



# Michipicoten First Nation

October 25, 2016

## ANISHINABEK EDUCATON SYSTEM (AES)

Aaniin Brothers and Sisters,

Michipicoten First Nation, as part of the Anishinabek Nation, is coming up to the largest and most historical Indigenous Education Agreement Vote in history. After 21 years of research and planning, the Anishinabek Education System (AES) Agreement has been created by the Anishinabek Nation to regain and reclaim our right to educate our own people.

**The AES Vote will take place November 28<sup>th</sup> – December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.**

The proposed AES will be controlled completely by First Nations, not by any central body (i.e. The Union of Ontario Indians or Anishinabek Nation would **not** be part of the proposed system). The AES will provide students a better education and help them build better lives. Today, 9 out of 10 Anishinaabe students go to provincial schools off reserve, where they don't learn about being Anishinaabe.

We need our Elders, Parents, Youth and all membership to get informed, and cast their vote to say YES to the AES to reclaim and exercise the rights, dignity and power lost after the Residential School Era – which has had a lasting intergenerational effect. The Anishinabek Education System is a chance to start on a new path – and show that the *Indian Act* doesn't work for us. We have an inherent right to govern ourselves and shape and keep our children's (and all learners) destinies in our hands beginning with a system designed, governed and taught by us.

Your informed decision to say YES to the AES is of critical importance. A countdown to voting days, helpful information, the Draft Anishinabek Nation Education Agreement, the Fiscal Transfer Agreement and more are all available at [sayyestoaes.ca](http://sayyestoaes.ca), or call 1-877-497-3799. In addition there is a number of information sessions planned in the community and around the regions – please attend if you can.

Miigwetch,

Chief Joe Buckell