

MEDIA RELEASE



Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig

Weengushk Film Institute and Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig to Announce Full Film Production certificate program in Sault Ste. Marie

(SAULT STE. MARIE, ON – February 12, 2025): The Weengushk Film Institute (WFI) and Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig (SKG) are excited to announce a new partnership on **February 12, 2025**, to unveil details of the **Certificate in Short Film Production** program starting this Fall at Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig in **Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The launch of this program** marks a significant milestone in the collaboration between WFI and SKG. The program will commence on September 22, 2025 and run until July 2026.

The **announcement event** will provide attendees with an overview of the program, designed as a full-term certificate to equip students with practical filmmaking skills and a deeper understanding of narrative sovereignty and Indigenous storytelling.

“This partnership reflects our shared commitment to providing meaningful education that blends technical skills with cultural storytelling,” said **Nano Debassige**, Vice President of Weengushk Film Institute. “We are proud to be offering this program in collaboration with Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig, empowering students to tell stories that inspire and resonate.”

Event Details:

- **Date:** February 12, 2025
- **Time:** 11:30 AM
- **Location:** Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
- **Speakers:**
 - **Nano Debassige**, Vice President, Weengushk Film Institute
 - **Mary Wabano-McKay**, President and CAO, Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig
 - Special guest speakers from the film and media industry
- Event is open to everyone, free to attend, with free parking; no RSVP required
- Refreshments to be provided

Attendees will learn more about the program’s curriculum, its emphasis on Indigenous knowledge, and how it will prepare students for careers in media arts. The event will also

highlight the importance of storytelling as a tool for cultural preservation and creative expression.

The **Lab 1 program** provides students with hands-on training in filmmaking, covering everything from **concept development and screenwriting to cinematography and post-production techniques**. Graduates will earn a **Certificate in Short Film Production** and develop professional skills to launch their careers or pursue further studies in film.

“We are thrilled to partner with Weengushk Film Institute to bring this program to our campus in Bawaating,” said **Mary Wabano-McKay**, President and CAO of Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig. “This collaboration provides learners with an unparalleled opportunity to explore storytelling through film, rooted in both technical excellence and cultural teachings.”

Registration for the September 2025 cohort will open following the announcement event. More details will be available at weengushk.com and shingwauku.org.

About Weengushk Film Institute

The Weengushk Film Institute (WFI) is a non-profit, artist-focused training center that provides hands-on media arts education. Based on Manitoulin Island, WFI is dedicated to empowering Indigenous and diverse creators through immersive learning, professional mentorship, and land-based teachings.

About Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig

Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig (SKG) is an Indigenous-led institution committed to advancing Anishinaabe knowledge, language, and culture. Located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, SKG fosters reconciliation and cultural preservation through education rooted in Indigenous perspectives.

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