

ᓂᓴᓇᓂᓄ ᑕᓄᑕᓄᑖᓂᓴᓴᓄ - Niyanan Tuhtoskanaysichik 5 Nations Uniting

We are uniting as five Nayhenaway Ininisewinuk / Cree Nations to celebrate our common history, culture, and connection to Askiy. Together we are working to create a new Indigenous Protected Area in our shared ancestral homelands along the Hudson Bay coast.



5 Nations Gathering Flag



Elders at 5 Nations Gathering 2022



Coordinators and Shannon Bahaud

York Factory First Nation - ᓂᓴᓄ ᑕᓄᑕᓄᑖᓂᓴᓴᓄ - Kischi Wáskáhikan Negani Ininisewin

Fox Lake Cree Nation - ᓂᓴᓄ ᑕᓄᑕᓄᑖᓂᓴᓴᓄ - Makaso Sakahigan Nayhenaway Ininisewin

Shamattawa First Nation - ᓂᓴᓄ ᑕᓄᑕᓄᑖᓂᓴᓴᓄ - Kisêmâtâwa Negani Ininisewin

Tataskweyak Cree Nation - ᓂᓴᓄ ᑕᓄᑕᓄᑖᓂᓴᓴᓄ - Tataskweyak Nayhenaway Ininisewin

War Lake First Nation - ᓂᓴᓄ ᑕᓄᑕᓄᑖᓂᓴᓴᓄ - Môsokot Negani Ininisewin



IPCAs

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas

Below are some of the most common elements of IPCAs with examples. These elements are all connected. Some Indigenous governments may focus on one or a few elements, while others may include many.

Culture and Language

- Revitalizing Indigenous languages.
- Supporting cultural events and ceremonies.
- Intergenerational sharing of knowledge and skills.
- Protecting important animals, plants, and places.
- Culture and language are the heart and soul of an IPCA.

Rights and Sovereignty

- Indigenous Peoples in Canada have inherent rights and authority in their territories. These rights are protected under Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution and defined and protected under treaties, where they exist.
- Indigenous governments can exercise their rights and responsibilities through IPCAs.
- IPCAs are examples of Indigenous Nationhood in action.



Ecological Restoration and Protection

- Restoring and protecting lands and waters for future generations.
- Supporting threatened and important species to thrive.
- Building resilience to climate change.
- Creating Guardians programs.



Regenerative Economies

- Raising funds to care for the IPCA.
- Developing local economies that create good jobs and business opportunities.
- Ensuring economic growth supports IPCA goals while keeping the environment healthy.



Food Sovereignty

- Ensuring community access to healthy and traditional foods, including clean water.
- Supporting hunting, fishing, and gathering.
- Teaching and learning about traditional foods and their preparation.

Housing and Infrastructure

- Ensuring access to quality, safe housing.
- Creating spaces for community events and gatherings.
- Creating or improving trails, roads, or waterways.



Wellness and Healing

- Increasing knowledge about and access to traditional medicines.
- Supporting healing and wellness for individuals, families, communities, and Nations.
- Caring for lands, waters, and all beings that rely on them.
- Supporting relationship building between all peoples and with the land.



2023 Gathering



2024 Gathering



Meeting Minister of Environment 2024

2024

- 5 Nations met with MB Minister of Environment & Climate Change
- We held mapping workshops
- We announced Kitaskeenan to the general public and the government at a public launch event at Fox Lake Culture Camp
- Media coverage in *The Narwhal Magazine*



Jimmy Lockhart - Fox Lake Cree Nation



Edwin Beardy - Tataskweyak Cree Nation



Presenting to Kewatin Tribal Council

2023

- Elders from 5 Nations wrote the Vision in Inineemowin & English
- Tataskweyak Cree Nation hosted the 5 Nations Gathering
- The shared Vision was adopted by the 5 Nations Leadership
- Project logo finalized



5 Nations Gathering 2023

2025

- Project website updated
- Continued boundry discussions
- Leadership meeting with Premier Kinew
- The 5 Nations Gathering will happen in August



War Lake First Nation Meeting

Logo Contest - Youth & Public Engagement

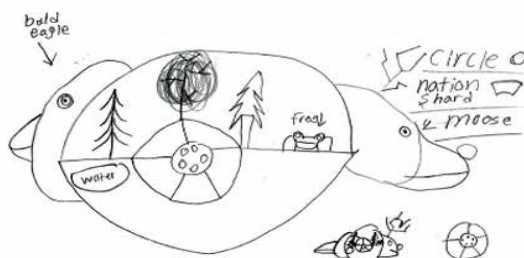
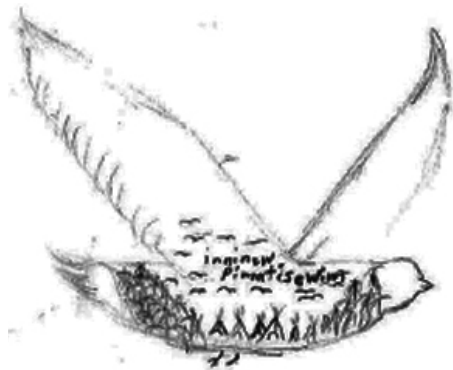
In 2021, we held a contest for community members to share ideas for our logo. Winners were **Daniel Beardy** from War Lake First Nation, **Leslie Spence** from Fox Lake First Nation, and **Jada Saunders** from York Factory First Nation.

Jada's drawing of a woman holding Askiy inspired our official logo design.

Kinanaskomitin, Jada!!!



Daniel Beardy with his contest prize



Jada's design evoked strong emotions around caring for our planet. We loved Jada's use of symbolism; a woman embracing the Earth and shedding tears for the harm that has happened to our planet.

We loved how **Leslie's** design shows a picture of a tipi village and nature inside the body of a bird and uses our language. Leslie's design features different important aspects of why it is important to protect our land: for the birds, animals, family, culture, and language.

We love the symbolism that **Daniel** incorporates into this design. The use of the medicine wheel, representation of the 5 Nations working together for the plants, water, and animals are all important to this project.

"I think it's important that we protect as much as we can, because once it's gone, we'll never be able to get it back. We need to let the area heal. That means that we need to do our job as stewards of the land and protect it as our ancestors left it for us."

- Conway Arthurson - Fox Lake Cree Nation



Youth at Seepastik

"We have a powerful story and need to tell it internationally. We know how to survive. The world is hurting today. The world needs to hear our story of resilience and why we are still around. We need to educate all peoples on what happened to Indigenous peoples in Canada, many still do not understand our histories, even our own people."

- Bishop Isaiah Larry Johnson Beardy - Tataskweyak Cree Nation



Ken Bighetty puppets at gathering

"In my opinion I think it is most important to have language and culture in our lives. We need language to communicate with our elders who only know Cree. That's why it's most important to us young [Indigenous] people who need to learn about our culture and language."

- Heather Nepitabo - War Lake First Nation youth



Mary Hill, Shamattawa First Nation

"There needs to be a strong healing component to this project. We heal when we connect back to the land."

- Candace Nabess - York Factory First Nation



Stories at 2024 gathering

"It's filled with animals. It's filled with our fish. And everything that we have is good. That is why we live here. People say 'how do you guys live in isolation?' And we say 'this is our world'. Here we thrive. We may struggle with things but still, we are here. We will always be here."

- Eli Hill - Shamattawa First Nation



Fox Lake Culture Camp

