



**GAKINO'AMAAGE**  
TEACH FOR CANADA  
ENSEIGNER POUR LE CANADA

*For immediate release*

## **Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada Brings Together Education Assistants from First Nations Across the North for Learning and Pathways to Teaching**

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – Winnipeg, MB — Winnipeg, MB – [Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada](#) is pleased to announce its upcoming Education Assistant Learning Summit, taking place February 10–12, 2026, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The three-day gathering will bring together 39 Education Assistants (EAs) from 18 First Nations Community Partners to learn, connect, and strengthen their practice in support of First Nations student success. This convening reflects Gakino'amaage's commitment to strengthening locally led education pathways in northern First Nations.

The Learning Summit is a core component of Gakino'amaage's [Education Assistant Program](#), which offers professional development opportunities for locally hired EAs working in First Nations schools. Designed in collaboration with First Nations, the program is rooted in a Nation-led approach that responds to community-identified priorities, strengthens local teaching capacity, and supports long-term pathways in education.

Sessions throughout the gathering will be led by Community Partner representatives, educators, and Gakino'amaage staff, reflecting Gakino'amaage's commitment to First Nations leadership in education. Participants will engage in learning across four core areas: teaching strategies, individual student needs, classroom community, and professional connections. Together, these focus areas support EAs in their critical role of contributing to strong, culturally grounded learning environments for students. This Summit supports EAs to grow skills they can apply immediately in classrooms, while also strengthening long-term community teaching capacity.

"Next week, we will gather in Winnipeg on Treaty 1 Territory with 39 Educational Assistants from 18 First Nations across the North," said Deanna Matthews, President of Gakino'amaage. "We are honoured to welcome both new and experienced EAs for a week of learning focused on supporting First Nations students' learning and success, strengthening collaboration with teachers, and bringing land-based learning into the classroom. This Summit responds directly to feedback from First Nations Community Partners about the vital role EAs play—not only in supporting students day to day, but in advancing First Nations education, for and by community." Participants will leave with practical tools, peer connections, and strategies to support student learning and wellbeing.



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The Education Assistant Program is part of Gakino'amaage's broader approach to strengthening First Nations education systems and creating pathways for First Nations people to pursue careers in education within their home communities. This includes developing initiatives such as Endaayan: A First Nations-Led Pathway to Teacher Education, which aims to support community-based routes to teacher certification grounded in Indigenous knowledge and governance. These initiatives support both immediate classroom impact and longer-term community-led educator development.

### **About Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada**

Gakino'amaage is an Indigenous-led, national non-profit organization that partners with First Nations to support First Nations student success by recruiting, preparing, and supporting educators and strengthening education systems in northern First Nations.

Since 2015, Gakino'amaage has supported more than 640 educators, contributing to the learning of over 20,000 First Nations students through direct classroom support and whole-school models. Over the past decade, the organization has partnered with 34 First Nations Community Partners, reflecting a sustained, nation-led approach to supporting First Nations student success, guided by First Nations Community Partners.

For more information about Gakino'amaage, please visit [teachforcanada.ca](https://teachforcanada.ca). To learn more about the EA Program, visit [teachforcanada.ca/eaprogram](https://teachforcanada.ca/eaprogram).

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