

MEDIA RELEASE



Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG)

(BAAWAATING, ON- May 24, 2024): On behalf of the Board of Directors of Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG), Chair Dean Sayers is proud to announce the appointment of Mary Wabano-McKay as President and CAO of Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig. The President will function as SKG's Chief Academic Officer and lead the development and implementation of degree-level education centered in Anishinaabe culture and values.

Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig is committed to protecting and advancing the vision of former Ojibwe Chief Shingwauk (1773-1854). The vision of Shingwauk was of a "teaching wigwam" where his communities could learn skills of the ever-changing society while retaining their culture and identity. SKG is one of nine recognized Indigenous post-secondary Institutes in the Province of Ontario. We offer degree programs currently in partnership with Algoma University.

Mary Wabano-McKay brings over 20 years of experience in academic leadership to her role as President and CAO of SKG. Her lived experience as O'Mushkego Anishinaabe and first-generation Residential School survivor guides her both personally and professionally. Previously, she was the Vice President, Nyaagaaniid – Anishinaabe Initiatives, Equity and Student Success at Algoma University. Devoted to decolonization and reconciliation, she has worked diligently to develop strong relationships between Indigenous post-secondary and various stakeholders within community.

Mary holds a Bachelor of Social Work (Laurentian University) and Master of Social Work Degree (Carleton University) as well as designation as a Master Trainer for the Mental Health Commission of Canada in the MHFA First Nations program and Trainer for both MHFA Youth and MHFA First Nation programs. She also serves on the board of Actua, a national STEM charity.

Mary's position at SKG will leverage the strengths of Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig and Algoma University in cross-cultural learning, enhancing our Covenant, partnership, and communication pathways. Mary's start date at SKG will be July 2nd, 2024.

"It's an honour to welcome Mary Wabano-McKay to our team at Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig. We are truly blessed to have someone of Mary's educational calibre join us. Accreditation and degree granting as a post-secondary institute is on the horizon and Mary is posed to get us to the finish line. Megwetch for choosing us on your journey, Mary."

Chair Dean Sayers

"As I step into this new leadership role in Indigenous higher education, I am honored to embark on a journey guided by Anishinaabe teachings and principles of cultural integrity, community empowerment, and Anishinaabe sovereignty. I am deeply humbled by the opportunity to serve and uplift Anishinaabeg communities, taking the lead from those who have come before us and those who are yet to come through culturally responsive and empowering educational initiatives. Together, let us embark on a journey of reclamation, revitalization, empowerment, and

reconciliation, ensuring that Indigenous knowledges, languages, and traditions thrive within the educational landscape, now and always."

Mary Wabano-McKay

"The structural foundation of what SKG represents is found in our Lodge and through our Ceremonies. On behalf of the staff at Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig, we are looking forward to having a Welcoming Ceremony in our Teaching Lodge with our Faculty, Students, local Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and Pipe Carriers to honour Mary and her new role."

Acting Director of Operations SKG, Cheryl Jamieson

Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig

Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig - Teaching Lodge is in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario located at 1491 Queen Street East. SKG is a not-for-profit teaching and research Centre of Excellence in Anishinaabe Education. One of nine Indigenous post-secondary institutes of higher learning that are legally recognized in Ontario and home to the National Chiefs Library. SKG is seeking its independent accreditation to become a sustainable post-secondary institute which aims to educate and preserve the integrity of Anishinaabe knowledge and understanding. SKG develops and provides authentic academic programs, courses and workshops reflecting the Anishinaabe worldview, ways of learning and knowing. For more information, please visit www.shingwauku.org

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