



## **Anicinabe Language Day: Let's celebrate our linguistic heritage**

**Anicinabe aki, February 21, 2024** - Since 2000, February 21 has been International Mother Language Day. For Minwashin, February 21 is Anicinabe Language Day, because it's our ancestral mother tongue. This day is a special opportunity to honor it, reaffirm our commitment to its revitalization, and proudly express, in our ancestral dialects, our identity and our attachment to our cultural heritage.

According to UNESCO, an indigenous language disappears every two weeks. In this third year of the Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032), it is imperative that we unite our efforts to preserve, protect and enhance Anicinabemowin, the language of our kokum. It's a time to recognize its central role in our culture and identity.

In response to this call, Minwashin has committed to a decade of action, placing the language at the heart of all its projects. This means working with a number of partners and on a variety of fronts to ensure that the language is protected. Here are just a few examples of projects carried out by Minwashin since the beginning of the Decade of Indigenous Languages:

- NIN: an exhibition on the Anicinabek language that has toured the Anicinabek communities of Quebec;
- INABADAN: a youth camp on the performing arts, produced with the Ondinnok theater company;
- WECKATC NIKAMOWIN: recording of an album of Anicinabe songs, produced with the Musique nomade organization;
- MIAJA, Kitcisakik: biannual gathering of the Anicinabe Nation, held under the theme of orality;
- NIPAKANATIK: launch of a virtual public library of Anicinabe Nation archives, to reappropriate our history and narratives;
- Humorous vignettes in Anicinabe, broadcast on the Nation's community radios.

And on this Anicinabe Language Day, Minwashin is launching a new web page that we hope will become the reference for the actions and resources developed by the Anicinabe Nation during the Decade of Indigenous Languages. Explore it on our website [www.minwashin.org](http://www.minwashin.org)

*Enikok kakina anicinabemodan!* This February 21, let's take the opportunity to speak about our language and in our language at home, in schools, on the radio, in the workplace and even on social media. Let's celebrate Anicinabe Language Day together.

**For an interview with**

Ejinagosi (Richard) Kistabish, president of Minwashin

**Or for more informations, contact**

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**About Minwashin:**

At the heart of the Anicinabe AKI, Minwashin is a non-profit cultural organization whose mission is to support, develop and celebrate our arts, language and culture.

[www.minwashin.org/en](http://www.minwashin.org/en)