

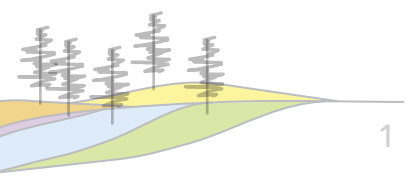


COMING TOGETHER IN CELEBRATION OF OUR SHARED HOMELANDS

Last month, **Tataskweyak Cree Nation** hosted a gathering for the Five Inninew Nations at Troy Lake Camp in support of protecting our shared homelands through the **Kitaskeenan Kaweekanawaynichikatek** project.



There were participants of all ages from War Lake First Nation, Tataskweyak Cree Nation, Fox Lake Cree Nation, York Factory First Nation, and Shamattawa First Nation. Participants spent three days eating together, sharing stories, and participating in land-based activities.





This gathering represented an important milestone for KITASKEENAN KAWEEKANAWAYNICHIKATEK with the signing of the project vision by Leadership. Our vision involves bringing the Five Nations together to protect our ancestral lands through an Indigenous-led protected area. Each Nation was gifted an arrow that will be brought together when we meet to represent the strength that comes with unity.



**K I T A S K E E N A N
KAWEEKANAWAYNICHIKATEK**
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THE LAND WE WANT TO PROTECT

Δ^oPa^oJa^o

ISSINUMOWIN

Kapayotatnak, kapaykepayh, ipmatitahetow, kamitakayotawemawuk, komakitaskeenanayekapimtitahakiki pinewayomunomewayinimow, otisikohamakiywinimow, aye ko mena inimew otisichikayinimawuk. Kaenan, Nayhaway Inimew, ki kisikayinimow ooma. Mache aye ke mametichik laknow utatasky pimatuk, mena otimikay pimatuk, ooma kisikayinimow. Kisikow kajen ka takok otah uskek ka kay-payomunomew Kocci Manitou. Aye ko ke kanawaynitamok ooko amiskay otawemawuk. Ahsah-igpano, laknow keenan ototah kapimatitahay, keenan ka ell kanawaynitamok ooma uskek.

Oma kitaskeenan, ka kemoonokuk, kichawasinimuk otischi, achemwin usayo ka ke pimotahokoyuk ototah mena kah ooscheeyuk. Ooma nagani issinumow wanastanow kapay ka kanawaynichikatek kitaskeenan kanaynitakuk. Ka pimtitahayheron amiskay otawemow ka ke itotakik. Ah ke isi kanawaynitak, aye ko pimotahokuk, aye ko kisikayinimow kisikow kajen otah uskek kah kay-memotichik Kocci Manitou. Kanawaynitakayuk ooma uske ka muknow wechikayimuk kapay kapimatuk inimew pimtitahay ayechik kah isi pekikowayuk.

Ka kasitamen wechi atosakimotoyuk ka wurustanow ooma uskek kaweeakanawaynichikatek otay laknow ah key psychi ooscheeyuk. Wesahak ayeko. Muskego inimew uskeya. Ooma kitaskeenan kaweeakanawaynichikatek issinichikayen ka neqanankuk inimew, ka kisikotahamokan kaye wanesowayin, aye ko kaylayitak otisikantemow, otisichik, mamitoynichikayinimow, aye ko omanawaynichikayuk kaye kisikayimow.

Kisikow ka isi neqananiyuk inimewawimuk ki nanaskomonan ka tapisokochi kapimatayuk, ooma kitaskeenan kaweeakanawaynichikatek issinichikayinimow.

OUR VISION

Our ancestors for millennia have been sustained by Kitaskeenan – our land, following their traditional laws, teachings, and practices. We, the Nayhaway Inimew – the Cree People – know this because this knowledge was passed down orally from generation to generation. Askiy and all that it holds is our legacy from the Creator and was cared for by our ancestors. It is now our turn to protect it.

Kitaskeenan is a gift to our children that carries their histories, language, and identities. Our vision is to protect Kitaskeenan Kanatenihakuk – our sacred land – by following the ways of our ancestors to conserve, preserve and honour all of Askiy that the Creator provided. Protecting this land will play a major role in the survival of our culture and language.

We will work together to create a protected area in our shared homelands. The Kitaskeenan Kaweeakanawaynichikatek initiative will be Inimew-led, guided by traditional laws and the wisdom of our elders, youth, and knowledge keepers.

The Five Nations will have equal representation and responsibility in protecting Kitaskeenan Kaweeakanawaynichikatek.



Ceremony at the Gathering was led by Dave and Cynthia Sanderson, Destiny Kitchekeesik, Jared Wastesicoot, and Robben Constant. People from each Nation took turns sharing their community histories and the shared history of the Five Nations. One of the days was spent listening to the Elders share their stories of what it was like growing up on the land and the teachings they have carried with them throughout their lives.



Speaker Blaine Constant was invited to the Gathering to share his story of addiction and healing. Much music was played with Blaine on the fiddle, Phyllis Sinclair singing, George Beardy and Jonathon Kitchekeesik Sr. on guitar. The TCN dancers gave a wonderful performance of their jigging abilities and many community members followed suit.





Other activities included boat excursions; swimming; puppet performances; baseball; games; fishing; storytelling; smoking and frying fish over the fire; dancing; painting; and caribou tufting.





KITASKEENAN KAWEKANAWAYNICHIKATEK
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THE LAND WE WANT TO PROTECT

Kitaskeenan Kaweekanawaynichikatek - The Land we want to Protect, is an initiative that brings together our five Inninewuk Nations to talk about protecting our shared homelands, by establishing an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA). The IPCA would be Inninewuk-led and guided by our own traditional laws.

