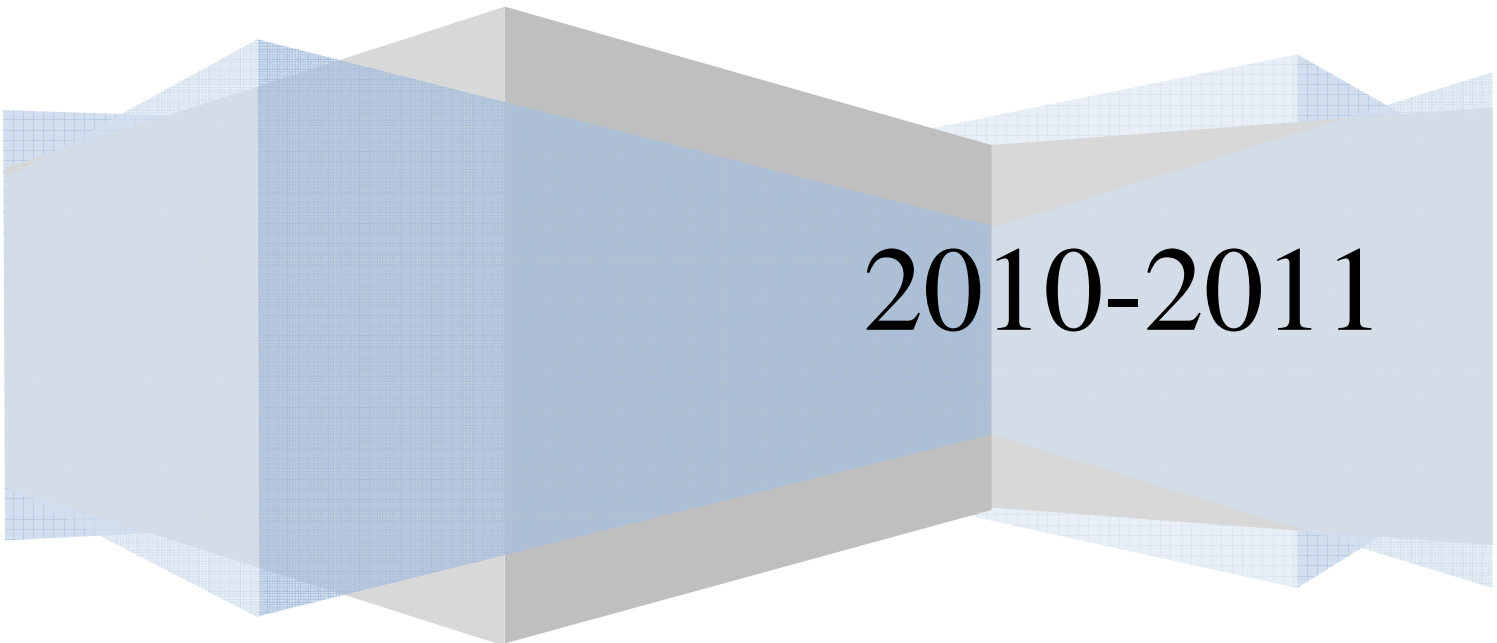


NFN LIBRARY

Nbisiing Traditional Knowledge Revitalization Project

Cultural Plan for Nipissing First Nation
Glenna Beaucage



2010-2011

Introducing.....

MAPPING A CULTURAL PLAN FOR NFN

Nbisiing Traditional Knowledge Revitalization Project

Nbisiing Anishinaabek Kendaaswin (Nipissing First Nation Library) successfully applied to the Creative Communities Prosperity Fund for a grant to map out a cultural plan for Nipissing First Nation.

We will be carrying out this work in 3 stages:

PART I: DOCUMENT THE STORY OF NIPISSING.

The Story of Nipissing will be documented and based on:

- a profile developed by the NFN Lands Department:
- material and information obtained from 6 NFN community history meetings in 2008;
- Some pertinent written historical documentation taken from textbooks and authors and;
- information compiled from our band members during this project.

We will need your input to tell us about:

What Nipissing First Nation was like before 1960?

What Nipissing First Nation was like between the years 1960-1990?

What is Nipissing First Nation like now at the present?

What would Nipissing First Nation be like if we were a healthy/balanced community?

What has happened, and what do we have to do to get from where we are now to where we want to be? What needs to change? Who needs to be involved to make these changes?

We need to think of all of these questions in different aspects of our life:

Topic 1-Family Life, Elders

Topic 2-Economic Life (work & business), Forestry/Gravel/Resources, Lands and Land Use

Topic 3-Politics, Robinson Huron Treaty (1850), Education

Topic 4-Fishing/Hunting/trapping, Environment

Topic 5-Cultural Life, Medicines (Anishnaabek NFN)

Topic 6-Social Life, Leisure Time, Caring/sharing

Topic 7-Health & Well-Being, Food & Nutrition, Safety, Substance Abuse

You can share your input and have your say in a couple of different ways:

- Complete a survey (email and snail mail)
- Attend a community meeting
- Visit the library and share your input (by appointment)
- In home interviews

PART II: CREATE A NBISIING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE REVITALIZATION PLAN

Based on the information compiled from our band members during this project, combined with results from:

- The community forum on Holistic learning styles held (2008)
- Results taken from the Nbisiing Language Survey Results and:
- Nbisiing Language Retention Plan that was developed at a community Meeting (2009)
- Youth Circle of Courage Gathering (2008)

*****This entire plan will be presented to Chief and Council to guide them in future planning, based on the wants and needs of Nipissing First Nation band membership*****

PART III: CREATE A LIST OF CULTURAL RESOURCES:

People resources: We will be asking our cultural leaders to submit their portfolios so that we will know who our cultural leaders are, what their specialities are, and how they can help our community. For example, if a person is qualified to perform cultural ceremonies, teachings, cultural arts, etc, we will need this information so that we can use our experts and refer other requests for their qualified services.

If you would like to register as a band member who can be identified as a cultural leader for NFN, there is a form to complete to list your gifts and biography.

Materials resources: If you have any information regarding the **History of Nipissing First Nation**, significant community events, or our people speaking our language, please contact us. You can come to the library with your treasures, and we can take copies or we can visit and take copies in your home and leave your with your originals. These include:

Videos

Documents

Maps

Photos

Audio Recordings

Newspaper articles

Obituaries and Obituary Cards

Believe me when I say **I value and respect the opinion of each and every person.** This project will be community-driven using our staff only as facilitators, information gatherers, and preparing the information for presentation to leadership and community.

I urge you to attend these meetings. I urge you to complete your survey. This will be your chance to share your knowledge of our history, your knowledge of what we now have, and to be a part of the change we need, separate from politics, on how to make our community the whole, healthy place we can be.

Although the contents of the surveys will be made public and become part of the Nipissing Story and part of the cultural mapping plan, **your name will remain confidential** to protect and respect people's your personal views.

If you are elderly or ill and/or not able to attend meetings, call the library to book a visit where we can have your input. I will also be preparing material where you can write your ideas and send them to me. This will be necessary, as most of our members live away from the reserve.

I will be booking an appointment with our elders, community leaders, and cultural leaders, for their input.

Before we can plan where we are going as a community, we need to know who we are and where we came from.

Gchi-Miigwech

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