



**GAKINO'AMAAGE**

TEACH FOR CANADA  
ENSEIGNER POUR LE CANADA

*For immediate release*

## **First Nations Education Leaders Gather in Winnipeg for Advisory Council Meeting on Community-Driven Education**

*April 2, 2026 – Winnipeg, MB* – More than 40 First Nations education leaders and community representatives from northern First Nations across Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan will gather on April 14–15 at Long Plain Madison Reserve in Winnipeg for [Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada's 15th Advisory Council Meeting](#)—a significant, First Nations-led convening focused on strengthening education systems into the future.

Rooted in deep listening, collaboration, co-creation, and partnership, [Gakino'amaage's Advisory Council](#) is composed of representatives from First Nations [Community Partners](#) and serves as a critical forum for community-driven guidance. The [Advisory Council](#) ensures that Gakino'amaage's work is shaped directly by the voices, experiences, and leadership of First Nations, creating space for Nations to share priorities, insights, and direction.

Held annually, the [Advisory Council Meeting](#) brings First Nations education leaders together to exchange knowledge, learn from one another, and identify shared priorities for strengthening education in their Nations. Grounded in Gakino'amaage's core values of humility, respect, collaboration, integrity, and learning, the gathering creates space for relationship-building, collective problem-solving, and community-driven decision-making.

“This is a space where First Nations education leaders are guiding the conversation—sharing what's working and identifying what's needed as we look ahead to Gakino'amaage's upcoming 2026–2031 Strategic Plan in collaboration with First Nations Partners,” said Deanna Matthews, President. “These two invaluable days in Winnipeg allow us to come together to ensure that programs are not only responsive, but driven by community priorities.”

This year's gathering will include representation from more than 25 First Nations [Community Partners](#) and will be guided by an Elder-in-Residence, Donald Moose, Education Director from Poplar Hill First Nation. The meeting will integrate traditional practices and create space for reflection, connection, and knowledge sharing.

A central focus of this year's discussions is how to strengthen pathways for Indigenous educators and support whole-school approaches to student success. Conversations will explore how Gakino'amaage can continue to evolve its First Nations-led programming—including Endaayan: A First Nations-Led Pathway to Teacher Education, alongside its ongoing work to recruit, prepare, and support educators—as well as its broader Nation-led program streams designed to support educators at every stage and improve student outcomes across community education systems.



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This work aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action related to education, advancing First Nations control over education systems and supporting culturally grounded, community-driven approaches.

Media are invited to attend and cover portions of the gathering. Opportunities for interviews with First Nations education leaders and Gakino'amaage representatives will be available.

**About [Gakino'amaage: Teach For Canada](#)**

Gakino'amaage is a First Nations-led organization that partners with First Nations to recruit, prepare, and support outstanding educators. Together, this work strengthens education systems for generations to come.

Interested in teaching in the North? [APPLY NOW](#).

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