NIIWIN WENDAANIMOK
FOUR WINDS PARTNERSHIP

Guardian

The Niiwin Wendaanimok (Four Winds) Partnership is seeking a new **Guardian** to join their team!

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 responsible for upholding ceremonial protocols and interpreting and implementing Anishinaabe laws under the guidance of Elders. Their role also included protecting traditional resources such as maanomin, blueberries, and other land-based practices, managing and safeguarding the land, and ensuring sustainability. They supported ceremonies by tending fires, overseeing sacred protocols, and guiding offerings of food and semaa (tobacco) during feasts.

Since time immemorial, 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 outlines the right way of living in harmony with the Earth, grounded in the Seven Grandfather Teachings—Humility, Bravery, Honesty, Wisdom, Truth, Respect, and Love—and the principles of Weweni (take our time), Bebekaa (do it right), Biizindun (listen), and Kegogtachken (do not be afraid).

Today, the Shkabewisag carry forward this responsibility by monitoring the lands, air, soils, and waters in their territory—for the people, by the people, and with the people—guided by the vision:

As long as the sun shines, the rivers flow, and the grass grows, the Anishinaabe Aki Shkabewisag will uphold and implement the Manito Aki Inakonigaawin, the Great Earth Law.

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.

Skills & Qualifications

- 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

Please visit https://niiwinwendaanimok.com for more information, or scan the QR code below!

If you want to send an application directly via email, please contact Avery Daniels at adaniels@niiwinwendaanimok.com