

Storytelling Journey of Oshkimadizijik Inéwin

Learning Network & Knowledge Hub
Webinar Series 2023

YOUTH VOICES **LAIDLAW**
OSHKIMADIZIJIK INEWIN FOUNDATION



Agenda

- Introductions, Who We Are
- Beginning, Reconciliation Focus
- Oshkimadizijik Inewin, Youth Voices
- Stories from the Bush Overview
- Project Vision
- Seasonal Gatherings
- Community & Nurturing Good Relations
- Land = Healing
- Learning Objectives

Mnoomin 'The Good Seed'



Alicia Williamson - Project Co Lead

Aanii! Bizaanaagimisin nibikwe n'dizhnikaaz. Wewebijiwong in doonjiba. Kitchener n'daaw. I am a member of Wiikwemkoong. I grew up in Little Current, a small town on Mnidoo Mnising (Manitoulin Island). I am a guest in Haudenosaunee, Anishnawbe and Neutral peoples territory. I am currently working towards a Masters of Social Work in the Indigenous Field of Study at Wilfred Laurier University. I love spending time on the land and learning about my culture. I honour my relatives through my joy as a nishinaabe youth picking up my traditions.



Dr. Joey Lynn Wabie - Project Mentor

is an Algonquin Anicinabe ikwe from Mahingan Sagahigan (Wolf Lake) First Nation in Quebec. Her anicinabe nooswin is ziigwankwe which loosely translates to spring woman. She is an Associate Professor in Indigenous Social Work at Laurentian University located on Atikameksheng Anishnawbek territory (Sudbury, Ontario). Joey-Lynn works in the community at the grassroots level focusing on wellness, culture, and bringing people together. Her research interests are Indigenous youth's perspectives on Truth & Reconciliation, spiritual wellness/healing, and land-based teaching/learning.



Our Project Team



Eugenia Eshkawkogan - Project Co Lead
Aanii, Baapaasekwe n'dizhnikaaz. Wiikwemkoong
n'doonjibaa. N'Swakamok n'daaw. A recent graduate from
the Indigenous Social Work program at Laurentian
University. She is currently an Indigenous Social Worker
with the Rainbow District School Board. Eugenia enjoys the
learning opportunities that come her way, like learning
about her culture, traditions, the Anishinaabemowin
language, and also working on her academics.

Michelle Kennedy - Project Mentor
is a member of Oneida of the Thames First Nation, raised
in London, Ontario, Bear Clan. Michelle is a registered
teacher with the Ontario College of Teachers, specializing
in Junior-Intermediate Native Studies. She is an Assistant
Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies and
Education at McGill University.

Beginning, Reconciliation Focus






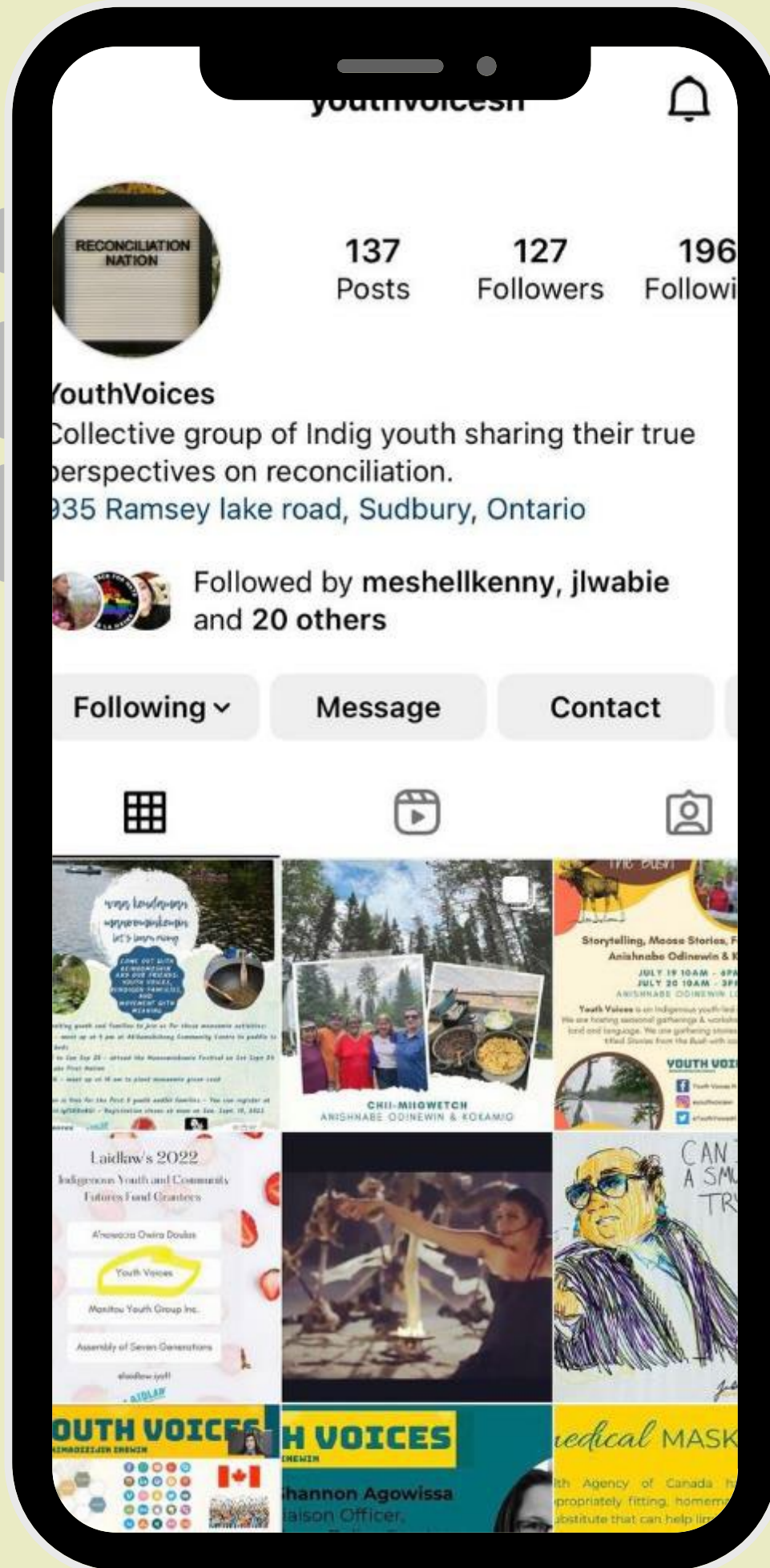
RECONCILIATION NATION
A collective group of youth from across Ontario sharing perspectives on reconciliation.

What does reconciliation mean to you?

Reconciliation to me means that I need to learn more and support the healing journey. I feel like we need to heal ourselves and support each other first.

-London youth participant

 Reconciliation Nation
 youthreconciliationnation
 @YouthRecoNation



YOUTH VOICES

OSHKIMADIZIJK INEWIN

Youth Voices an Indigenous youth-led grassroots group. The group began in 2019 to discuss youth perspectives on truth and reconciliation. Our focus has shifted to reclamation of identity through culture, land, and language. Altogether, Youth Voices is comprised of youth from all across Ontario, from different communities and nations.

@YouthVoicesN



Project Overview

Colonialism disrupts our story sharing traditions and practices. Sharing these knowledges is important to ensure stories from our Elders & Knowledge Keepers continue to be heard and lived.

This project seeks to work with Anishinaabe communities for youth to learn about culture, land, and language. We are in the process of hosting four seasonal community gatherings/workshops to learn land-based skills and gather Stories from the Bush.

We have invited community members to author chapters discussing their relationships with the land. We as the youth are facilitating the publishing and editing process for this collection, whilst authoring our own stories throughout the project.



Project Vision

- Mentor Relationships + Youth Leadership
- Storysharing with Grassroots Groups
 - Eugenia, Joey-Lynn, Michelle & Gail put together a resource booklet
 - Anishnabe Odinewin & Kokamig had stories to share & invited us back to their community
- Youth Relationships with Land, Culture & Community



Niibin: Anishnabe Odinewin & Kokamig



Anishnabe Odinewin Lodge (QC)



Shannon, Lisa, Jeanne, Lucie, Sheri & Shelley

Dagwaagi: Mnoom in Seeding



Adikamegshiing with Julia Pegahmagabow



Dagwaagi: Mnoominkewin Gathering



Curve Lake First Nation



Biboon: Road Trip to the Roundy! A7G



Unceded Algonquin Territory (Ottawa)



FEBRUARY 24-26

20 / 23

ROAD TRIP TO THE ROUNDY

UNCEDDED ALGONQUIN TERRITORY

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Upcoming Seasonal Gatherings & Next Steps

Biboon: Snowshoes & Track ID



Nipissing FN Territory with Rodney St. Denis

Ziigwan: Bush Survival Skills



Wiikwemkoong with Louie Francis

Chapter Review & Finalization

Community Feasting

Continued
relationship with mnoomin.
Working with Julia &
Biindigen Families in
Adikamegshiing Territory.

Community & Nurturing Good Relations



- Spaces of Safety & Love
- Women, Two-Spirit Relatives
- Wholism - Mind, Body, Spirit, Heart
- Gentle & Kind Teachers
- Lifting Youth, Taking Up Space in Community
- Ongoing Relationships



Land = Healing

How you can bring land into
your practice?



Learning Objectives

- Understand how youths are working in their communities on cultural reclamation with the older generation and discuss the cultural importance of this type of knowledge transfer.
- Discuss why cultural identity in Indigenous youths is imperative and that youths can speak from a place of understanding, awareness, and knowledge to advocate for their space in this world.
- Start planning on how to bring land into their practices as part of youths' healing from intergenerational and current trauma.





Questions?

Miigwetch!

Chii-miigwetch to our funder, Laidlaw Foundation! Youth Voices was a successful recipient of a Indigenous Youth & Community Futures Fund (2022) grant!

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