner, YOW
- Rheal Twance, YOW
- Jenna Williamson, ASA
- Sarah Wright, On-call





Shkoday Abinojiiwak Obimiwedoos

1610 John Street Road
Thunder Bay, ON
P7G 1G7
T: 807.768.2342
F: 807.768.9509

SHKODAY.COM