

MEDIA RELEASE



Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig

Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig Awarded ONCAT Capacity Grant to Advance Transferable Land-Based Learning

(SAULT STE. MARIE, ON – February 3, 2026): Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig is pleased to share that it has been awarded an ONCAT Capacity Grant from Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer to support a new project focused on improving learner mobility through Indigenous-led land-based education.

The project, *Creating Transferable Land-Based Learning Modules*, will support the development of credit-bearing land-based learning modules that can be formally recognized and transferred across Ontario's postsecondary institutions. By strengthening assessment frameworks and shared recognition practices, this initiative aims to reduce barriers for learners and expand access to culturally grounded educational pathways.

Land-based learning is central to Indigenous pedagogies and ways of knowing, yet it has not been consistently acknowledged within existing credit transfer systems. This project responds directly to that gap by developing practical tools, templates, and common approaches that support the recognition of Indigenous-led experiential learning as formal academic credit.

"This work centers Indigenous Knowledge systems within higher education while meeting academic standards that support increased learner access and mobility" said Mary Wabano-McKay, President and Chief Academic Officer at Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig. "Consistent recognition allows learners to move between programs and institutions through credit transferability, opening more flexible and accessible pathways through higher education."

"The ONCAT Capacity Grant enables us to build on the strength of Indigenous-led land-based learning by creating clear, shared approaches that support its recognition and transfer across institutions," said Dallas Abitong, Director Indigenous Knowledge, Pedagogy and Elder Services. "This investment supports learners and institutions alike by affirming the value, rigour, and portability of Indigenous experiential learning within Ontario's postsecondary system."

The announcement of ONCAT-funded projects was made during the opening program of the 2026 ONCAT Conference, with support from the Government of Ontario. The

announcement was shared by the Honourable Nolan Quinn, Minister of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security.

ONCAT supports projects across Ontario that improve learner mobility by strengthening credit transfer, pathways, and recognition of learning. The organization is funded by the Government of Ontario and works in collaboration with colleges, universities, and Indigenous Institutes to make Ontario's postsecondary system easier to navigate for learners.

About Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig

Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig is an Indigenous-led postsecondary institute located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Guided by Anishinaabe values and knowledge systems, SKG delivers culturally grounded education that supports learner success, community wellbeing, and reconciliation within postsecondary education.

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