

Mino Bimaadiziwin Partnership meeting & Kitigay for October 18, 2021

Date: October, 18, 2021

Attended: Shirley Thompson (facilitator) – University of Manitoba; Keshab Thapa – University of Manitoba; Lancelot Coar - University of Manitoba; Myrle Ballard- University of Manitoba, Thomas Beaudry, Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Shawn Bailey- University of Manitoba; Babajide Oni - University of Manitoba, Marlene Bonnycastle - University of Manitoba, Chima Onenkyke.

Meeting Notes:

Topics	Items of Discussion & Notes	Action/ Motion	Person/People Responsible
1. Approve minutes from last meeting & agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to accept (no changes) (October 18, 2021, meeting) • Move the agenda 	1. Myrle 2. Uche 1. Keshab 2. Shaun	Unanimous for minutes & agenda
2. Kitigay update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ten students took three university credit courses with many completing all their assignments for full credit and some chose to audit after doing most assignments and attending. Only two of twelve students dropped out – one student started a successful bakery in BON (Bravo!!) and another for family reasons. • Kitigay students and workers received \$130, 000+ in wages over 4 months to work and learn, and loaned laptops. An overall amount of \$200,000 was invested in BON for wages, tuition and supports through a MITACS program between BON Development Corporation and University of Manitoba with the notable help of EAST for program delivery. • Traditional land clearing was undertaken with fire guided by a BON Knowledge Keeper and under surveillance of the BON fire department to burn off the infestation of thistle. • Successfully held two public events at the BON community hall adhering to provincial COVID-19/ BON health protocols with local food provided and catered by the Kitigay team. 		



- Kitigay interns learned and practiced food preservation and pickled almost 100 jars which were distributed as gifts to the BON community, students and to Kitigay speakers.
- Kitigay students learned some land guardian and environmental monitoring skills including hands-on water quality sampling, drone flying and soil sampling.
- Kitigay internships occurred three days per week (with two computer-based remote learning days) in an outdoor classroom from September to the end of November where they learned on the land with land based teachings provided by Louis Olsen, Jon Spence, Angela Dumas, Glenda Smith, Carl Smith and others. The outdoor classroom reduced transmission risk from COVID-19 and models healthy living and learning for Indigenous knowledge transmission.
- Many acres were ploughed by the University of Manitoba tractor at the BON farm/Bison ranch to prepare to plant in spring.
- Half an acre planted in garlic in fall 2021 and mulched.
- Forestry, logging, sawmilling and carpentry skills were developed and practiced by Kitigay students with BON knowledge keepers. Three beautiful picnic tables were built from local wood for the farm and timber for farm building very cost-effectively.
- Developed preliminary plans for farm and infrastructure development with Kitigay students and 16 Architecture students supervised by Professors Bailey and Coar. A 18 foot trailer was contributed by Dr. Alex Wilson from U of Saskatchewan and One House Many Nations for BON to build a farmstead, including homes for houseless Kitigay students. This trailer will be retrofitted by 16 architecture students with BON input over the spring 2022 term to be equipped with tools/workshop, kitchen, alternative energy and bathroom. This workshop will allow the BON farm to grow.
- An old school bus was retrofitted by Kitigay students for Indigenous land defence -- which is temporarily being used for a start-up backyard business by some Kitigay graduates.
- Before OMNICROM was detected in Manitoba, Kitigay shut down group work and assigned individual projects at the very start of December to ensure Kitigay program did not spread COVID-19. This was done long before most or any institutions took this work precautionary measure.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held mindfulness workshop with Dean of Social Work, Michael Yellow Bird – to kick-off a webinar or blended program in winter/spring 2022 for interested Kitigay and other community members. • A small BON backyard business was started in response to an urgent request to rescue older laying hens after the murder of a farmer left them at risk. Knowing University of Manitoba was unable to assist or fund chickens due to their animal ethics policies requiring time-consuming and uncertain approvals as an animal ethics on an Indian reserve had never been granted – BON individuals responded to prevent suffering of chickens by rescuing and relocating to modern, bigger facilities in a BON community members backyard. This BON business is providing eggs to food insecure individuals. Bravo!!! • Planned an Ojibwe course to start with EAST for community in 2022. • Kitigay students helped start the first approved Ecological Restoration Camp (ERC) in Canada and Manitoba at the Beauconia Research Station (thanks Noam Gonick for providing your 23 acre homestead for global campers to learn and practice agroecology), to offer on-going training during the United Nations Decade of Ecological Restoration. Stay tuned for Nigerian goats to mow the infestation of thistles and other innovative solutions at ERC. <p>With OMNICROM lots is uncertain in the winter of 2022 – possibly some remote programming is possible– please seek out assistance if you successfully completed Kitigay fall University courses and meet the university double vaccination requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 		
3. Mitacs status - funding and payment of students update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are expecting an approved letter from MITAC soon but this is problematic for student payments. 		Rezwanul and Shirley
4. Internship community coordinator/ coordination team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Knowledge-holders, Angela Dumas & Walter Olson, from BON, are working with the interns to coordinate and have prepared the field for the spring planting. They are amazing.. 		Angela Dumas & Louis Olson
5. Architecture students connecting on housing, greenhouse and other building design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lancelot and Shawn Bringing 16 architecture students to BON for Nov. 6th to showcase their designs. • The design program will continue for two terms Fall 2021 and Winter 2022. 		Lancelot & Shawn



6. Draft Schedule for fall	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classes Monday and Wednesday with internship every day 9:30 to 4:30 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.. 		Angela, Louis, Shirley, Kyle, Uche, etc.
7.	On-going short meetings every week with this planning committee until mid-September		