

For immediate release

## TEACH FOR CANADA-GAKINAAMAAGE'S ANNUAL SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM, LED BY INDIGENOUS LEADERS, NORTHERN TEACHERS, AND EDUCATION EXPERTS, PREPARES TEACHERS TO FILL ROLES IN NORTHERN FIRST NATIONS

Thunder Bay, Ontario - July 18th, 2023 - Teach For Canada–Gakinaamaage, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting First Nations student success by recruiting and developing committed educators, is thrilled to announce its annual Summer Enrichment Program taking place from July 17th to 21st, 2023 at Lakehead University.

Since 2015, the program has been held in-person in Thunder Bay, Ontario. 2023 marks the first year that the national organization will offer the cornerstone program in a hybrid format; participants will complete a series of self-guided learning modules before attending the in-person portion of the Program.

In line with Teach For Canada–Gakinaamaage's commitment to advancing Indigenous control of Indigenous education, Indigenous leadership takes center stage at the Summer Enrichment Program. An Advisory Council, comprised of First Nations Community Partner representatives, informs the Program sessions, ensuring that First Nations histories, cultures, languages, culturally-responsive pedagogies, and land-based education are taught.

Indigenous leaders, northern teachers, and education experts lead Summer Enrichment Program sessions. The week-long Program helps participants strengthen their knowledge and skills to adopt culturally-relevant pedagogies and promote Indigenous knowledge and language education in their teaching practices.

This year, Teach For Canada–Gakinaamaage expanded its impact with new partnerships in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Their commitment to Indigenous education resonates across Turtle Island, reaching 26 First Nations in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. The organization's community-driven approach to programming continues to address the educational inequities disproportionately affecting First Nations.

## About Teach For Canada–Gakinaamaage

Teach For Canada–Gakinaamaage is a non-profit organization that works with northern First Nations to recruit, prepare, and support committed teachers. Too often, teachers arrive in the north without the preparation and support they need to succeed—and stay in the classroom. The twin challenge of teacher supply and turnover compound historical injustices and systemic inequities to produce an education gap between First Nations and non-First Nations communities. We work with our partners to begin to close that gap.

Teach For Canada–Gakinaamaage currently supports 120 educators working with over 2,400 students across 26 First Nations. For more information, visit <u>teachforcanada.ca</u>.

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