




5th Annual

Ojibwe Language Symposium

February 2-4, 2024

**Location: Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College
2101 14th Street, Cloquet, MN 55720**



**The Ojibwe Language Symposium
is a family oriented, collaborative,
community event where language
holders and learners come
together.**



**Gidinwewininaan mii'iw
awashime epiitendaagwak**
(Our language is most highly valued)

Fond du Lac  **Tribal & Community
College**

Ambe Anishinaabemodaa!

Symposium Goals

Celebrate & Honor language holders & learners

- Support/nurture language learners by engaging the community
- Connect language learners with language speakers

Make language learning accessible to everyone

- Everyone should feel welcome
- Create opportunities to share the Ojibwe language at every level
- Everyone leaves with something

Inspire and encourage others to care for and protect our language

- Engage the spirit, and create a sense of belonging and ownership

Mission Statement FDLTCC

The mission of Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College is to provide higher education opportunities for its communities in a welcoming, culturally diverse environment.

Mission Statement of the FDL Language Program:

Anishinaabeg Nagaajiwanaang gemaa bapashkominitigong honor our identity by preserving and revitalizing anishinaabemowin given to us by our creator. We take responsibility for our future by providing language learning and teaching opportunities under the guidance and umbrella of the Fond du Lac Language Program for the next seven generations.



2023 Collaborative Partners/Sponsors:

South Fox Ranch
Fond du Lac Culture/Language Program
Misaabekong Immersion Program
Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang
The College of St. Scholastica
UMD Memory Keepers



2023 Planning Committee:

Charles Smith
Bill Howes
Michelle Goose
Robert Peacock
Amy Bergstrom
Roxanne DeLille



2024 Schedule at a Glance

Friday, February 2 nd	
5:30 Amphitheater	<p align="center">Welcome</p> <p align="center">Opening Prayer: Joe Nayquonabe</p>
5:30-6:30 Commons	<p align="center">Potluck Feast</p> <p align="center"><i>Please consider bringing a dish to Feast the Spirit</i></p>
6:30-8:00 Amphitheater	<p align="center">Keynote I: Living Legends w/ Niibaa-gaabaw (Dave Aubid)</p>

Saturday, February 3 rd				
10:00-10:30 Amphitheater	<p align="center">Opening Prayer Housekeeping</p>			
10:30-12:00 Amphitheater	<p align="center">Keynote II: <i>Waawaakeyaash</i> (Keller Paap)</p>			
12:00-1:00	<p align="center"><i>Commons - Lunch</i></p>			
1:00-2:00	<p align="center">Breakout Sessions</p>			
<p align="center">Emergent Room 228 Apprentice Panel Zhooniyaa-ikwe Moderating</p>	<p align="center">EMERGENT Room 230 Joe Nayquonabe & Nenaaw (Charles Smith)</p>	<p align="center">EMERGENT Room 231 Waabigwan (Gloria Wiggins)</p>	<p align="center">EMERGENT Auditorium Room 195 Short Film: Niigaanii-Animikii Inini (Kalvin Hartwig)</p>	<p align="center">IMMERSIVE Room 256 Naawakwe (William Howes III) & Niib (David Aubid)</p>
2:15- 3:15	<p align="center">Breakout Sessions</p>			
<p align="center">EMERGENT Computer lab Room 227 Waabishkii Miigwan (Mary Hermes) & Anangookwe Hermes-Roach</p>	<p align="center">Emergent Room 228 Netaa-niimid Aamookwe (Persia Erdrich)</p>	<p align="center">EMERGENT Room 230 Miinanikwe (Megan Lhotka)</p>	<p align="center">EMERGENT Auditorium Room 195 Puppet Show/Storytelling: Valerie Barber</p>	<p align="center">IMMERSIVE Room 256 Zaagaatekwe (Nyleta Belgarde) & Miskwaanakwadookwe (Amy McCoy)</p>
3:30-5:00 Amphitheater	<p align="center">Keynote III: Migizi Sullivan</p>			
5:15-6:15	<p align="center"><i>Commons - Dinner</i></p>			
6:30-8:00	<p align="center">Social time/Baaga'adowewin</p> <p align="center"><i>Consider bringing a small gift to contribute</i></p>			

Sunday, February 4 th				
9:00-10:00 Amphitheater	<p align="center">Opening: Misaabekong Kids</p> <p align="center">Housekeeping</p>			
10:00-11:00	<p align="center">Breakout Sessions</p>			
<p align="center">Emergent Room 228 Nazhike-awaasang (Bradley Harrington)</p>	<p align="center">EMERGENT Room 230 Nenaaw & Naawakwe</p>	<p align="center">EMERGENT Room 231 Asinikwe (Janice LaFloe)</p>	<p align="center">Emergent Room 232 Chi-Noodin (Tony Drews)</p>	<p align="center">IMMERSIVE Room 256 Obizaan (Lee Staples) & Ombishkebines (Chato Gonzales)</p>
11:15- 12:45 Amphitheater	<p align="center">Keynote IV: Westin Sutherland</p>			
12:45-1:30 Amphitheater	<p align="center">Closing: Nenaaw/Naawakwe (Evaluations, traveling song) Box Lunches</p>			

Keynote Presenters

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd 6:30pm-8:00pm

Living Legends with Niib (David Aubid)

Community or Institution: East Lake

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd 10:30am-12:00pm



Presenters: Waawaakeyaash (Keller Paap)

Community or Institution: Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute

Presentation description: Niizhtana Dasobiboon Gaa-ako-niminaawe'oyaang: Twenty Years Since Pushing Off. Lessons learned, trends observed over twenty years since start up and expansion of the Ojibwe language medium educational movement. Considerations for moving forward in language restoration.

Language Level: Mixed

Presenter Bio: Waawaakeyaash Keller Paap, migizi-doodem, Gaa-miskwaabikaag wenjibaad is the Anishinaabe Indigenous Knowledge Development Coordinator for Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute 501(c)(3), located on the Lac Courte Oreilles reservation in northwest Wisconsin. He enjoys teaching, speaking, and studying Ojibwe language and helping indigenous communities expand their language and culture efforts to grow healthy and thriving indigenous generations.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd 3:30pm-5:00pm



Presenter: Miigizi, Michael D. Sullivan Sr., PhD.

Community or Institution: Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College

Presentation description: Midaaso-biboon

Almost ten years ago to the day, I was thrown in the deep end of aadizookeng, traditional Anishinaabe wintertime storytelling. Having acquired stories told in Anishinaabemowin from several elders all over Anishinaabewakiing, I share my journey of my own development as a storyteller as well as lessons I've learned along the way. Differing drastically from storytelling traditions of colonial cultures, I share some of the peculiarities of Ojibwe aadizookaan and some of the philosophy and worldview encoded within them. In addition to the background on my storytelling journey, I share a roadmap of sorts, of how aspiring storytellers can get their language in good enough shape to tell their stories in Ojibwe.

Language Level: Mixed

Presenter Bio: Michael Migizi Sullivan is an Anishinaabe linguist from Odaawaa-zaaga'iganing (LCO,WI). He is a second-language learner with years of experience in immersion with both children and adults. He previously served as the resident linguist for the Waadookodaading Ojibwe Immersion Institute and is now the Faculty Director of Native American Studies at LCO Ojibwe University. He enjoys attending powwows, round dances, and ceremonies throughout the year with his family.



Presenter: Westin Sutherland

Community or Institution: Peguis First Nation, Manitoba/Winnipeg, Manitoba

Presentation description: Presentation: Anishinaabemowin: Language Through Cartoons and Media.

We will explore the neat world of dubbing media, such as cartoons into Anishinaabemowin. Westin will be going through the process of how he does it, like what it's like working with people, translating, recording, editing, and many other things! You will also enjoy many examples of his work throughout the session, including bloopers and outtakes!

Language Level: Mixed

Presenter Bio: Westin Sutherland is a young Anishinaabe man born in Peguis, Manitoba, and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He has spent the last 8 years learning his language, with the help of his grandmother and other fluent speakers that he befriended over the years. He got the idea to dub cartoons in the language to help inspire children to learn, and provide entertainment to those that speak and have been learning the language. The best way of learning the language, in his opinion, is to imitate and repeat the words of those who are fluent, accent and all. Imitation is the best form of flattery, after all.

Breakout Session Presenters: Emergent Level

SATURDAY 1:00pm-2:00pm

Presenters: Apprentice Panel

Moderator: Zhooniyaa-ikwe (Michelle Goose) FDLTCC (Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag)

Kaageyaashikwe (Riley Howes) - FDL Gegaanzongejig Language Program (Bapashkominigitigong)

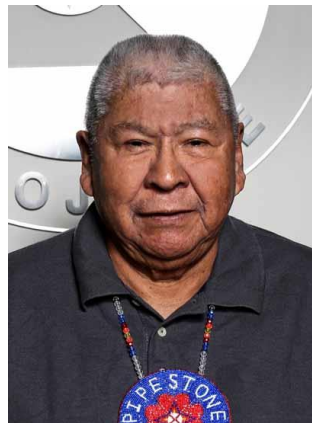
Niizhoodewii Denomie - FDL Gookonaanig Endaawaad (Odaawaa-zaaga'iganing)

Miskwaanakwad (Daniel Wind) - Misizaaga'iganing

Community or Institution: Various

Presentation Description: Local Ojibwe language apprentices will share their experiences learning Ojibwe and working on language revitalization in their programs. Come learn about the great work these rising language stars are doing in their community as they share their knowledge and hopes for the future of the language.

Language Level: Emergent



Presenters: Joe Nayquonabe & Charlie Smith

Community or Institution:

Presentation description:

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio: Nenaaw Giizhig is the Anishinaabemowin Coordinator, Fond du Lac Reservation. Nenaaw Giizhig, whose English name is Charles Smith, is from the village "Bapashkominigitig" which means "The Place of the Bald Island", which is located on the Fond du Lac Reservation in Cloquet. Nenaaw has been working with first language speakers for the last 13 years and has been involved with several major language projects such as the Mille Lacs Book project, the development of the language program at the Fond du Lac Reservation, Why Treaties Matter Exhibit Ojibwe Translation

Projects and more.

SATURDAY 1:00pm-2:00pm (continued)



Presenters: Waabigwan (Gloria Wiggins)

Community or Institution: Bad River

Presentation description: Ojibwemowin Odaminowinan

Presentation and demonstration of the various Ojibwemowin games played within the Bad River Community such as Ojibwe Bingo, Ojibwe Jeopardy, Ojibwe Scavenger Hunts, Ojibwe Charades, Ojibwe Pictionary and other cultural activities that incorporate the Language. These games offer a fun and engaging learning experience that will hopefully spark a passion for Ojibwemowin. It also promotes family bonding and community wellness.

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio: Gloria Wiggins indizhnikaaz zhaaganaashiimong. Waabigwan nindigoo ojibwemong. Makwa indoodem. Mashki-ziiibiing indoojibaa. I have been employed with the Bad River Tribe for five years. Currently, I am the Cultural Coordinator in which I organize community cultural events that integrates Ojibwemowin. In my spare time, I demonstrate birch bark basket making, moccasin making, ribbon skirt making, and regalia making.



Presenter: Niigaanii-Animikii Inini (Kalvin Hartwig)

Community or Institution: Endangered Language Alliance

Presentation description: Niigaanii-Animikii Inini will present his team's award-winning short film on language and identity, "This Is Who I Am." He will share how he came to produce this film, which has been used as a teaching tool in many schools across Turtle Island. Part of the film is in the Eastern Ojibwe dialect with English subtitles. Southwestern Ojibwe learners - see if you can pick out differences and similarities between the dialects.

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio: Niigaanii-Animikii Inini Calvin Hartwig (Bear Clan) is a Member of the Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and an award-winning executive film producer. Specializing in Indigenous Rights and Indigeneity, Niigaanii-Animikii Inini earned an MA in International Relations from Yale University. Additionally, he holds a Graduate Diploma in Communication Studies from Concordia University of Montreal and is currently studying Anishinaabemowin at Lac Courte Oreille Ojibwe University under the brilliant Dr. Chi-Migizi Michael Sullivan. His particular interests lie in strengthening Indigenous identities and Anishinaabe language-culture, including through writing and producing films. Niigaanii-Animikii Inini serves as an independent film producer, the Anishinaabe language-culture coordinator for the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and an affiliated researcher for the Institute for Policy, Ethics, and Culture.

SATURDAY 2:15pm-3:15pm



Presenters: Waabishkiimiigwan (Mary Hermes) and Anangokwe Hermes-Roach

Community or Institution:

Presentation description Reclaim! The Ojibwemowin point and click adventure game. This session will be an interactive playtest.

We will create small groups to playtest the Demo version of the Reclaim game. We have a vertical slice, the tutorial level, available only in Ojibwemowin for this playtest. After a quick briefing, groups will be

given 15 minutes to try and get through the level. We will then have some open discussion about the specific decisions about your experience, or what you might like to see including in the next 8 levels (within our limits!). We hope some of you would like to continue to play test versions, and maybe interested in auditions for Ojibwemowin voice actors.

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio: Waabishkiimiigwan, Mixed heritage Ojibwemowin advocate and second language learner, worked through the University of Minnesota and Directs Grassroots Indigenous Multimedia. Based in Hayward Wisconsin, and community member at LCO, making stuff for Ojibwemowin has been a long time passion.

Anangokwe Hermes-Roach (Bad River) is a computer science graduate from Macalester and Waadookodaading 1st graduating class (2005). She is based in the Twin Cities, currently the Lead Design and Backend Dev for the Reclaim video game team.

SATURDAY 2:15pm-3:15pm (continued)



Presenters: Netaa-Nniimid Aamookwe (Persia Erdrich)

Community or Institution: Gookonnaanig Endaawaad (Ojibwemotaadidaa Omaa Gidakiiminaang [OOG])

Presentation description: Gaa-izhichigeyaang omaa Gookonnaanig Endaawaad.

Participants will engage with Ojibwemotaadidaa language kits available on the OOG website. Teachers and Teacher Trainees from the preschool program will lead songs, games, and an art activity. Families and children are encouraged to attend.

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio: Gaa-izhichigeyaang omaa Gookonnaanig Endaawaad



Presenters: Miinanikwe (Megan Lhotka)

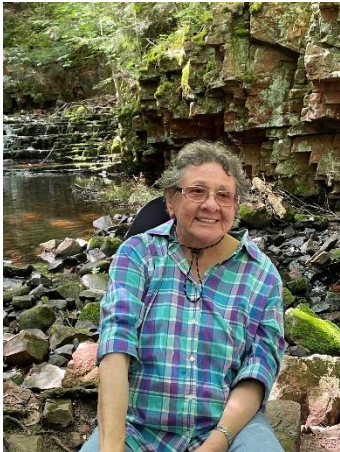
Community or Institution: Ojibwe with Miinanikwe

Presentation description: Ojibwe Sky Stories

Geared for educators looking to add to their curriculum for science and social studies. This mix of storytelling and gaining knowledge of the Ojibwe constellations brings an Indigenous perspective to the classroom. Literature pieces and Ojibwe language also being added to the teaching toolbox.

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio: Miinanikwe (Megan Lhotka) White Earth descendant, has spent the last several years learning, seeking and exploring Ojibwe language and practices to continue the knowledge of the Anishinaabe people in the classroom for all Minnesota students. Miinanikwe has a teaching degree through the University of Minnesota and her eminence license through White Earth Nation. She also has a consulting business is "Ojibwe with Miinanikwe "



Presenters: Valerie Barber

Community or Institution: Bizhiki Wellness Center, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Ojibwe

Presentation description: Ginny, 'a'aw ajidamoo-kwezens-ish: The story of a naughty girl-squirrel Lightbox Puppets

A family teaching activity for prevention. The Shadowbox Wellness puppets are a community education project of the Bizhiki Wellness Center, a substance abuse support center in Lac Courte Oreilles, WI.

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio: Director, Ginny Krizan and her son, Archer, are the puppeteers, as Val Barber tells the stories.





Presenter: Nazhike-awaasang (Bradley Harrington)

Community or Institution: Wenji-bimaadizing Media, LLC. Mille Lacs Band

Presentation description: “Gidinwewininaan Website & App”

People who learn with Gidinwewininaan.com achieve amazing outcomes. Our resources cut to the core of the subjects they cover, dissecting them in ways that are comprehensible and engaging to viewers. Whatever your individual goals may be, we’re confident that our Anishinaabemowin Tools will foster consistent and substantial improvements. In 2023, we aimed to increase the capabilities of the site, build a social platform and create the App. We have accomplished all 3 goals. We would like to share function, capacity and goals for 2024 for the Gidinwewininaan Website and App.

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio: Nazhike-awaasang (Misizaaga’iganing Ojibwe), comes from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe located in Central Minnesota. Born and raised on the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation where he spent time learning from his grandparents about Ojibwe Life. He is a lifelong student of Ojibwe

language & culture and has studied at Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, Central Lakes College, UMD, UofM Twin Cities, Native Nations Institute at the University of Arizona Tucson and the Native Governance Center. He has received certification from the Native Nations Institute, the Blandin Foundation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and White Bison/Wellbriety. He has facilitated activities at the Tribal/State Relations Training relating to Ojibwe Language & Culture, Treaties and Federal Indian Law. In the summer of 2017, he was sworn in as the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources for the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and began rebranding the local Tribal DNR to incorporate cultural knowledge and language as a Natural Resource. He currently serves as the Director of Tribal Relations for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources where he coordinates the Tribal Consultation process. He also runs a small business called Wenji-bimaadizing Media that oversees websites, podcasts, merchandise production and video production as well as the Ojibwe Language Website/App Gidinwewininaan.com. He is a parent of Ojibwe immersion students and works in the community as an advocate for immersion education. He performs Ojibwe Ceremonies in many communities in the region. He has Fasted twice for 4 days each seeking guidance to serve the Anishinaabe People. He has performed Traditional Healing for the past 2 years under the guidance of Mikinaak from Red Lake. He is also a 2022 Bush Fellow with a focus on Organizational Leadership and Technological Resources for Language and Culture. When he is not working in the tribal government as an advocate for Anishinaabe rights to language, education, spirituality and harvest, he spends time with his family.

Presenters: Nenaaw/ Naawakwe

Community or Institution:

Presentation description:

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio:



Presenters: AsiniKwe (Janice Lafore)

Community or Institution: Twin Cities (Urban Area)

Presentation description: Integrating Language into early learning

Playing games and telling stories is a wonderful way to integrate our native language into the early learning environment and to share with families to support their language development to be used at home.

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio: Janice LaFloe, Turtle Mountain Ojibwe, is the Founder of the Montessori American Indian Childcare Center in St Paul, MN. She has been in the classroom environment for most of the past ten years sharing primarily the Ojibwe language with young children through various types of spoken language activities. These simple spoken language games and opportunities to embed in storytelling is a fun way to share and develop language skills of both young children and their families.

SUNDAY 10:00am-11:00am (continued)



Presenters: Chi-Noodin (Anthony Drews)

Community or Institution: Nashke Games

Presentation description: Games That Save Our Ways

Session Description: Immerse yourself in Ojibwe history, language, and culture as the Nashke Games Team shares about their mission to save our ways through game play, while giving back to the Native Community! In this interactive session, participants will learn about the mission and vision of Nashke Games, and how we can use games to engage students, all while immersing themselves in language, culture, and game play throughout the session.

Language Level: Emergent

Presenter Bio: Tony, a first-generation descendant from the Leech Lake band of Ojibwe, His Ojibwe name is Chi-Noodin (Big Wind) and belongs to the sturgeon clan. Throughout his professional career, he has been a dedicated advocate for the Native American community, serving as the Residential

Director at Ain Dah Yung and Vice President of Operations for Circle of Life Anishinaabe Home Care. Tony's commitment to education led him to spend five years as the Indian Education Advisor at Anoka-Hennepin Schools. Currently, he serves as a Program Coordinator, leading the American Indian Family Empowerment Fund at the Tiwahe Foundation, and is the Founder and President of Nashke Native Games. A studied at the University of Minnesota with a focus on Sociology, American Indian Studies, and the Ojibwe Language, Tony is happily married to his wife Kathy and is a proud parent of three children. Recently recognized as a Finnovation Fellow, he contributes to the community by sitting on the Board of Directors for the Anoka Hennepin Educational Foundation and participating in the Anoka-Hennepin American Indian Education Parent Advisory Committee.

Breakout Session Presenters: Immersive Level

SATURDAY, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Presenters: Niibaa-Gaabaw (David Aubid) & Naawakwe (William Howes III)

Community or Institution: East Lake Indian Community within Sandy Lake/Rice Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation & FDL Gegaanzongejig ji-aabadak Ojibwemowin (Language Program)

Presentation description: Mewinzha Ikidowinan Gaa-aabadak imaa Anishinaabe Chi-Dewe'iganing - Niib (with Naawakwe as his assistant) will share selected words identified by Niib that are seldom heard anymore at ceremonial drumdances. Individual words will be shared, along with a definition and an example of natural usage for each word in the context of a drumdance ceremony. The words, definitions, and examples of natural usage will be provided in Ojibwemowin.

Language Level: Immersive

Presenter Bio: Niib is a lifelong resident at the East Lake Indian Community within Sandy Lake/Rice Lake Band of Ojibwe reservation. He was adopted by his grandparents and raised in the Anishinaabe customs and traditions as a first language speaker, and now is a traditional drum keeper and drum society member in 2 other ceremonial drums, Fourth degree Midewin lodge member, has 100+ namesakes, and is a renowned Traditional Anishinaabe Storyteller - Aadizookewinini. Niib also holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) with a Major in Am indian Studies and a Minor in Linguistics, as well as Eminence Credentials from MN Dept of Ed. He served as an educator for 17+ years at UMD in the American Indian Studies Department teaching Ojibwe language and history and also as a professor with the FDLTCC teaching American Indian content courses for four years. In addition to being an educator, he has experience in tribal government as a District Representative as well as serving as Commissioner of Administration with Mille Lacs Band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, including appointments by Mn Governors to serve on MN Indian History Advisory Committee and MN Indian School Council. Niib has worked FdL Ojibwe School, White Earth Land Recovery, and as an Oji-Consultant to ML, FdL, WE, LL, GP and St Croix as well as numerous public and tribal schools. He is loved ❤️ by many!

Naawakwe: Humbled to be able to learn from and help out his good friend Niib.

SATURDAY, 2:15pm-3:15pm



Presenters: Zaagaatekwe (Nyleta Belgarde) & Miskwaanakwadookwe (Amy McCoy)

Community or Institution: Zaagaatekwe--Turtle Mountain Ojibwe Miskwaanakwadookwe--Bawating Ojibwe, Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Presentation description: *Not All Anishinaabe 'Bans' are Flat!* The preterit ban is an often misunderstood tense for learners of Anishinaabemowin. This workshop aims to demystify and unflatten the Anishinaabemowin “ban” with a brief bilingual overview of some of its varied uses and then with application of the tense in a fun, interactive card game. Let’s play with Anishinaabe “bans” together!

Language Level: Immersive

Presenter Bio: Mikinaak-wajiwiing dibendaagozi Zaagaatekwe Nyleta Belgarde ezhinikaazod. Gaawiin gii-objiwemosiiban nitaawigi’ind booch dash igo gikinwaa’amaaged Ojibwemowin imaa Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag Gabe-gikendaasoowigamigong. Mii inwaazod.

Miskwaanakwadook Amy McCoy is a language learner and teacher. Aamookwe inaa Bawating wenjibaad. Obiminizha’aan gidinwewininaan endaso-giizhig gagwe-anishinaabewaadizid endaso-giizhik gabe-giizhik ige. Wenda-minwaadizi wiidookawaad wii-anishinaabeman omaa endanakiyang. She is Bawating Ojibwe; an enrolled member of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4th 10:00am-11:00am



Presenters: Obizaan (Lee Staples) & Ombishkebines (Chato Gonzales)

Community or Institution: Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Presentation description: Join these language masters for an immersive session in the Ojibwe language

Language Level: Immersive

Presenter Bio: Lee Obizaan Staples is from the Aazhoomog community where he has been a drum keeper since 1974. Obizaan Carries years of experience with our ceremonial drum. Chato Ombishkebines Gonzalez has been Obizaan’s apprentice since 2006.

Gigichi-inenimigoo’iw gashkitamaazoyan!

(we are proud of you for your efforts)

