



# Anishinaabek Wiidosendiwak

*The People Walking Together*

Henvey Inlet First Nation (HIFN) has made the decision to re-establish authority over the care and protection of HIFN children and families.

Anishinaabek Wiidosendiwak is a community-driven initiative that reflects the vision HIFN has for the overall health and wellbeing of its children and families.

Read more about the project



## What is the outcome of the initiative?

The overall goal of Anishinaabek Wiidosendiwak is to establish a **child and family wellbeing law** for Henvey Inlet First Nation.

This Law will be specific to HIFN and will focus on the community's culture, traditions, and wisdom passed down through generations. The Law will sit above provincial law to guide how HIFN children are protected and ensure children are kept with their families and community.



## Who is working on the initiative?

A Band Council Resolution passed the HIFN Child and Family Wellbeing project on December 8, 2022. The project is supported and funded by Indigenous Services Canada.

HIFN has hired the consulting firm Avaanz, and the law firm Fogler Rubinoff, to support with the community engagements. HIFN has retained Fogler Rubinoff for the development of the Law.

A Working Group of ten members has been formed to guide the Law's development and oversee the community engagement process. This Working Group is comprised of on-reserve and off-reserve HIFN community members, HIFN Councillors, and Band Representative staff members.

## Why is the initiative happening?

In 2019, the *Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* (formerly Bill C-92) became a federal law.

The Act ensures that Indigenous communities can develop their own Law and make decisions about child and family services, allowing for children to stay in community so they can be connected to their language, culture, traditions, and support networks.

## How will the Law be developed?

In order to gain the information needed to draft the Law, community engagements need to take place.

The information gathered from the engagement sessions will inform how the Law is written.

Read more about the process →

### 1. Community Engagements

Interviews and Focus Groups with Knowledge Holders, Elders, Youth, Parents and Guardians, Band Representatives, and Band Council Members. Drop-in and other community events for all community members.

### 2. Data Collection

Data related to how many children and families are accessing family services and what services are being accessed. In this phase, data will also be provided by provincial children's aid societies.

### 3. Visioning

Develop a report summarizing all the information gathered during phase 1 and 2 and have community validate the vision for the Law.

### 4. Develop the Law

Develop the first draft of the child and family wellbeing Law.

### 5. Community Engagements

Continue to gather feedback on the Law to include in the final draft.

### 6. Finalize the Law

Develop a final draft of the child and family wellbeing Law.

### 7. Making the Law Official

The Law will be presented to and passed by a Band Council Resolution.