



For Immediate Release  
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### **New Urban Indigenous child care centre for Kenora**

The Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) and Bimose Tribal Council are pleased to announce that through the Ministry of Education's provision of The Journey Together initiative funding; the creation of a new Urban Indigenous child care centre in Kenora, ON.

"As an Anishinaabe organization, we recognize the need to deliver cultural and language-based teachings and; develop programs that are family centred and holistic. This will allow us to continue our path to support our future generations' education needs," says Don Morrison, Executive Director of Bimose Tribal Council.

The Journey Together initiative is the Government of Ontario's commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples to close gaps and remove barriers. The creation of a new Urban Indigenous child care centre will compliment Gaagagekiizhik Anishinaabe Elementary School and Bimose Community High School and provide culturally focused child care services to the community. Through this centre, the long-term investment will contribute to a positive self-identity and understanding of the Anishinaabe heritage at the impressionable ages.

The 2,400 square foot child care centre will create an additional 15 toddler spaces and 16 preschool spaces and will be located next to Gaagagekiizhik School, providing an appropriate transition from daycare to elementary school. "Increasing the number of child care spaces and culturally relevant programming off reserve was part of The Journey Together: Ontario's Commitment to Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples," says Henry Wall, Chief Administrative Officer of the KDSB. He adds, "We are very pleased to move forward in this partnership with Bimose Tribal Council to provide more families children access to appropriate child care and child and family programming."

Funding from The Journey Together will go to help with the costs of design and renovations, furnishings, equipment, hiring staff and operational costs. The anticipated opening date for the Urban Indigenous child care centre is anticipated for spring of 2019.

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