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Nokiiwin
TRIBAL COUNCIL



WSIB
Ontario

Nokiiwin Tribal Council and the WSIB partner to improve health and safety in Indigenous communities

Thunder Bay, August 19, 2025 – Nokiiwin Tribal Council and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) are partnering to improve workplace health, safety, and well-being in Ontario's Indigenous communities. Under the Nagachidisin – CARE (Collaborate, Assess, Respond, Evaluate/Educate) program partnership, the WSIB will provide \$4 million in funding to Nokiiwin over the next four years.

"When we talk about health and safety from an Indigenous lens, our worldview doesn't begin with 'me', it begins with 'we.' Community is at the heart of how we care for one another," said Audrey Gilbeau, Executive Director/Governance Advisor of Nokiiwin Tribal Council. "When the workplace becomes a space where people feel safe to speak, supported to heal, and valued for who they are, then the ripple effect carries into homes and communities. That's where true safety and wellness begin."

The funding will help Nokiiwin lead various projects to foster positive health and safety outcomes for Ontario's Indigenous communities, including:

- establishing and growing a dedicated team to deliver health and safety programs tailored to Indigenous communities and businesses across Ontario
- facilitating research to gather information on health and safety, mental health and the return-to-work needs of Indigenous communities
- providing recommendations to the WSIB on how to improve education and relationships within Indigenous communities

"We're committed to coming together with Indigenous communities and Indigenous-led businesses to learn about their unique needs," said Jeff Lang, WSIB President and CEO. "Partnering with Nokiiwin Tribal Council will allow us to work alongside Indigenous and First Nation communities to ensure improved services and help strengthen workplace health and safety practices in Ontario."

Partnering with Nokiiwin Tribal Council supports the WSIB's broader efforts to deepen the organization's understanding of Indigenous perspectives and knowledge while fostering respectful relationships as part of their work towards Reconciliation.

Nokiiwin Tribal Council serves five First Nation communities: Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek, Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek, Netmizaaggamig Nishnaabeg and Fort William First Nation. The Council supports holistic community development through governance, legal support and cultural resurgence.

The WSIB provides workplace injury and illness insurance to more than 5.3 million people in more than 300,000 workplaces across Ontario. When an injury or illness happens on the job, the WSIB provides wage-loss benefits, medical coverage, and support to help people get back to work. Funded by Ontario businesses, the WSIB also provides no-fault collective liability insurance and access to industry-specific health and safety information.

For more information:

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