

1.0 Preamble

Shingwauk KinooMaage Gamig (SKG) is committed to effective governance mechanisms and practices to ensure that it meets its mission to be a centre of excellence in postsecondary education for Anishinaabe peoples.

SKG is committed to respect approaches to decision-making that are rooted in Anishinaabe culture, and SKG's decision-making will adhere to the Seven Grandfather Teachings. SKG, however, is established under Canadian law, and as a result must make use of norms in corporate governance that are rooted in colonial culture and law.

SKG aspires to be accountable to the Anishinaabe communities in Baawaating (Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding areas), to help ensure that its programs and activities are responsive to the needs and goals of Anishinaabe students from these communities. To help ensure accountability, SKG has been established, through its founding bylaw, as a member organization.

SKG's accountability to its Anishinaabe communities shall be put into effect by guidance from members nominated by First Nations councils, Anishinaabe organizations, and other organizations and community members in accordance with this policy.

2.0 Purpose

This policy sets out the governance model and mechanisms of SKG, including:

- SKG's membership model, including criteria for determining who are SKG's members, and the roles and responsibilities of members; and
- The composition and appointment of SKG's board of governors, criteria for eligibility of directors, and other matters concerning the board.

SKG's founding Bylaw No. 1 [\[add hyperlink\]](#) contains provisions concerning membership and the board of governors. This policy is intended only to add clarity or specificity to these provisions, and address matters not addressed in the bylaw.

Approval of this policy by SKG's board shall serve as a resolution required by section 2 of SKG's founding Bylaw No. 1 to determine how members are admitted.

3.0 Definitions

"Board" means the board of governors of SKG.

"Director" means an individual appointed to SKG's board of governors.

"Member" means an individual approved by the board to be a voting member of SKG.

“AGM” means the annual general meeting of SKG to which all members are invited.

4.0 Policy: Membership

4.1 Roles and responsibilities of members

The main role and responsibility of members of SKG is to approve directors to serve on SKG’s board of governors.

Members shall approve directors by a majority of votes cast by members participating in the AGM, or in an alternative voting procedure approved by the board.

Members shall also approve specific fundamental matters set out in SKG’s founding Bylaw no. 1 – for example, changes to SKG’s bylaw as it affects conditions of membership, or provisions concerning notice of membership meetings.

Members shall be given an opportunity to review and comment on SKG’s financial statements and its strategic directions, as presented by the board of governors at the AGM.

4.2 Criteria for membership

Members of SKG must:

- Be nominated by a First Nation or an organization entitled by this policy to nominate members, or by the board.
- Be of good standing and positive reputation in the Anishinaabe community, the wider community and SKG;
- Be committed to realizing the vision of Chief Shingwauk and the mission of SKG to be a Centre of Excellence in postsecondary education for Anishinaabe people;
- Pay any membership dues (if these have been established by SKG); and
- Once appointed as a member, act in the best interests of SKG.

Each nominee must be approved by the board to be a member.

The board may revoke membership of an individual who no longer meets the criteria for membership, or where any of the conditions set out in SKG’s Bylaw No. 1, section 3.02 or section 3.03 are met.

The board shall establish a procedure for seeking and evaluating nominations of members, for appointing members, and for revocation of membership.

4.3 First Nations and organizations entitled to nominate members

The First Nations and organizations listed below are entitled to nominate members. The number of members that each is entitled to have as part of SKG's membership is also shown.

	# of members
Batchewana First Nation	3
Garden River First Nation	3
Thessalon First Nation	3
Mississauga First Nation	3
Serpent River First Nation	3
Sagamok First Nation	3
Atikameksheng First Nation	3
Brunswick House First Nation	1
Chapleau Cree First Nation	1
Chapleau Ojibway First Nation	1
Michipicoten First Nation	1
Missanabie Cree First Nation	1
North Shore Tribal Council	3
Métis Nation of Ontario	1
Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians	1

Anishinabek Education System	1
Waabinong Head Start	1
Algoma District School Board	1
Huron Catholic District School Board	1
The Indian Friendship Centre in Sault Ste. Marie	1
Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres	1
Robinson Huron Waawiindamamaagewin	1
[Is there a comparable organization for the Robinson Superior Treaty?]	
Ontario Native Women’s Association	1

5.0 Policy: Board of governors

5.1 Composition of the board of governors

SKG’s board of governors shall comprise up to nine (9) directors.

One of the directors shall be the Chief or member of Council of the Batchewana First Nation.

One of the directors shall be the Chief or member of Council of the Garden River First Nation.

- These First Nations have designated positions on the board because the Batchewana First Nation and the Garden River First Nation have an historical connection with the long-standing goal to establish an Anishinaabe postsecondary education institute in Baawaating (Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding areas)—the goal being realized in SKG.

One of the directors shall be a student or alumni of SKG.

Current members of the board, in developing recommendations to members for appointments to the board, shall strive to ensure that directors in the aggregate have relevant experience in:

- Anishinaabe culture and ways of knowing;
- Leadership and/or governance in other organizations;

- Finance and/or audit, and
- Leadership, teaching and/or research in the postsecondary education sector.

A significant majority of the directors shall be Anishinaabe.

Directors shall be appointed for a term of up to three years. A director's term shall expire no later than the close of the third annual membership meeting after the director's election.

Directors may be re-appointed for an unlimited number of terms.

5.2 Leadership of the board

The board shall choose its chair and vice-chair, and the terms for which the chair and vice-chair serve.

The board shall confirm the appointment of its chair and vice-chair by vote of a majority (50 percent plus one) of all directors that have been appointed.

Directors may serve as chair or vice-chair for an unlimited number of terms.

5.3 Criteria for appointment of directors

Individuals must meet all the following criteria to be recommended to members for appointment as a director and to remain a director once appointed:

- Be of good standing and positive reputation in the Anishinaabe community, the wider community, and SKG;
- Have knowledge of the history of Chief Shingwauk's vision for Anishinaabe education and SKG;
- Be committed to realizing the vision of Chief Shingwauk and the mission of SKG to be a Centre of Excellence in postsecondary education for Anishinaabe people;
- Be committed to the Seven Grandfather Teachings that guide SKG;
- Adhere to SKG's code of conduct for directors [add hyperlink];
- Demonstrate financial responsibility; and
- Pass a Vulnerable Sector Check.

Once appointed, a director must always act in the best interests of SKG.

Where a director no longer meets these criteria, the board may revoke the director's appointment.

5.4 Board committees

The board may establish committees to consider matters specified in the committees' mandates.

The board may delegate decision-making authority to a committee. Where the board delegates decision-making, the delegation shall be limited and specific.

Committees shall:

- Bring regular reports to the board, and
- Bring recommendations to the board for consideration, except in matters where the board has delegated decision-making.

6.0 Related Policies, Procedures & Documents

SKG's Bylaw No. 1 [\[Hyperlink to be added\]](#)

Procedure for Policy Gov01: Governance [\[Hyperlink to be added\]](#)

7.0 Responsible Officer

Director of Operations

8.0 Version history

Approved by:	Board
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