



*For immediate release*

## **Teach For Canada Unveils New Logo Featuring Traditional Anishinaabemowin Name: Gakino'amaage**

[TORONTO, February 22nd, 2024] – Teach For Canada, established in 2015 with the vision of ensuring high-quality education for every child in their community, proudly announces a significant milestone in its ongoing decolonization journey. On International Mother Language Day, the organization unveiled a new logo featuring its traditional Anishinaabemowin name, Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada.

In its early years, Teach For Canada engaged in meaningful conversations with First Nations Community Partners, establishing a shared goal of addressing First Nations education equity. Recognizing the challenges of teacher supply and turnover, the organization collaborated with First Nations to recruit committed, certified teachers for northern schools. The approach centred on community-led training and support to improve student outcomes, aiming to bridge historical injustices and systemic inequities.

Founded under the guidance of First Nations community members and a Circle of Advisors, Gakino'amaage has since partnered with 28 First Nations in Northern Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The organization's programs have evolved beyond teacher recruitment, preparation, and support to encompass: a Teacher/Education Assistant Professional Development Program benefiting local teacher assistants in remote First Nations; a Northern Practicum Program connecting teacher candidates with practicum placements in the First Nations the organization serves; an Administrator Preparation Program providing personal, professional, and peer support to northern principals and school leadership; a Community Research Lead Training Program empowering First Nations community members with the tools and skills to conduct research and gather data relevant to the educational needs and goals of their communities; and advocacy initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of First Nations educational inequity.

In March 2023, Teach For Canada, led by Executive Director Ken Sanderson, received the Anishinaabemowin name Gakino'amaage from Elder Wally Swain through a naming ceremony. The name, translating to "one who teaches," goes beyond the literal meaning, encapsulating the reciprocal nature of education from the smallest child to the oldest Elder.

Since receiving the name, an interim logo featuring Gakino'amaage as an addition to Teach For Canada was used. The new logo, which marks a pivotal moment for the organization, moves the traditional name into the forefront. Ken Sanderson, Executive Director of Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada, shares, "This change is not just about a new name; it's a step towards accurately representing our identity as an Indigenous organization and our dedication to decolonization and fostering a more inclusive educational landscape."



Gakino'amaage invites the public to delve deeper into the significance of the process of receiving this traditional name, and the wider decolonization journey, at [teachforcanada.ca/ourname](https://teachforcanada.ca/ourname).

### **About Teach For Canada–Gakinaamaage**

Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada is a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing educational inequalities in Indigenous communities. By recruiting and developing committed educators in collaboration with First Nations, teachers, and supporters, Gakino'amaage works towards ensuring student success and fostering positive change in First Nations education.

For more information, visit [teachforcanada.ca](https://teachforcanada.ca).

-30-

Contact: Meredith Stapon  
Director of Communications  
[meredith@teachforcanada.ca](mailto:meredith@teachforcanada.ca)  
416-562-4402