



## ***Koognaasewin Project Announcement: Anishinaabe Koognaasewin, Anishinaabe Laws and Customs Research on Child Wellbeing Launch***

September 13, 2023, Sault Ste. Marie (Baawaating), ON – The Koognaasewin Project Team is pleased to announce the release of the Anishinaabe Koognaasewin, Anishinaabe Laws and Customs Research on Child Wellbeing. The child wellbeing practices of Anishinaabe are captured in this report and will inform and support the development of a Child Wellbeing Law and new system design.

The author of the research, Sarah Jackson, and her academic team engaged in research which included meeting and interviewing Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members from communities across the North Shore of Lake Huron. The researchers also engaged in archival research and literature review regarding Anishinaabe child wellbeing customs, traditions, and practices. The research is organized into seven sections: general underlying principles, legal processes, legal obligations, legal rights, legal responses, Koognaasewin “raising children” best practices and dispute resolution.

The Koognaasewin Team is developing a distribution plan to share copies of the report in print and electronic USB copies for the North Shore Tribal Council First Nations and Elders who participated in the report’s development. Access to the *Anishinaabe Koognaasewin, Anishinaabe Laws and Customs Research on Child Wellbeing* and Research Summary documents will also be made available online through the Koognaasewin Website.

Sarah Jackson, Lead Researcher, and report author, acknowledges and thanks the great contributions from many, stating “an important aspect of the research was hearing from the elders and knowledge keepers who were generous with their time and information sharing. In addition, right from the beginning the research project had the benefit of advice from an impressive group of academics including John Borrows, Lindsay Borrows, Heidi Stark, and Heidi Bohaker who were generous with their support, time, and advice. Lastly, the important archival research effort and meeting support from Shiela Wheesk and Chandra Murdoch was essential in content formulation and process.”

*In 2018, Mamaweswen, The North Shore Tribal Council passed a resolution setting out a process for the development of a North Shore First Nations Anishinaabe child well-being law to the communities to restore their jurisdiction over Child Wellbeing. The project was named “Koognaasewin” meaning raising children. The research aspect of the Koognaasewin Project is identified as critical in the NSTC resolution to ensure that the foundation of the Child Wellbeing Law and New System Design will be based on Anishinaabe laws, customs, traditions, and practices.*