



Guardian – Job Description

The Niiwin Wendaanimok (Four Winds) Partnership is an Indigenous owned and operated corporation dedicated to providing construction contracting and environmental monitoring services in Treaty 3 territory with a mandate to employ Anishinaabe workers and assets in development projects and ensure Anishinaabe laws and voices are respected in development within their territory. The Guardian will report directly to the Lead Guardian.

Position Summary:

Guided by the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin the Sacred Law of the Anishinaabeg, in April of 2021 the Niiwin Wendaanimok Partnership successfully established an Anishinaabe Guardians Program (Anishinaabe Aki Shkabewisag), to monitor the traditional waters and lands of their territory as a highway construction project began in the territory.

Traditionally, Shkabewisag were not only responsible for implementing ceremonial protocols, but they were also responsible for protecting the protocols and interpreting and implementing Anishinaabe laws with direction from the Elders. This role extended to protecting maanomin, blueberries, and other traditional activities. Sometimes they would strike the fires, manage the land, protect the land, implement sustainability, policeman, exercise authority. They would interpret the rounds in sacred ceremonies and offering of food and semaa (tobacco) during feasts.

Since the beginning, the Anishinaabe Aki Shkabewisag have been guided by the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin ('MAI' - The Great Earth Law), the traditional resource law of the Anishinaabeg. This law describes the 'right way' of living in harmony with the Earth and has existed since time immemorial. Informed by the seven Grandfather Teachings of Humility, Bravery, Honesty, Wisdom, Truth, Respect, and Love. And the four key principles of Weweni (take our time), Bebekaa (doing it right), Biizindun (listen), Kegogtackken (don't be afraid). Today, the Shkabewisag will implement the vision for the program, which is:

As long as the sun shines, the rivers flow, and the grass grows, the Anishinaabe Aki Shkabewisag will be guided by, and implement the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin, the Great Earth Law, by monitoring the lands, air, soils, and waters in the territory, for the people, by the people, and with the people.

Key Duties & Responsibilities:

- Fulfill sacred duty and responsibility by operationalizing the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin (Anishinaabe Resource Law) as stewards of the land, with guidance from the Implementation Protocol Advisor.
- Undertake in class and infield training in Customary/Traditional Skills, Field Skills, Communication Skills, Reporting/Compliance Skills.
- Monitor the lands, soils, skies and waters with boots on the ground on regular site visits – based on mitigation measures as identified by the Elders in Harmonized Impact Assessments in the territory, including the Highway 17 Twinning Project.
- Document and report on findings in the field to the Knowledge Keepers Council, and the NWP ENVR sub-Committee.
- Communicate with Elders, community members and youth in the partner communities to share program updates.
- Liaise with contractors and consultants on site during monitoring visits.



NIIWIN WENDAANIMOK
FOUR WINDS PARTNERSHIP

Skills & Experience:

- Strong knowledge of Territory 3 and Anishinaabe Communities
- Willingness to learn Anishinaabemowin
- Proficient computer skills, including Word, Excel, and Outlook
- Valid Driver's License
- Clean Criminal Record Check