



**Laurentian University**  
**Université Laurentienne**

## **Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig**

### **Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig and Laurentian University Formalize Partnership Through Memorandum of Understanding**

(SAULT STE. MARIE, ON – December 4, 2025): Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG) is pleased to share that SKG and Laurentian University formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), strengthening our relationship and affirming our shared commitment to Indigenous-led education, reconciliation, and the revitalization of Anishinaabe Knowledge.

The signing ceremony, held at SKG's Teaching Lodge, brought together leadership, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and university representatives to witness this important step forward in a collaborative partnership. The event opened with a smudge and prayer led by SKG's Elders in Residence, followed by remarks from both President's Dr. Lynn Wells of Laurentian University and Mary Wabano-McKay, President and Chief Academic Officer of SKG.

Dr. Lynn Wells highlighted the importance of formalizing this relationship and reinforcing shared commitments. "Laurentian University is proud to formalize our collaboration with Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig. This agreement solidifies our joint commitment to Indigenous education, capacity building, and reconciliation, along with our shared commitment to ensuring the Preservation Project related to the Robinson Huron Treaties settlement are honored into perpetuity. Our institutions hold a shared vision of empowering learners and advancing research that brings meaningful benefits to our communities."

During her remarks, Mary Wabano-McKay emphasized the significance of the partnership. "I am pleased to announce the signing of this agreement with Laurentian University, marking a significant step forward in advancing Anishinaabe education and supporting the mandate of the Anishinaabek Chiefs. Together, we are committed to making these important historical documents from this landmark court case accessible to all. This work preserves invaluable oral histories—sacred knowledge that must never be lost or forgotten."

Rooted in the values of mnaadendimowin (respect), debwewin (truth), zaagidwin (love), and mino-bimaadiziwin (the good life), the MOU outlines a shared vision anchored in reciprocity, relational accountability, and ethical space between Western and Indigenous knowledge systems. The agreement highlights a commitment to co-creating educational

opportunities, supporting student success, and upholding Indigenous sovereignty in education.

A key component of the partnership includes ongoing collaboration connected to the Preservation Project related to the Huron-Robinson Treaty settlement, for which SKG and Laurentian University were designated repository partners by the Ontario Superior Court in 2021. The MOU reaffirms both institutions' dedication to protecting Indigenous Knowledge in accordance with cultural protocols and ensuring the long-term accessibility of these significant historical documents.

The event concluded with additional remarks from Laurentian University's leadership, the formal signing of the MOU, official photography, and a light luncheon and networking opportunity.

### **About Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig**

SKG is an Anishinaabe-governed post-secondary institute founded on the original vision of Chief Shingwaukonse'ibin to create a "Teaching Wigwam" where learners walk in both worlds. As one of nine Indigenous Institutes recognized under Ontario's Indigenous Institutes Act, SKG advances Anishinaabe aadziwin (worldview), Indigenous jurisdiction in education, and lifelong learning grounded in land, language, and community.

### **About Laurentian University**

Located on the traditional lands of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, Laurentian University has served northern Ontario communities for more than sixty years. The university is committed to advancing reconciliation through education, guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

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