

Program Leaders Gibimishkaadimin 2023

Shelley Knott Fife is an Anishnaabekwe living in her home community of Curve Lake First Nation. She is honoured to be mom to her son, DJ and her daughter, Jaime. Her career in First Nation education spans over 20 years including a role as her First Nation's Education Manager, provincial school board consultant and recently retired as an education specialist with Indigenous Services Canada (formerly Indian Affairs). Shelley is a PhD candidate in Indigenous Education with a focus on special education, and her passion is understanding a child's individual gifts. As an active member of Curve Lake United Church, Shelley has organized and run reconciliation canoe trips for youth through the Bay of Quinte Conference. This will be Shelley's third canoe trip as a Program Leader.



Hello new friends. We are about to share an amazing time of learning, tripping and hopefully some laughing together. My name is Joe McGill and I enjoy laughter. This will be my 5th year working with the team of program leaders. It has been a gift as has the opportunity to see many young people learning and growing friendships on Gibimishkaadimin trips. I'm experienced in the outdoors and have always had a love of paddling. I can carry my own canoe or pack. I like coffee. I identify as Onondaga of the Six Nations and mixed Scottish/Irish settlers.

Though I grew up not far from Six Nations in Hamilton I have lived most of my life on the shore of Lake Superior in Marathon. I love my family and my place here. I give thanks to the first peoples of this place and to Biigtigong Nishnaabeg for continuing to care for the waters and the land which sustain us every day. I can't wait to meet you in person!



Nathaniel Grieves

I am a member of Bunibonibee Cree Nation and live on Oxford Lake in Manitoba. Oxford House is about 1,000 km north of Winnipeg, about 14 to 20 hours by winter roads, and 1 hour 40 minutes by plane. My family has been here forever.

I am in my last year of high school, and I plan to become a mechanic. I will have to go south for this course.

I love the outdoors. In the winter I skidoo to fish 3 – 4 times a week. The lakes are 1 hour 30 to 40 minutes away. In the summers I fish in Oxford Lake. My family enjoys the fish I catch, and I give fish to the Elders. The biggest fish I ever caught was a 42" pike. This winter I shot two moose. I cut up the meat and froze it for my family. I also shared the meat.

This will be my 3rd Gibimishkaadimin canoe trip and I will be coming as a Program Leader. I really enjoy getting to know others and canoeing on a different lake. The most fun is cliff jumping.

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne is Moderator of The United Church of Canada. She's a member of the Heiltsuk First Nation in the Central Coast of BC, and lives in Coquitlam (a suburb of Vancouver) with her partner Mauricio and their two kids, Gabriel and Esperanza. One of Moderator Carmen's indigenous names, Kwisa'lakw, means "Woman who travels to places far away." She has traveled extensively across the world in her work with the Church. She has a PhD in interdisciplinary studies, loves learning, and cares deeply about the environment, justice, and the ways that our economy does (but most often doesn't) work in ways that promote human prosperity for all.



Hello my name is Rena Knight I am from the Statmic nation and Titquet band and the stolo nation and Chalis band. I am also half Australian and English and grew up around the lower mainland of British Columbia.

I went to university for anthropology and psychology and sociology.

I've been a part of camp G for the 2019 and 2022 trips. It has allowed me to focus on supporting the youth by guiding them to seek adventure in nature but also encouraging them to seek who they are.

This trip was life changing for me and I can't wait to be back on the water with my teeth to the wind.

William Miller lives in Lockport, Manitoba on Treaty One Land. William's roots are in Garden Hill First Nation. He is thrilled to be coming back to Gibimishkaadimin as a Program Leader and a member of the board.

Not only does William enjoy canoeing and back-country camping, he also creates his own canoe paddles on his spare time. He is an active member of Selkirk United Church and is studying at University of Manitoba in pursuit of a career in Education to become a History and Indigenous Studies Teacher.

When William is not working, he enjoys volunteering in his community for youth programs and with organizations which help children with special needs. This canoe trip William will be helping teach youth about Truth and Reconciliation and MMIWG.





I am Kaylee Wood. I currently live in Winnipeg, Manitoba, but my other home is Oxford House, Bunibonibee Cree First Nation in northern Manitoba.

I have just completed my first year of university and I am about to head into my second one at the University of Winnipeg. I hope to become a teacher so I can teach in northern communities and inspire the next generations of youth.

I am so excited to be going on this trip again! It will be my third time going on the Gibimishkaadimin trip and I am overjoyed to be coming back as a leader. Every single time I have went on this trip I always find myself leaving with new friends, wonderful memories, and passion to continue to work towards a path of reconciliation and healing.

Hello,
My name is Tydzeh Kakfwi and I'm a proud member of the k'asho got'ine nation of the Sahtu Dene. I have lived in the Northwest Territories for my entire life.

I live in the capital of the Northwest Territories, Yellowknife where I am currently going into the 12th grade.

Going on the Gibimishkaadimin trip of 2022 was one of the most special and influential periods of my entire life. Meeting new amazing people, being connected to Mother Earth, seeing the stars in the midnight sky, and watching the sun set each night were all amazing experiences I will never forget. I hope the youth of the 2023 trip can have the experience that I have, and I cannot be more happy that I have such an opportunity.

This summer I will be coming as a Leader-in-Training





Boozhoo, Cael Dixon nindizhinikaz. Nimikii Wajiw n'doonjiibaa. Michi Saagiig Nishnaabe n'daaw, Mkwaa n'doodem.

Hi! I'm Cael Dixon. I live in Thunder Bay on the north shore of Lake Superior on the lands of Fort William First Nation, but my family are Mississaugas of the Credit from southern Ontario.

I've been canoeing for most of my life and am ecstatic to be part of this trip as a Leader in Training.

Hello, my name is Kiki Paterson and I am a member of Whitesand First Nation, although I was born and raised in Thunder Bay, ON.

I was lucky to be apart of Gibimishkaadimin 2022 and honoured to be chosen as a Leader-in-Training for 2023.

I grew up playing hockey and skiing, and in my teen years owned a small cake decorating business for fun. Currently, I enjoy Indigenous literature, filmmaking, photography and spending plenty of time with my family. I work part-time with kids at after-school program and will be running a literature camp this summer.

I will be enrolled in the Indigenous Studies program at Trent University in the fall and perhaps looking forward to a career in law. I look forward to meeting all of you and having the time of our lives out on the lake!





Hello, my name is Saabaya Bazil-Angus.

I am from Hazelton area in BC. I'm half Gitksan and half Wet'suwet'en.

I'm coming back as a leader in-training. I took this trip last year and met so many amazing people that i call friends now.

I also just turned 18 this year. Very excited for a new adventure ahead of us.