

Values

Sharing with Gratitude (“mamow sha-way-gi-kay-win”)

We are grateful for the resources and gifts that we have and for the opportunity to share these gifts with others. Ours is a spirit of giving, without expectation of reward, recognition or return.

Respect

We hold deep respect for the children, youth, families, communities, First Nation leaders, and Elders whom we are dedicated to serve. This respect is demonstrated through humility, a non-judgmental attitude, effective listening, clear communication, and recognition of the unique strengths of others.

Traditional Teachings

We recognize and aspire to work and live from the values that are embodied in the traditional Aboriginal teachings of respect, humility, love, honesty, bravery, truth and wisdom.

Aboriginal Culture

We know that culture is the basis for personal and family identity, pride and self-esteem and we recognize and seek to build upon the strengths of Aboriginal culture and the traditional teachings.

Language and Land

We recognize that language and land are key to cultural identity and to the preservation of culture. We strive to communicate effectively using the First Nation languages and to provide verbal and written translation of information wherever possible. We will support cultural and land-based programs and activities.

Elders

We hold the Elders in high regard, recognizing that they carry with them the history of the First Nation communities and the essence of Aboriginal culture. We will go to them and listen to their wisdom, guidance and direction, and traditional teachings.

The Four Elements of Being

We understand the need to respond to the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of the children, youth and families who will benefit from the work of the Partnership. We respect the right of all people to meet these needs in ways that reflect their own beliefs and understandings and we will not promote particular belief systems through the work of the Partnership.

Rights

We understand that First Nations have the inherent right to govern themselves, to care for their children, and to make decisions in their own best interests. We understand that Treaties are sacred documents in which the people of different nations agreed to share in the benefits of the resources of the land, and we want to see the resources shared in ways that meet the needs of children, youth, families and Elders in the remote First Nation communities. Our work will be rights based and our efforts will strategically address the attitudes, root causes and systematic issues impacting First Nation communities.

Trust and Accountability

We are committed to being trustworthy, transparent and accountable in fulfilling the responsibilities as described in our Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win Terms of Reference. We will be responsible stewards of the funds and resources entrusted to the Partnership and provide financial statements and reports to all funders and donors.

Participation

We value the views and perspectives of many, including those of First Nation children and youth. We are committed to meaningful and ethical participation where the views of children and youth are taken seriously and where children and youth are supported to participate in the decisions and actions that will affect their lives.

Geographic Territory

The North-South Partnership is dedicated to providing support to children, youth and families within remote northern First Nations communities that are included within the Chiefs' Resolution (appendix A) and as shown in the list of northern partners (Appendix C). With plans to build on its beginning successes during the next few years, the Partnership recognizes the possibility of future expansion into other remote northern First Nations communities.

The Partnership Organization

The North-South Partnership is designed to leverage the support of many individuals and caring organizations in order to maximize contributions and support for children, youth and families in remote First Nations communities. In order to facilitate growing interest, and streamline decision-making and planning regarding complex needs and issues, the Partnership is structured into three circles of involvement, including the Governance Circle, the Partners Circle, and the Supporters Circle

Level 1. Governance Circle

The **GOVERNANCE CIRCLE** provides overall leadership to the Partnership and is responsible for addressing governance issues, in ways similar to a Board of Directors.

The Governance Circle is comprised of¹:

- Founding members of the Partnership;
- The Executive Director and Board Chairperson of Tikinagan Child and Family Services;
- Three Chiefs appointed by the Tikinagan Chiefs in Assembly; and
- Chairpersons of the Working Groups that are established by the Partnership.

¹ See Appendix C for a current list of Governance Circle representatives.