

# 2024/2025 Annual Report





Meaning "water all around us" as in the ripple effect,
Miziwe Biik serves the Employment and Training needs
of Indigenous People in the Greater Toronto Area.

We believe that strong Indigenous communities advance self-reliance through traditional practices and values, as well as modern resources.

Miziwe Biik is an Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Local Delivery Mechanism (LDM) of the Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle (ALFDC).



#### Hello! We are Miziwe Biik.

We support Status and Non-Status First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples in the Greater Toronto Area with successful employment, training and education.

Fee: Free

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday: 8:30 to 4:30

Address.

167 Gerrard Street East, Toronto ON M5A 2E4

Phone:

(416) 591-2310 | Toll free: 1.877-980-6961

Email:

Reception@miziwebiik.com

Fax:

(416) 591-3602

Website:

www.miziwebiik.com



#### **EMPLOYMENT**

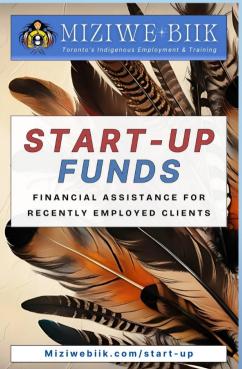


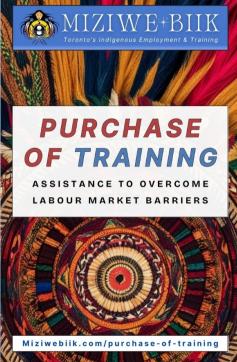


# COVER LETTER AND RESUME SUPPORT

Highlight your abilities and personality!







# Executive Director NANCY MARTIN

Aanii, Saao, Wacive

In January 2025, we held the grand opening of the Miziwe Biik Training Centre in the West Donlands. Thank you to the wonderful staff of Miziwe Biik for making the event a big success! We are grateful for the leadership and guidance of the late Joe Hester, Executive Director of Anishnawbe Health Toronto, for helping make this dream a reality.

Our new Miziwe Bilk Training Centre currently offers carpentry and electrical training in partnership with the College of Carpenters and Allied Trades and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Miziwe Biik has also partnered with Centennial College to offer a prehealth program. This summer we were honoured to host Ojibwe language courses by Liz Osawamik and a Cree language course by Jimmy Dick.

Our offices at 167 Gerrard St. East are still open for business. Miziwe Biik Employment Advisors are on hand to help you with career exploration, resume writing and advise you on training opportunities. Don't forget about our on-site academic upgrading! All of our programs and opportunities are outlined on the Miziwe Biik website.

Miziwe Biik honours residential school children. Miziwe Biik honours MMIWGT2Spirit. We will never forget you.

Thank you to the community for entrusting us to serve your employment and training needs.

Miigwech, Nia:wen Nancy Martin



#### EDUCATION



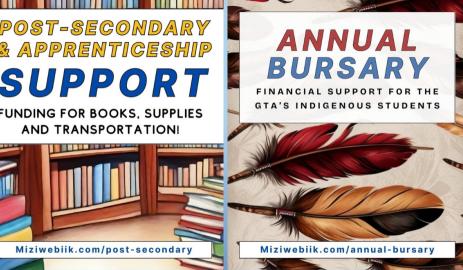


Social Studies Reading and Writing



Miziwebiik.com/high-school





#### STAFF -

Vickie Labranche

Employment & Projects Manager

Brenna Lafrance

Training Facilitator

Lillian Wesley

Human Resources Manager

Tim Millan

Academic Upgrading Instructor

Stacev Bowe

Receptionist

Allan Mac Isaac

Trades Instructor

Jacob Toulouse

Administrative Clerk

Johnny Gionette

Apprenticeship Coordinator

Brydon Hill

Marketing & Communications

Ashley Boakye

Project Officer

Melanie Oyebamiji

Employment Advisor

Christy Martin

Project Officer

Jennifer Parberry

Employment Advisor

Lisa Ashley

Project Officer

Steffani Dehond-Ouimette

Employment Advisor

Roman Wesley
Data Entry Specialist



#### TRAINING



In partnership with







# LECTRIC

at Miziwe Biik - 433 Cherry Street

15-weeks of training and a 10-week job placement





In partnership with



COLLEGE OF CARPENTERS

# CARPENTRY **PROGRAM**

16-weeks of Basic Carpentry Training

IN-CLASS THEORY AND PRACTICAL (8 WEEKS)

at Miziwe Biik - 433 Cherry Street

JOB PLACEMENT (8 WEEKS) Work for an Employer in the GTA



om/carpentry



In partnership with

**CENTENNI** 

# PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM

Two-semesters, Small class sizes





Your Pathway to starting your own business!

# SELF-EMPLOYMENT

8-week online entrepreneurship program for Indigenous self-starters looking to create a business and write a business plan





# JIMMY DICK Board Secretary Jimmy is from Moose Cree First Nation and the community of Moose Factory, Ontario. He is fluent in the Cree language and is a Teacher/Educator on Native Culture and Spirituality. He is an Elder and guest speaker at international conferences and is

#### KRYSTAL ABOTOSSAWAY President

Krystal Abotossaway is from Aundeck Omni-Kaning First Nation and Chippewas of Rama First Nation. She is a Senior Manager at TD Bank and President of the Indigenous Professional Association of Canada.

DIRECTORS

She holds a Master's degree in Human Resource Management from York University and is recognized nationally as an expert on Indigenous engagement and youth success strategies



# MIZIWE



ENT

ABORIGINAL EMPLO



an active volunteer and board member.

Jimmy has been actively involved in

Toronto's Indigenous community since 1975 and is a member of the Eagleheart Singers

#### QUAZANCE BOISSONEAU Board Member

Quazance is from Garden River First Nation. She advocates for indigenous mental health and wellness by helping advance Indigenous youth with education and sports. Quazance strives to promote balanced lifestyles for Indigenous People living in two-worlds.



Gavin is a proud member of Saugeen First Nation. He creates pathways to careers in the construction skilled trades as a Project Director at the Labour Education Centre

He works with indigenous communities across Ontario, His focus has always been on creating opportunities. Gavin was once employed at Miziwe Bilk in construction training.





## TRAINING & WORKSHOPS



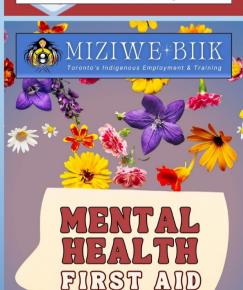
# **BRIDGES PROGRAM**

# Transition **Towards Employment**

Professional Communication
Writing Foundations
Computer Training
Personality Dimensions
Job Search and Retention
Successful Self-Management

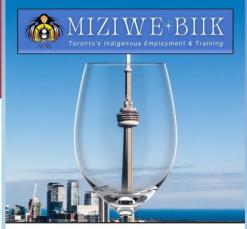


Miziwebiik.com/bridges



Miziwebiik,com/mental-health

Miziwebiik,com/first-aid-cg



# **SMART SERVE**

1-DAY ONLINE CERTIFICATION FOR RESPONSIBLE
ALCOHOL SALES, SERVICE AND DELIVERY!





# FIRST AID & CPR

TWO-DAY WORKSHOP

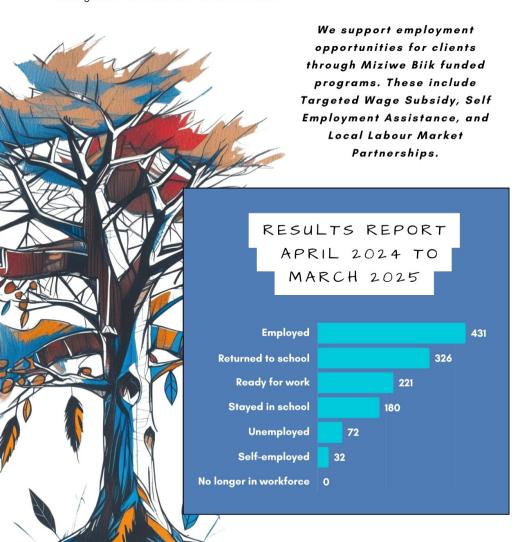


#### RESULTS

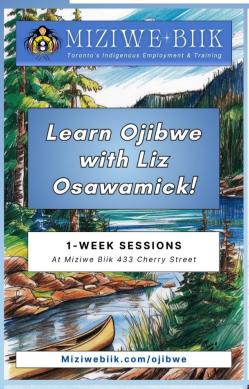
The Projects Department achieved significant results in 2024/2025, with clients completing training programs, workshops, and securing employment! The department consists of three Project Officers who work as a team to ensure client needs are met and budgets are maintained.

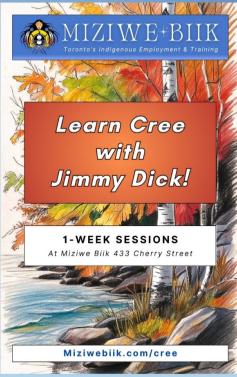
One Project Officer handles individual requests such as Employment Assistance Support Measures and Purchase of Training. Through these requests, clients receive support in education, skills development, and employment opportunities.

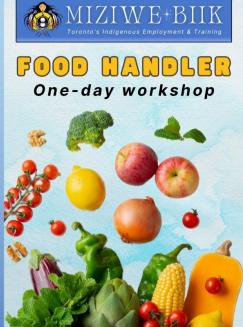
All Project Officers work to build relationships with organizations throughout the Greater Toronto Area.



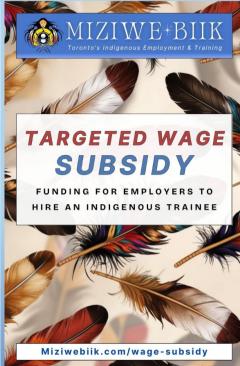
## **WORKSHOPS & FUNDING**







ziwebiik.com/food-handler









#### FUNDING







Miziwebiik.com/summer-student



EMPLOYERS AND INDIVIDUALS CAN APPLY FOR FUNDING!

Miziwebiik.com/call-for-proposals





THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN 1

#### INFO SESSIONS





#### Come meet the Griffith team!

At Griffith Foods in Scarborough

#### MANY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Minimal Experience Needed High School Diploma Required

#### COMPETITIVE WAGES

Pension and Savings Plans Excellent Benefits and More!



# YORK

#### INFO SESSION!

167 Gerrard Street East

Are you interested in becoming a teacher?

Join us in discovering the Waaban Indigenous Teacher Education Program!





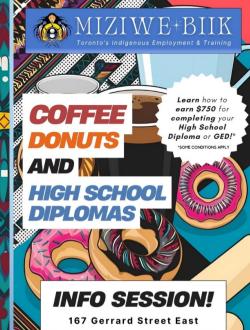


#### INFO SESSION!

167 Gerrard Street East

Join us to learn why our bank is different!

... and discover upcoming fully-remote entry-level roles in Customer Care!!



#### INFO SESSIONS







#### LINE CREW GROUND SUPPORT PROGRAM



#### MILLWRIGHT INFO SESSION

LEARN ABOUT TORONTO'S MILLWRIGHT UNION
AND HOW TO BECOME AN APPRENTICE!







#### ELECTRICAL PATHWAY PROGRAM



#### **ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT INFO SESSION**



Meet with City of Toronto for recruitment of their full-time Accounting Assistant 3 position.

Staff will be present to discuss the position, assist with applications (resumes and cover letters) and answer questions!



#### SUCCESS STORY: REBECCA P

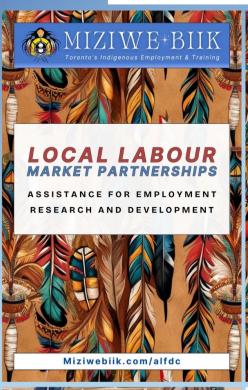
I am from Atikameksheng Anishnawbek First Nation. At 15, I enrolled at the Native Learning Centre and first discovered Miziwe Bilk through their computer literacy and resume workshops. Early experiences that planted seeds I'd draw on for years.

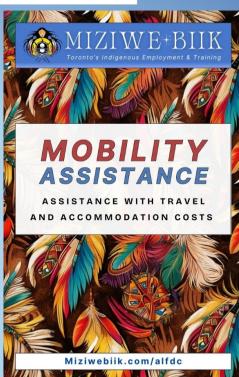
Life kept bringing me back to Miziwe Biik. When studying to become a PSW at George Brown, I needed CPR certification – Miziwe Biik provided it free. In 2020, I began caring for my grandmother, then welcomed my son. After five years out of the workforce, I felt uncertain about next steps. I found the Bridges Program online and it resonated deeply. With Jennifer Parberry's guidance, I updated my resume and applied. Brenna Lafrance led our seven-week program, covering everything from computer skills to job search strategies. I rediscovered parts of myself that had been dormant and rebuilt confidence I thought I'd never get back.

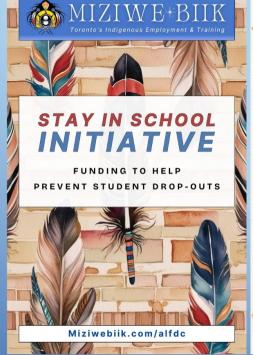
At a job fair through the program, I connected with Elaine from Na-Me-Res. That led to my current role as Mobile Housing Worker, helping Indigenous people navigate housing systems and find stability. I returned to Miziwe Biik once more for CPR, First Aid, and Mental Health First Aid certifications. I absolutely love my job. Thank you Miziwe Biik for being a constant source of strength, opportunity, and cultural reconnection throughout my life!

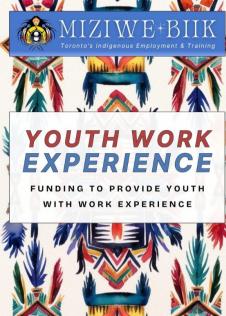


### ALFDC PROGRAMS









Miziwebiik.com/alfdc

#### SUCCESS STORY: NATHAN G

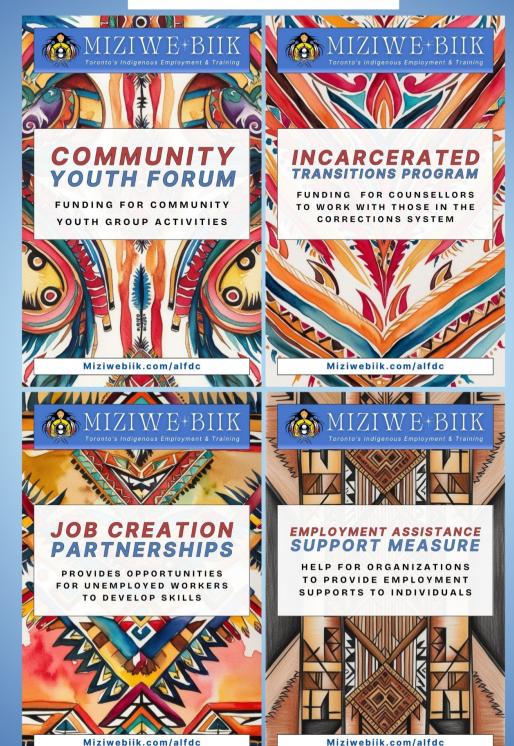
I am Cree, born in Toronto. My reserve is Poplar River in Manitoba. Growing up, my family struggled with money and housing. We never stayed in one place long. Sometimes we lived in shelters because we had nowhere else to go. It was hard to accept the hand I was dealt, but I found supports through my Indigenous community and mentors. Now we live in Native Housing through Wigwamen.

My mother found Miziwe Biik and recommended it to me. They've helped me at different points over the years. In 2016, they guided me to the Youth in Policing program and provided financial support. Most recently, I worked with Tim in the Academic Upgrading Program to earn my CAEC certificate. With that foundation, I completed a three-month pre-apprenticeship program called Hammer Heads through Central Ontario Building Trades.

I just started my apprenticeship with UA Local 853 as a first-year Fire Protection Sprinkler apprentice. My goal is to finish and become a teacher in my trade. I want to master everything – finances, reading blueprints, safety protocols, union work. Maybe someday I'll work with Hammer Heads, supporting Indigenous youth and showing them these opportunities exist. Thank you to Miziwe Bilk for helping me on my journey!



### ALFDC PROGRAMS



## SUCCESS STORY: ANGELA N

I am proud to be First Nation, Bear clan, with connection to Kebaowek First Nation in Kipawa, Quebec. Born in British Columbia, lived in Calgary where I miss the mountains. I'm Algonquin, a mother, and consider myself a humanitarian. I have degrees in Criminology and Justice from UOIT and a Juris Doctor from Osgoode Hall Law School. I love loud drums and singing at powwows. Ceremony keeps me connected to our ancestors and the creator.

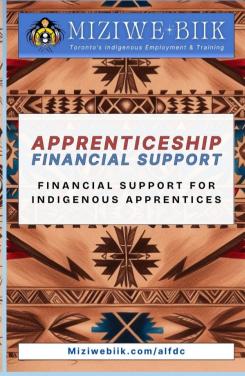
I first learned about Miziwe Biik during my undergraduate degree and received bursaries for my education. Over the years, they've supported me in many ways - financial help through multiple post-secondary degrees, affordable homeownership workshops, wage subsidies for strategic employment positions, and support during the lawyer licensing process for my bar exams. Miziwe Biik even sends me email updates about opportunities and offers of Christmas gift baskets!

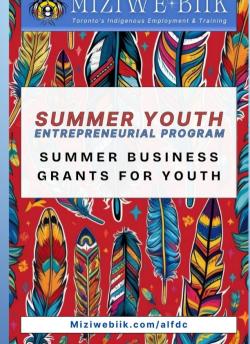
I am currently in the lawyer licensing process with the Law Society of Ontario. I've completed law school and articles, passed my Barrister exam, and will write the Solicitor exam in November 2025. I am not tied to one specific occupation after that. I want a rewarding career that uses my skills and improves people's lives. I seek to make a difference through my work, and I'm open to what that may look like. I'm hopeful I'll find the right fit soon. Thank you, Miziwe Biik!

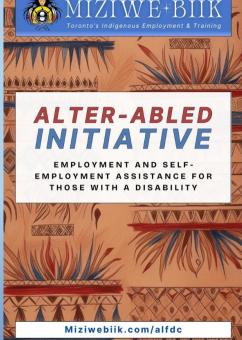


#### ALFDC PROGRAMS



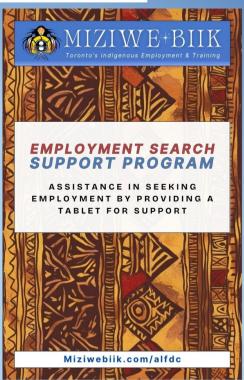






## **ALFDC & GOODWILL**









#### JOB CREATION

#### BE HIRED!

TOPONTO & YORK REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL

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#### INDIGENOUS

Communications & Program Coordinator Trainee 



#### BE HIRED!

NISHNAWBE HOMES

IS LOOVING FOR AN

#### INDIGENOUS

Custodian Trainee (Part-time)



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Taxanta

Service Capada

# CAKINO'AMAAGE

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## NDIGENOUS

BE HIRED!

Communications Coordinator Trainco

BE HIRED!

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Service Capada

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HIGH PARK NATURE

CENTRE IS LOOKING FOR AN.

INDIGENOUS Indigenous Programs Naturalist Teacher



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#### RE HIRED!

FRIENDS OF ALLAN GARDENS

IS LOOKING FOR AN INDIGENOUS

Community Coordinator Traince



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#### RE HIREN!

GORD DOWNIE & CHANIE WENIACK FUND

IS LOOKING FOR AN.. INDIGENOUS

Youth Amhaeeador Assistant Trainee



Help uphold Charie and Gord's legacies thum on the lour.



#### IS LOOKING FOR AN. INDIGENOUS

Powwow Coordinator Trainee 

BE HIRED!



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TORONTO

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Program Support

Worker Trainee

programming for Indiannous INDIGENOUS families Administrative



Help deli

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future of

trademark search and

protection

# RE HIDEN!

NISHNAWBE HOMES

IS LOOKING FOR AN. INDIGENOUS

Remote Custodian Trainee 



Help provide affordable Indigenous housing in



#### BE HIRED! LOCAL

ENHANCEMENT & APPRECIATION OF FORESTS IS I DOKING FOR TWO

INDIGENOUS Naturalization Assistant

Trainees





## DEAR

WEST NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE Engage volunteer and community IS LOOKING FOR AN... embers in th INDIGENOUS

> Indigenous Program Coordinator Trainee

## WEST

Support Indiaenous centred programming in the Parkdala



#### BE HIRED! HALOO

IS LOOKING FOR AN. INDIGENOUS

Executive Assistant nd Human Resources Trainee Business Development Representative (BDR)





# BE HIRED!

TOLIVE IS LOOKING FOR AN

INDIGENOUS

Marketina **Partnerships** Coordinator Trainee

# TO Live

Are vou about the rming arts highly organized. and a strong collaboratori



9/2

# BE HIRED!

NATIVE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES OF TORONTO

IS LOOKING FOR AN

INDIGENOUS

Education Assistant Trainee



programmina for Indiaeno children and families



#### BE HIRED!

DADEDALE OLIEEN WEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

IS LOOKING FOR AN

#### INDIGENOUS

Oshkabavwis Peer Worker Trainee



Help with Promoting the



#### BE HIRED! ABORIGINAL

LEGAL SERVICES IS LOOKING FOR AN

#### INDIGENOUS

Giiwedin Anand Council Assistant Trainee



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rstand the syste

#### BE HIRED!

NATIVE PLANTS IN CLAREMONT IS LOOKING FOR AN

INDIGENOUS

Growing Native Plant Species for Environmental Enhancement Trainee

Help increase about and





#### BE HIRED! PARKDALE QUEEN WEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE

IS LOOKING FOR AN.

INDIGENOUS Niiwin Wendaanima Wellness Program Post Secondary Summer Student & Program Support Trainee

BE HIRED!



Program planning and prep, as well as elp Elders at West Neighborhood House





## BE HIRED!

NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE OF TORONTO

IS LOOKING FOR AN INDIGENOUS

> Maintenance Trainee



Service Canada



INDIGENOUS Indigenous &

Trainee

Government Relations Assistant



#### BE HIRED!

THE PEOPLES GARDEN IS LOOKING FOR AN.



Landscape Trainee



instructor in th Learn to Garde

Service Canada

ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICES IS LOOKING FOR growing of INDIGENOUS

Articling Student

4. Tenant Rights Advocate 5. Welcome Home Assistant TRAINEES!



equitable treatme and access to erstand the syste and their optio



#### BE HIRED!

TORONTO POLICE SERVICE IS LOOKING FOR..

**NDIGENOUS** Clerical **Trainees** 



partnership with our Toronto the best and eafest place to be Service Canada

#### **BE HIRED!** THE STOP

COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE IS LOOKING FOR AN

INDIGENOUS Administrative Assistant Trainee Green Barn & Garden Worker Trainee



Service Cana

#### **OUR SUPPORTERS**

ALFDC

Indigenous Services Canada

Service Canada

Employment and Social Development Canada

Ministry of Labour, Training

and Skills Development

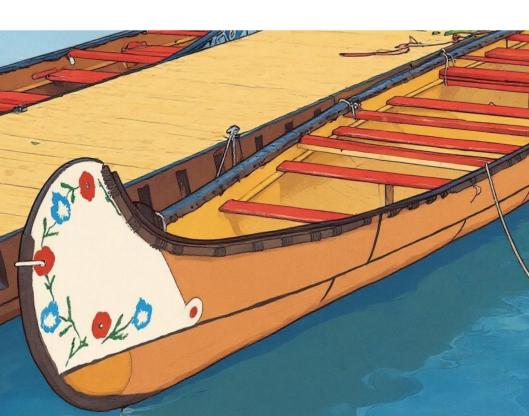
Ministry of Indigenous Affairs

Employment Ontario

Ontario Trillium Foundation

City of Toronto

United Way





MIZIWEBIIK.COM

Indigenous and in the GTA?

JOIN

**LEARN** 

BE HIRED