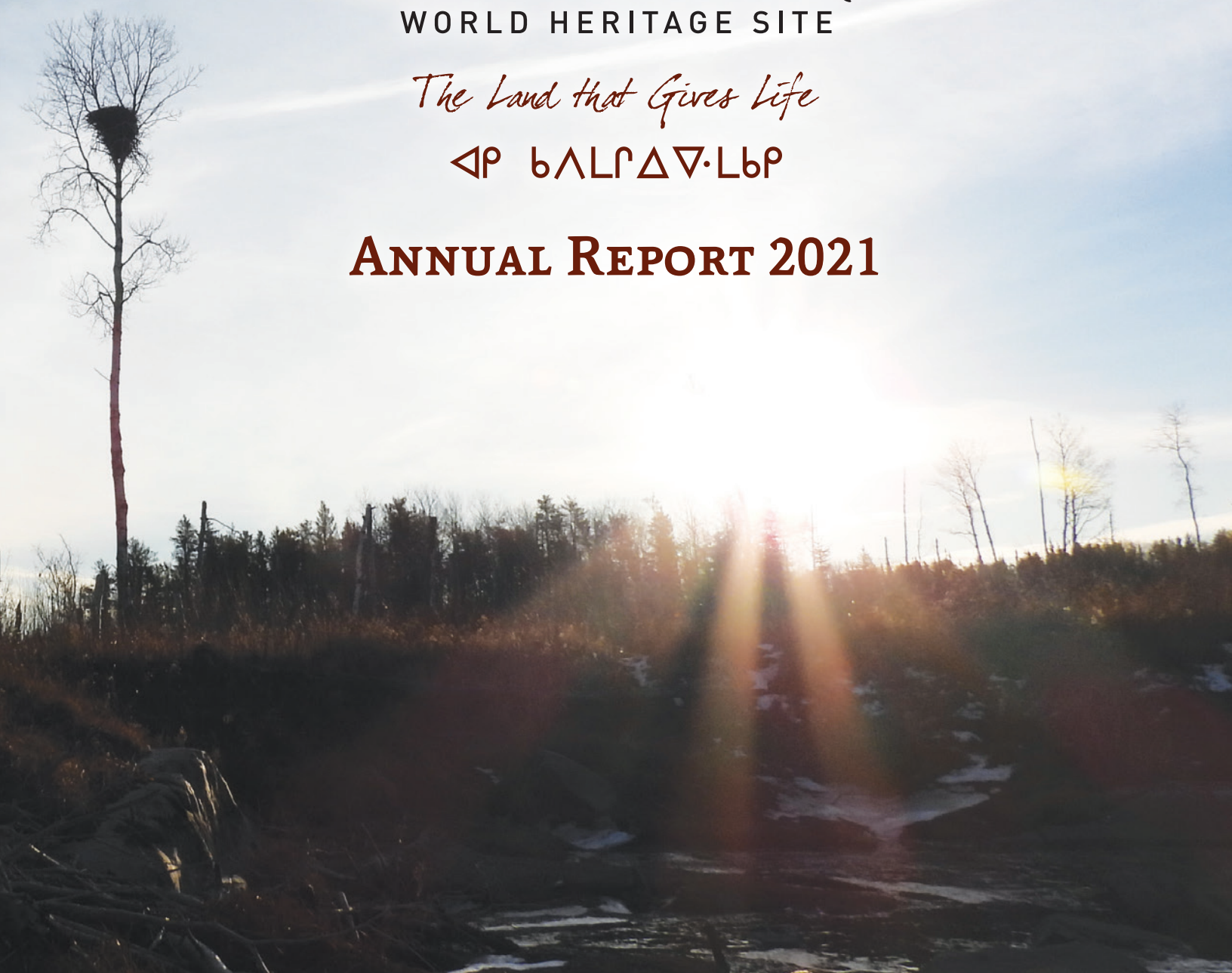




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WORLD HERITAGE SITE

*The Land that Gives Life*

QIP̓ b̓ʌlʀʔʔ·l̓b̓

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021**



# PIMACHIOWIN AKI IS OJIBWE FOR THE *Land that Gives Life* (pim MATCH – o win – a KEH)

## PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION

Pimachiowin Aki Corporation is a not-for-profit registered charity with a mandate to coordinate and integrate actions to protect and present the Outstanding Universal Value of an Anishinaabe cultural landscape and the global boreal biome.

Pimachiowin Aki is a 29,040 km<sup>2</sup> World Heritage Site in eastern Manitoba and northwestern Ontario. The site was inscribed on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) *World Heritage List* on July 1, 2018.

The Corporation is a partnership of the Anishinaabe First Nations of Bloodvein River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Poplar River, and the governments of Manitoba and Ontario

## OUR VISION

Pimachiowin Aki is celebrated for its cultural and natural values, and is regarded as a model of sustainability. Pimachiowin Aki Corporation is an organization that is recognized as a cross-cultural, community-based leader in the conservation of World Heritage.

## OUR MISSION

To acknowledge and support Anishinaabe culture and safeguard the boreal forest; preserving a living cultural landscape to ensure the well-being of Anishinaabeg, and for the benefit and enjoyment of all people.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Pimachiowin Aki  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2018



An aerial photograph of a dense forest. The trees are mostly green, but there are several clusters of trees with bright yellow foliage, indicating autumn. The forest floor is covered in a mix of green and brown, suggesting fallen leaves and undergrowth. The overall scene is a lush, natural landscape.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

On behalf of the Directors and Members of the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation, we are pleased to present the Corporation's Annual Report for 2021. It has been 16 years since the Corporation was established, and many more years since the partnership was created, and the vision of a World Heritage Site took shape. We are humbled and proud to represent those who have been with us since the beginning, and to welcome new partners in our mission to protect and promote Pimachiowin Aki. Together, we submit this report highlighting achievements and the financial position of the Corporation for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2021.

This is a story of continued leadership and innovation by Anishinaabe and provincial government partners. Looking back on the year, the Board of Directors and staff worked extensively and collaboratively to ensure financial sustainability, good governance and positive outcomes on all core programs, consistent with the Corporation's charitable mandate and purpose. This has been a year of evaluation and reflection, of learning exchanges, diverse contributors and lines of inquiry, a new fund dedicated to the Pimachiowin Aki Guardians, of pioneering work in monitoring and habitat mapping, and partnerships with universities and students across the world. We met unpredictable challenges related to the global pandemic and a record-breaking wildfire season with skill, dedication and commitment. As we continue to deliver on our strategic projects and make business process improvements, we reflect on the resourceful approaches we can take forward from our responses to these challenges.

Gichi miigwech, big thank you, to our Elders, Leaders, community members, the governments of Canada, Manitoba and Ontario, the Board of Directors and staff, and to our donors for your support in protecting Pimachiowin Aki's exceptional heritage. We extend huge appreciation and recognition to our Guardians for your care of people and places, and being out on the land every day. You are a great gift to us all. Special thanks also to the National Audubon Society for field guides, binoculars, the Climate Watch platform, instruction in survey methods, a summer internship program, and for sharing your ecotourism business experiences with us; to the University of Manitoba Natural Resources Institute for the opportunity to learn from each other about birds' ways of living and the messages they bring us about the land; to the American Philosophical Society for our digital repatriation partnership; to The Winnipeg Foundation for your expertise in managing our endowment; to ECOSTEM Ltd. for bringing all data together in one place, keeping it safe, and making it accessible; to PeaceWorks for information technology support, website development, and software solutions; and to our creative communications talent, Rhonda Bruchanski and Sherry Rasmussen, for helping us tell our stories and advancing our digital strategy. We have so much to be thankful for.

Please visit us at [pimaki.ca](http://pimaki.ca) and follow us on FaceBook, Instagram and Twitter to learn more, and share news and ideas.

Miigwech!

Bruce Bremner and William Young

**Bruce Bremner, Director**  
*Manitoba Government*

**William Young, Director**  
*Bloodvein River First Nation*





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

### CO-CHAIRS

**WILLIAM YOUNG** is the Director for Bloodvein River First Nation. William owns and operates Bloodvein River Lodge, offering fishing and guided tours of the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River. He is also a Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Program Coordinator. William is a former Chief, and served as Band Councillor for four terms.

**BRUCE BREMNER** represents the Government of Manitoba on the Board of the Directors. Bruce retired from his position as Assistant Deputy Minister of Regional Services and Parks in November 2017, but continues his role on the Board of Directors. Bruce worked for the Manitoba government for 39 years in a variety of positions including Park Ranger, Park Planner, Park Manager, Director of the Eastern Region and Assistant Deputy Minister.

### DIRECTORS

**AUGUSTINE KEEPER** is the Director for Little Grand Rapids First Nation and is the Coordinator of the Abbalak Thunderswift Memorial School bundles program. Born in Winnipeg, he was educated in both Little Grand Rapids and Winnipeg. Previously he was the Lands Coordinator for Little Grand Rapids First Nation and worked for several years at the nursing station in his community.

**MYLES PERCHUK** represents the Government of Ontario on the Board of Directors, and is the District Manager for the Red Lake District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Myles has been with the Red Lake Lake District for 18 years in various positions, including the Resource Operations Supervisor.

**JOE OWEN** is welcomed back as the Director for Pauingassi First Nation. Joe served as Chief for six years before becoming his community's Lands Coordinator. His varied career includes being a Health Care Representative taking care of birthing mothers and sick children before his community had a nursing station. Joe works closely with Pauingassi leadership and the Pimachiowin Aki Guardian for his community.

**ED HUDSON** is the Director for Poplar River First Nation, the Treasurer of the Corporation, and a Councillor for the First Nation's government. Ed is a business owner and managed transportation, housing, education and training projects for his community. He has also served as a Justice of the Peace and Magistrate.

### STAFF

**ALISON HAUGH** is the Executive Director of the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation. She manages the day-to-day operations of the Corporation and reports to the Board of Directors. Previously, Alison held positions in the Manitoba public service in land use planning and management, and worked as a consultant to First Nations and First Nation organizations in Canada in various capacities.



## PIMACHIOWIN AKI WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site is a 29,040 square kilometre boreal forest Anishinaabe cultural landscape spanning the Manitoba-Ontario border. The site includes ancestral lands of the Bloodvein River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Poplar River First Nations. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve (Ontario), and Atikaki Provincial Park (Manitoba) complete the site.





© Melba Green

Great blue heron, a species of conservation concern and one of 220 bird species that rely on Pimachiowin Aki for survival each year.

Pimachiowin Aki (pronounced pim-MATCH-o-win ah-KEH) means “the land that gives life”, and “living the good life on the land”. Pimachiowin Aki is a place that represents an ancient, enduring, and sustainable kinship between culture and nature.

This is Manitoba’s first World Heritage site, and Canada’s first and only mixed World Heritage site, recognized for both cultural and natural values. Less than 1% of all World Heritage sites are in the same category as Pimachiowin Aki.

Pimachiowin Aki is an exceptional example of:

- a landscape that provides testimony to the cultural tradition of Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan, reflected through Anishinaabe interactions with the land, such as pictographs and other archaeological and ceremonial sites, travel routes, cabin and camp sites, traplines, named places, Anishinaabemowin (speaking the Ojibwe language), knowledge, beliefs and practices; and
- the global boreal biome, and is the best example of the ecological and biological diversity of the North American boreal shield ecozone, fully supporting wildfire, nutrient flow and species movements and predator-prey relationships. Large protected areas like Pimachiowin Aki are necessary to maintain ecological processes and integrity, build resilience to climate change, and maintain networks of sites supporting Indigenous livelihoods and cultural traditions.



## 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Pimachiowin Aki Corporation is pleased to announce the successful delivery of its 2020 Annual General Meeting, held virtually on Tuesday, December 22, 2020. The agenda included remarks from the Co-Chairs, approval of the financial statements, review of all activities of the past year and discussion of actions and strategies for the Corporation for the next year.

The Board of Directors welcomed Chief Roddy Owens (Pauingassi First Nation), Traditional Lands/Lands Guardian Program Coordinator and Advisor to Pimachiowin Aki, Ray Rabliauskas (Poplar River First Nation), and the Corporation's Auditor, Mark Single (ON Business Chartered Professional Accountants Inc.).

Throughout the year, many invitations were extended and many inquiries were received to attend an in-person meeting. We have seen a few action items languish on meeting minutes as we waited for the opportunity to meet in a safe environment. The Annual General Meeting is an important part of what we do, our biggest opportunity to share information, challenges and successes, and ensure all voices are heard. The Board looks forward to meeting with the broader membership of Pimachiowin Aki as soon as Covid-19 no longer presents a risk.

## PIMACHIOWIN AKI PROGRAM AREAS

### Monitoring

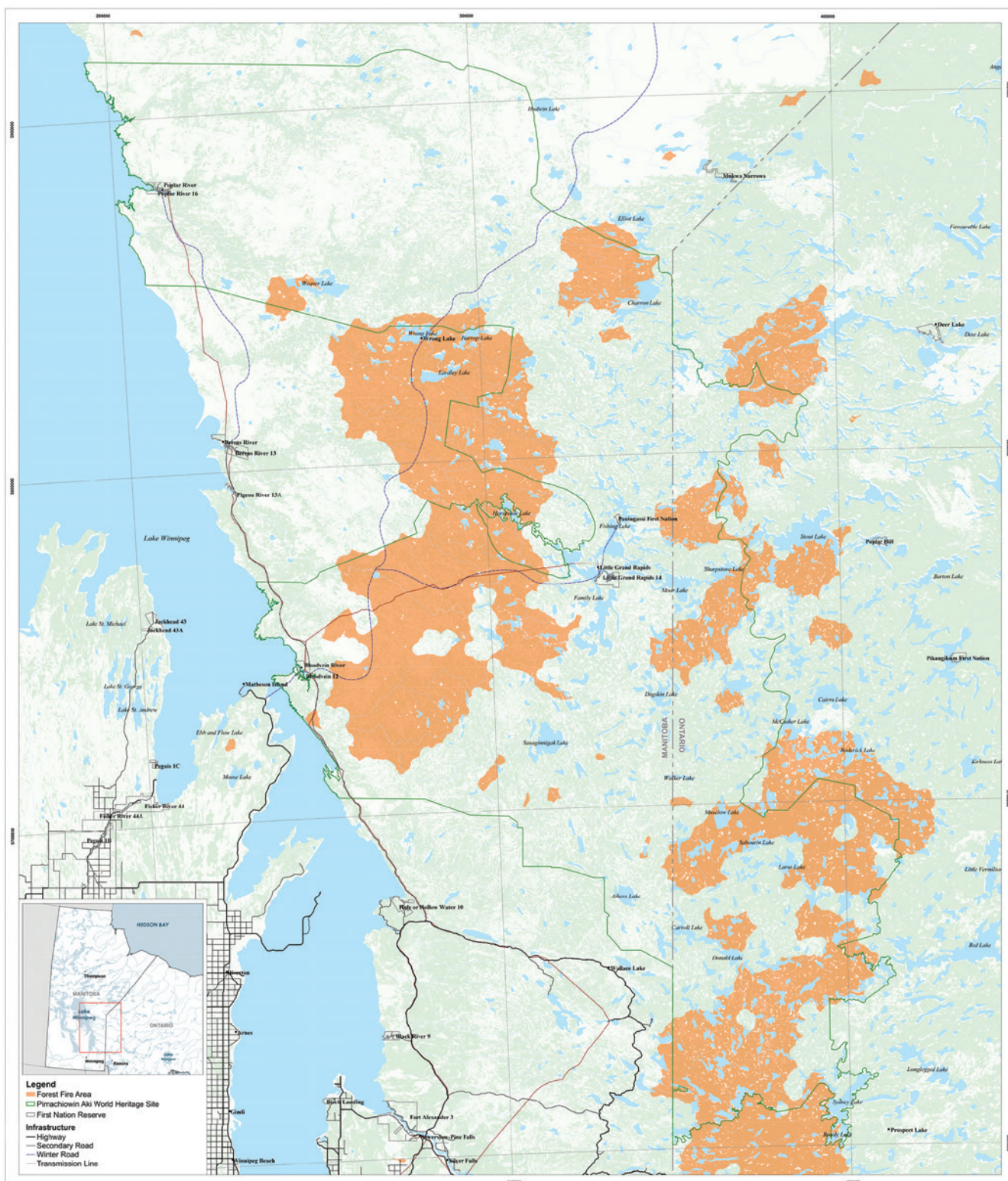
This was the second year of the Corporation's participation in the Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program, supported by the Government of Canada and the First Nations-Federal Pilot Joint Working Group on Guardians. Pimachiowin Aki Guardians were active for many years preceding the Pilot Program, and continued to be crucial to the success of the Corporation's Monitoring Program.

Highlights of Monitoring Program outcomes this year were:

- full-time Guardians monitored the cultural landscape and ecosystem health in Pimachiowin Aki, engaging and educating future leaders in protection of the site along the way. Monitoring trips were completed as planned; however due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and an unprecedented wildfire season, it was difficult for community

members to share information with Guardians, for Guardians to work together as a network, and for Guardians to have hands-on training opportunities. Despite these challenges, Guardians kept connected to the land and with each other, demonstrating individual and collective ability and adaptability;







© Jesse Belle

(left to right) Brad Bushie with Dennis Bittern and Norway Rabliauskas of the Poplar River First Nation Lands Guardian program.

- Pimachiowin Aki Guardians participated in an online training course, and shared information about bird species and climate change observations through Climate Watch, an online, GIS story map developed with the National Audubon Society;
- a list of birds of interest for monitoring in Pimachiowin Aki was compiled, and a bird identification booklet with bird names in Anishinaabemowin was published with researchers at the University of Manitoba;
- throughout the year, Guardians coordinated and contributed to community meetings and presentations to students about the World Heritage site and Guardians' roles and responsibilities;
- during the evacuations in July and August 2021, Guardians in Bloodvein River and Little Grand Rapids First Nations stayed behind to monitor fires;
- In Poplar River First Nation, Guardians deployed a drone to monitor Lake Winnipeg algal blooms and shoreline erosion;



© Melba Green

Heavy smoke billows above Bloodvein River First Nation.

- habitat mapping using remote sensing datasets, and a drone with georeferencing capability, was initiated to extend and enhance monitoring activities across the site;
- land laws documented by Pimachiowin Aki First Nations were distributed in communities and on social media, including laws about spring fishing, black bears, moose, wolves, and trapping;





Drones collected roughly 9,000 photos and 37 minutes of video in Pimachiowin Aki.

- work continued on development and refinement of the information management system and monitoring framework for the site. Pimachiowin Aki's vast information and data library is organized, accessible, and protected;
- ideas and priorities for the creation of a permanent National First Nations Guardians network and governance structure were shared through a survey, a series of virtual camps, and during an engagement session with the Indigenous Leadership Initiative and National Consortium for Indigenous Economic Development at the University of Victoria;
- skills and capacity among Guardians were further developed in record-keeping, equipment operation, survey methodologies, photography, and data interpretation;
- Pimachiowin Aki participated in a research project being carried out by Canadian and United Kingdom commissions for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the use of mapping as a tool to share information, build capacity, and improve long-term conservation of World Heritage;
- The Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) - Bloodvein River 10-year Monitoring Report was completed this year with contributions from Pimachiowin Aki partners. Monitoring the Bloodvein River and adapting the CHRS monitoring approach to the cultural waterways of Pimachiowin Aki is a World Heritage Site Management Plan priority. The report's Executive Summary and Conclusion are available in Anishinaabemowin.



At the end of the reporting year, the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation received encouraging news of a federal pre-election funding commitment for a national Guardians network. The Corporation is well-positioned to continue Guardians operations and the overall Monitoring Program, and recently created a working group to develop a budget and workplan for future years, building upon the investment the Corporation and its funding partners have made to date.



Pimachiowin Aki Guardian Colin Owens of Pauingassi First Nation.

## Safeguarding Cultural Heritage

Place names, also called toponyms, are Anishinaabe associations with Pimachiowin Aki, connecting people with the physical landscape, language, culture, history and heritage. Following completion of the Poplar River Traditional Places Names map last year, work began on the next series of maps: a first draft of the Bloodvein River Traditional Place Names map was completed; and workshops with Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations members were held in the summer of 2021 while people were in Winnipeg during fire evacuation orders. The Pimachiowin Aki Corporation gratefully acknowledges our Elders and many community members for sharing their knowledge, the Pimachiowin Aki Directors and Guardians for leading these projects, and Lost Art Cartography for digital design and print publication.



Community members share knowledge of places on the landscape at a Traditional Place Names mapping workshop.

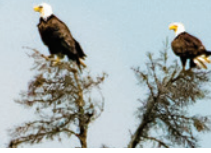




Bloodvein River First Nation Traditional Place Names Map, in development.

The Corporation was also pleased to initiate publication of a book and online series of cultural landscape studies prepared for the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage site nomination, a priority identified by the partners years ago. A two-year draft timeline and budget has been developed to complete this work.

The Corporation continued to support opportunities for youth in experiential land-based learning. A new program called Gikino'amawaan oshkaadiziig (teaching youth net fishing under the ice) was delivered by the Guardian for Pauingassi First Nation with supplies provided by the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation. It is anticipated this program will continue for many years to come.



Ice fishing in Pauingassi First Nation.

© Colin Owens

In-kind contributions to the Manitoba Museum's Nametwaawin – Land and Language Project were provided by the Corporation again this year. Nametwaawin means the concept of making a presence known. The Project is providing educational materials for the four Pimachiowin Aki First Nation schools, including: resources for Anishinaabemowin and syllabic literacy; a list of local plants, how to identify them, and their uses; audio-visual documentation of land uses; a catalogue on the artifacts in the museum's Pauingassi collection; and a book of historical photographs from the Little Grand Rapids area.

Throughout the year, maps were produced using data from the Pimachiowin Aki Information Management System on various themes including registered trapline sections, extent of wildfires, and travel routes. Data and information collected by Pimachiowin Aki First Nations years ago have become powerful mnemonic prompts for community members engaged in current research and mapping projects.

Full consideration of Anishinaabemowin, Anishinaabe knowledge, beliefs and teachings was given in protective measures, communications materials, visitor education and interpretive programs. Customary laws, knowledge, beliefs and practices are defined in

Anishinaabemowin, and Anishinaabemowin continued to be prominent in Pimachiowin Aki communities, publications, programs and at all meetings of the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation.

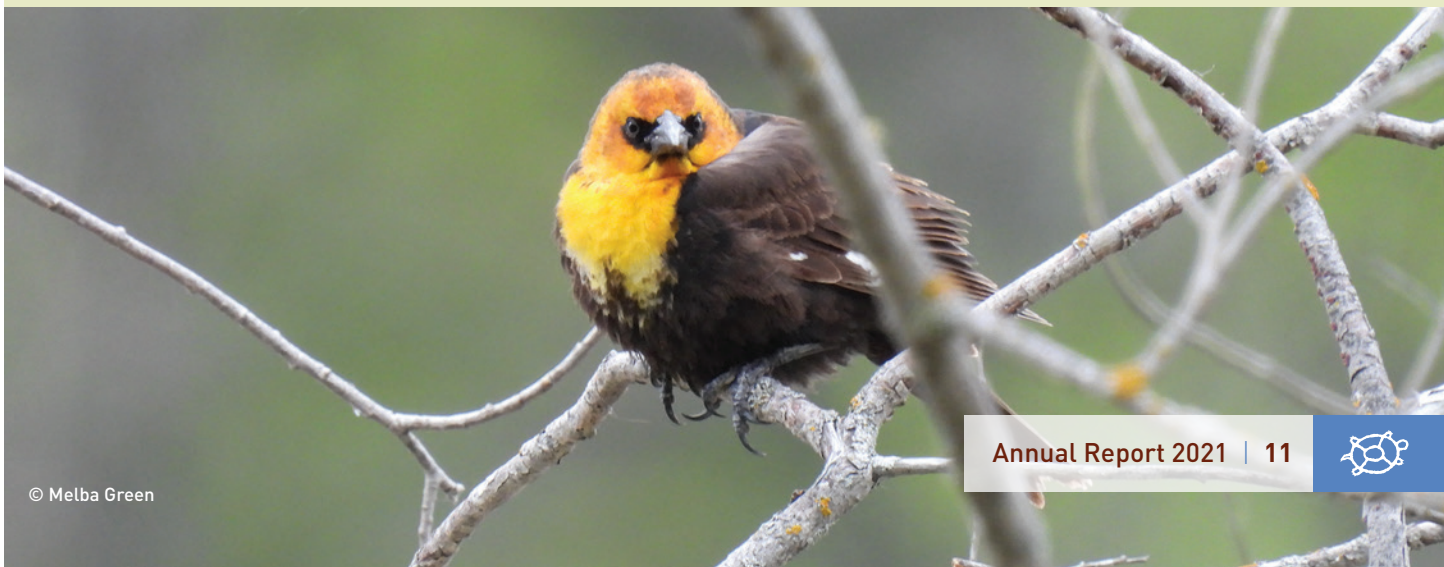
## Conserving Ecosystems

Inscription of a site on the *World Heritage List* under natural criteria entails a responsibility to monitor indicators of ecosystem health. As bird communities in Pimachiowin Aki indicate overall habitat quality, and because they travel long distances across the site and create cost-effective solutions for the Conserving Ecosystems Program, they have been chosen as indicators to help us achieve Program goals. Birds also play a significant role in setting conservation action priorities for the ecosystems they occupy.

The reporting year began with a meeting of Pimachiowin Aki Guardians and a University of Manitoba Professor and PhD student to advance the "Monitoring Habitat Intactness and Climate Change Resilience in Pimachiowin Aki Using Bird Communities" project, pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2020. The project involves co-production of western and Indigenous knowledge and management systems and includes quantitative bird surveys, story mapping, bird identification cards, and a GIS database about migratory birds, habitat types, and fire histories for Pimachiowin Aki and surrounding areas. Community-based training in bird identification and surveys is being planned for when Covid-19 restrictions ease. The University has accessed funding to cover all costs of the project, including training, bird identification cards, travel, and a supervised intern.

The Poplar River First Nation Traditional Lands/Lands Guardian Program continued to use Songmeters to

Pimachiowin Aki Guardians and the Natural Resources Institute are working together to observe birds and discover what they can tell us about the health of the land.



© Melba Green



collect recordings of signing birds and decide what areas are best suited for - and most in need of future - bird inventory and monitoring efforts. The Guardian for Poplar River First Nation was part of a video series that followed the migration of Canada Warblers from South America to the Boreal. These initiatives highlight the importance of large landscapes like Pimachiowin Aki in protecting habitat that allows healthy populations of birds, wildlife and plants to survive and adapt to a changing climate.

With support from Pimachiowin Aki Corporation and the National Audubon Society Boreal Conservation Program, Bloodvein River First Nation students participated in a summer internship to document natural history and spent time with the Guardian for their community to learn more about what Guardians do. Wildfires and low water levels shortened the range of field activities and meant more time was spent learning about birds, plants, fish, insects, and wildlife closer to home.

At an international level, Pimachiowin Aki was part of an assessment of natural World Heritage sites conducted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The assessment was conducted to determine if conservation prospects of sites are improving or deteriorating. The conservation outlook of Pimachiowin Aki was given the top rating. Pimachiowin Aki partners also contributed survey responses to help update the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage, further to the World Heritage Committee's Decision 40 COM 7.

## Supporting Sustainable Economies

The Pimachiowin Aki Corporation continued to place conservation in wider ecological and social contexts through direct employment of community-based Guardians and Coordinators, and through investigation into ecologically and cultural sustainable opportunities for local economic development and enhancement of Anishinaabe land-based livelihoods. Directors and Members of the Corporation engaged in discussions throughout the year about business models and plans, building on a concept plan and interpretive themes developed last year.

The Board welcomed the National Audubon Society's Vice President of Boreal Conservation, the Managing Director for the Seabird Restoration Program, and a Camp Program Manager to learn about nature-based tourism businesses, and inform development

of sustainable tourism enterprises in Pimachiowin Aki. Information about Hog Island, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch, and Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch programs were shared with the Pimachiowin Aki partners.

The Pimachiowin Aki Corporation was chosen as a case study exemplifying best practice in the sustainable management of heritage sites by Our World Heritage, a grassroots initiative and series of debates leading up to a major global event and conference on the 50th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in April 2022. The Pimachiowin Aki Director for Bloodvein River First Nation, and Poplar River First Nation Advisor to Pimachiowin Aki were keynote speakers at the Indigenous Perspectives on Sustainability Forum hosted by Our World Heritage. The Pimachiowin Aki Executive Director participated in the North American case studies workshop and North America-Europe-Asia workshop. The debates are also being used to frame discussions around the drafting and implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy.



Pimachiowin Aki presents at the Our World Heritage Sustainability Workshop.

## Information, Education and Communications

The 1972 World Heritage Convention encourages its signatories to strengthen the appreciation of World Heritage sites and enhance their protection through education and information programs. Highlights of our Information, Education and Communications Program achievements this year are:

- Pimachiowin Aki Corporation was chosen as a solutions-provider for a new Nature-Culture Thematic Community coordinated by the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee: IUCN (international Union for the Conservation of Nature), ICCROM (International Centre for the

Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites). The purpose of this community is to connect World Heritage site managers and others to promote and exchange solutions being implemented in places where the interlinkages between nature and culture are significant. This initiative belongs to the fourth and fifth components of the World Heritage Leadership Programme funded by the Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

- on-camera interviews were coordinated with Pimachiowin Aki community members for a documentary to raise awareness of the importance of Canada's boreal forests. The film is written and directed by an accomplished actor, teacher, filmmaker, and Co-Chair of the Los Angeles chapter of the Climate Reality Project. The film is entitled, "The Issue with Tissue", and is scheduled for release in 2022.



Elder Leslie Orvis Sr. and William Young are interviewed for the documentary film "The Issue with Tissue."

- Content and photos were shared with several publications throughout the year including: a video series, magazine and learning tool on environmental history and indigenous stewardship developed by Historica Canada for Canada History Week; an article about Reserves in Manitoba for the Canadian Encyclopedia; an article for Youth Mind Magazine entitled, "Keeping the land: Sharing Indigenous stories of place"; and a story about World Heritage sites in Canada for CAA Magazine;
- The Corporation's Executive Director was a guest speaker at an experiential education course in

public history at York University;

- Pimachiowin Aki Directors, Guardians, Advisors, and the Executive Director were interviewed for several academic research projects, including:
  - A study of Indigenous protected and conserved areas by a fourth-year journalism student at Carleton University;
  - An analysis of the Canadian government's Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program by a Master of Arts student at University of Northern British Columbia;
  - a project about cultural heritage interpretation at mixed World Heritage sites by a PhD student at Ulster University;
  - a project on co-governance and the importance of Indigenous knowledge systems in leading World Heritage management, and the relationship between site management and Indigenous cultural continuity, by a PhD student at University College Dublin; and
  - a report on how climate action can be integrated with sustainable management of World Heritage Sites by the intern for the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) Sustainable Development Goals Working Group.

In respect of marketing communications, the Corporation's efforts focused on collaborating with people from within and beyond Pimachiowin Aki to create quality digital content that is building global awareness. Below are highlights of the year:

- we worked with community members to create web pages that profile each First Nation in Pimachiowin Aki. The profiles cover community-specific topics such as history, language, economy, cultural sites, and things to do;

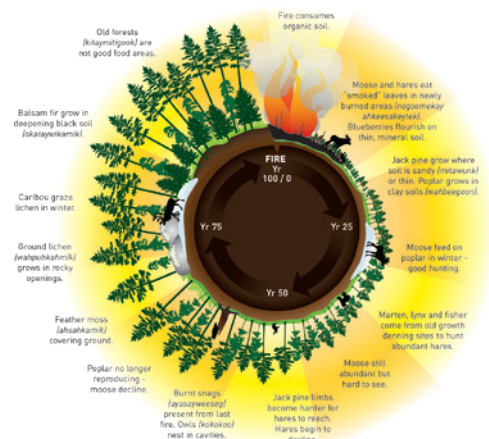
**Our Facebook post linking to the Bloodvein First Nation web profile page reached 7,246 people and garnered 117 engagements (clicks, likes, comments, shares)**

- we honoured National Indigenous History Month by posting short social media videos that feature quotes from people in Pimachiowin Aki about what Keeping the Land means to them;





- our spring newsletter featured the Pimachiowin Aki Director for Pauingassi First Nation who shared examples of how Anishinaabe culture thrives in his community;
- the Guardian for Bloodvein River First Nation helped us create a series of language videos so that people can hear how to pronounce common Anishinaabemowin words;
- the Guardian for Poplar River First Nation explained the importance of taking youth on a five-day knowledge-sharing trip to Pinesewapikung Sagaigan (Weaver Lake);
- Guardians who stayed in their communities as wildfires roared across Manitoba and Ontario reported on their experiences and the impacts of wildfire;



**Our Facebook post featuring the “100 Years of Resources Following a Wildfire” infographic reached 2,971 people and garnered 208 engagements**

- Guardians and a Professor and a PhD student at the University of Manitoba Natural Resources Institute discussed working together to observe birds and discover what they can tell us about the health of the land;
- the Land-Based Instructor at Miskooseepi School in Bloodvein River First Nation shared the

importance of connecting traditional teachings to the classroom through hands-on activities such as dog sledding;

- we interviewed the filmmaker who interviewed us for his documentary about how the boreal forest is being clear-cut to produce toilet paper;

**Pimachiowin Aki’s seasonal newsletter audience grew to 586 subscribers. We gained 168 newsletter subscribers this year—more than double the number of subscribers gained in 2019-20**

- we collaborated with Nature Canada to support their blog about Pimachiowin Aki’s journey to becoming Canada’s first and only mixed cultural and natural UNESCO World Heritage site;

**f 348**

**Followers gained for a total of 1401**

**Instagram 4,835**

**Estimated number of people who saw our posts or stories at least once**

**Twitter 133**

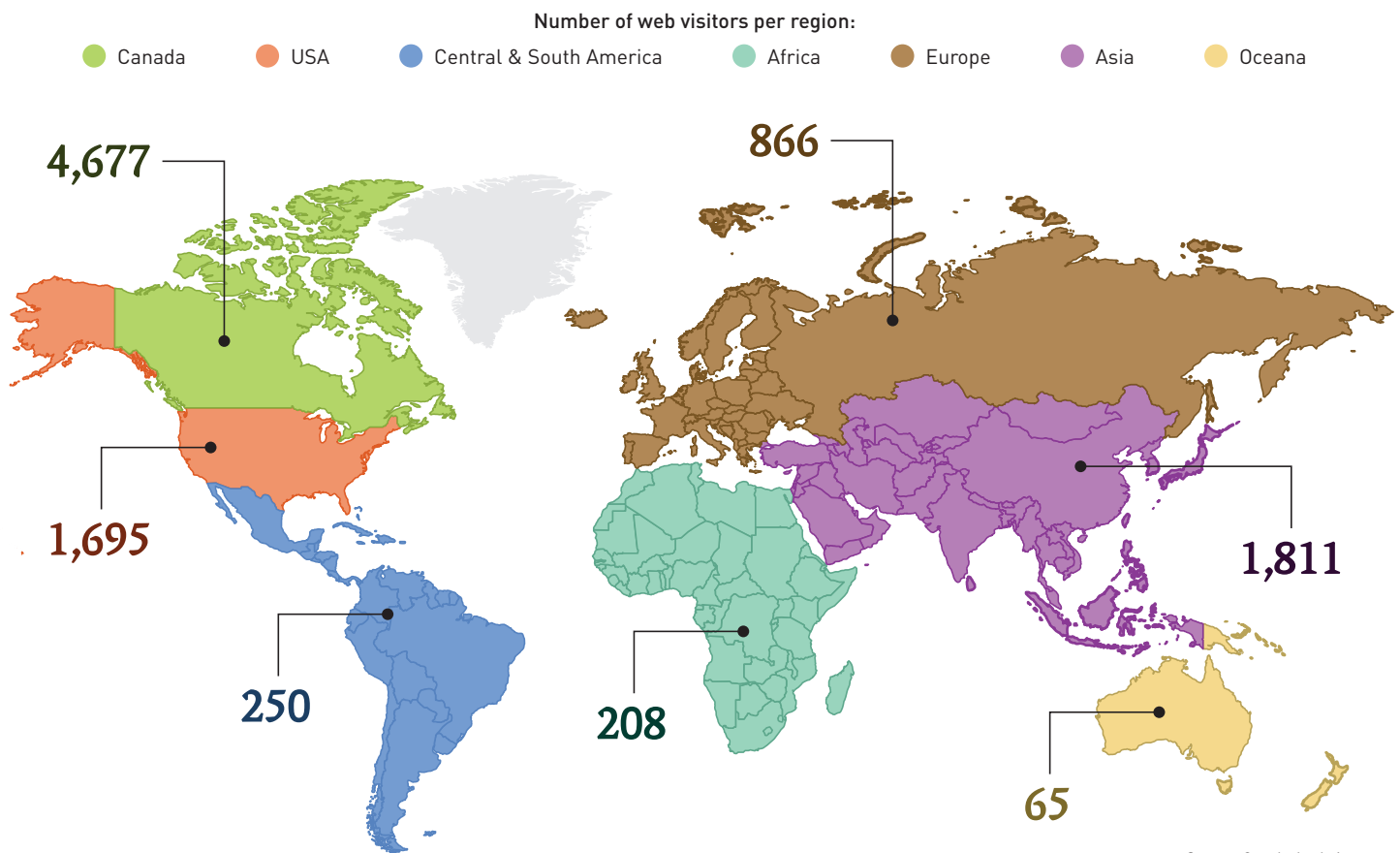
**Followers gained for a total of 331**

- we coordinated social media activities with the Indigenous Leadership Initiative’s *Land Needs Guardians* campaign to help generate long-term support for Indigenous Guardians programs; and
- we shared Pimachiowin Aki photos and social media posts with Parks Canada to promote Canadian World Heritage.



**pimaki.ca**

received more than 9,500 visitors from 144 countries



Source: Google Analytics

The majority of **pimaki.ca** visitors are located in North America, though visitors span the globe.





© Melba Green

An eye-catching winter scene in Bloodvein River First Nation.

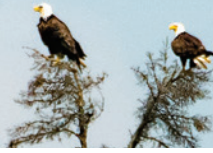
## Governance and Financial Sustainability

The Board of Directors is pleased to report that the Corporation again performed all essential functions necessary to fulfill its mission. For the second year, no significant Covid-19 adaptations were required, other than virtual meetings replaced the gatherings we miss very much. The Corporation demonstrated its resilience by managing an active and informed governance structure; keeping administration and overhead costs low; securing a diverse range of resources; practising strong fiscal management; streamlining processes for payables and receivables; strengthening its cash position, approvals and controls; and evolving core programs and operations to align with priorities of its Members.

An important question about governance was raised this year about consensus decision-making: how does the Board of Directors reconcile the procedure prescribed by the Corporation's General By-law and a consensus decision-making process to allow for and encourage a continuum of responses, acceptable resolution, and full agreement wherever possible in making decisions in the best interests of the partnership as a whole? Guiding principles were documented, including: collaboration and information-

sharing are critical to the partnership; consensus does not necessarily mean that everyone agrees, but rather that no one disagrees; any person will not speak for any other person, and will not act in a manner that would hinder anyone who is in favour of a decision; and ultimately that the decision-making process reflects Ji-gichi-inenimidiyang, the principle in Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan of maintaining respectful relationships with other people. The Board recommended that the Corporation's decision-making process be clarified in a policy paper, guideline or addendum to the By-law, and that a workshop be convened as soon as an in-person meeting of Pimachiowin Aki Directors and Members is possible.

This year, the Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Fund was established with a contribution from a private donor. The new Fund is part of the existing agency agreement with The Winnipeg Foundation, with income earned on its investment dedicated to the work of the Guardians. For the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund and the new Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Fund, The Winnipeg Foundation's eleven month rate of return was 18.63%. We are impressed with the steady growth in both funds, and grateful for the vision and support of our donor community.



## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The attached Financial Statements show the position of the Pimachiowin Aki Corporation at the end of its fiscal year, August 31, 2021.

### **PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**

#### **Financial Statements**

**Year Ended August 31, 2021**





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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To the Members of Pimachiowin Aki Corporation

### *Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Pimachiowin Aki Corporation (the Corporation), which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2021, and the statements of revenues and expenditures, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Corporation as at August 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### *Basis for Opinion*

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

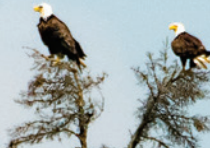
### *Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financial reporting process.

(continues)



Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Pimachiowin Aki Corporation *(continued)*

*Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
December 1, 2021

Chartered Professional Accountants Inc.





**PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**

**Statement of Financial Position**

**August 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 918,828	\$ 892,800
Accounts receivable (Note 3)	4,074	7,049
Prepaid expenses	15,089	199
	<b>\$ 937,991</b>	<b>\$ 900,048</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 120,353	\$ 102,753
Wages payable	4,837	4,220
Government remittances payable	6,049	2,322
Deferred contributions (Note 4)	801,227	785,228
	<b>932,466</b>	<b>894,523</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>5,525</b>	<b>5,525</b>
	<b>\$ 937,991</b>	<b>\$ 900,048</b>

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD**

*Myles Perchuk*

Digitally signed by Myles Perchuk  
DN: cn=, o=, ou=Government of Ontario,  
ou=People, serialNumber=OSAP109806,  
cn=Myles Perchuk  
Date: 2021.12.22 16:17:36 -0500

Director

*[Signature]*

Director

*[Signature]*

Director

*A/S*

Director

*[Signature]*

Director

*[Signature]*

Director

**PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Year Ended August 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Environment and Climate Change Canada	\$ 290,300	\$ 185,300
Winnipeg Foundation distribution ( <i>Note 5</i> )	197,289	290,540
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	68,100	73,100
Audubon Summer Internship Grant	8,145	-
Donations	164	-
	<b>563,998</b>	<b>548,940</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Communications	42,237	10,828
Consulting fees	-	6,089
Courier and postage	2,276	1,254
GIS support	2,843	-
Informing and educating public	4,545	27,016
Insurance	3,116	2,788
Interest and bank charges	674	505
Meals and entertainment	-	164
Monitoring	312,030	257,425
Office	9,040	7,940
Professional fees	26,768	38,263
Safeguarding cultural heritage	1,520	9,775
Salaries and benefits	146,490	131,767
Telephone	4,503	5,669
Travel and accommodations	7,956	49,457
	<b>563,998</b>	<b>548,940</b>
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>





**PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**  
**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
**Year Ended August 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 5,525	\$ 5,525
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 5,525	\$ 5,525



**PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

**Year Ended August 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	2,975	(1,910)
Prepaid expenses	(14,890)	-
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	17,600	74,840
Wages payable	617	111
Government remittances payable	3,727	(2,797)
Deferred contributions	15,999	183,879
	26,028	254,123
<b>INCREASE IN CASH FLOW</b>	26,028	254,123
<b>CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	892,800	638,677
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	\$ 918,828	\$ 892,800





## PIMACHIWIN AKI CORPORATION

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2021

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#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE CORPORATION

Pimachiowin Aki Corporation (the "Corporation") is a not-for-profit organization federally incorporated in Canada. The Corporation is a registered charity, and accordingly is exempt from the payment of income tax under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act.

The corporation operates to protect and present the cultural landscape of an area east of Lake Winnipeg recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

##### Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPPO).

##### Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

##### Financial instruments policy

##### *Measurement of financial instruments*

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when acquired or issued. In subsequent periods, financial assets with actively traded markets are reported at fair value, with any unrealized gains and losses reported in income. All other financial instruments are reported at amortized cost, and tested for impairment at each reporting date. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale, or issue of financial instruments are expensed when incurred.

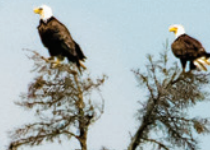
Financial instruments measured at amortized cost include cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and government remittances payable.

It is management's opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency or credit risks arising from its financial instruments.

##### Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization. The estimated useful lives, residual values and amortization methods are reviewed if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount may not be recoverable. Fixed assets are amortized over their estimated useful lives on a straight-line basis.

(continues)



## PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2021

#### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

##### Revenue recognition

Pimachiowin Aki Corporation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Government funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada, Manitoba Conservation and Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources is recognized as revenue when the terms of the respective agreements are met, related expenses are incurred and collection is reasonably assured.

Funding from Audubon is recognized as revenue when the terms of the agreement are met and collection is reasonably assured.

Winnipeg Foundation distributions are recognized when related expenses are incurred, the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Miscellaneous income is recognized as revenue in the period it is received

#### 3. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2021	2020
Goods and services tax receivable	\$ 4,074	\$ 7,049

#### 4. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS

Deferred contribution relate to externally restricted contributions received or generated in the current or prior periods to fund related expenses in future periods as follows:

	2020	Additions	Revenue Recognized	2021
Environment and Climate Change Canada	\$ 185,150	\$ 320,300	\$ 290,300	\$ 215,150
The Winnipeg Foundation	545,598	237,768	197,289	586,077
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	54,480	13,620	68,100	-
Audubon Summer Internship Grant	-	8,145	8,145	-
	\$ 785,228	\$ 579,833	\$ 563,834	\$ 801,227





## **PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**

### **Notes to Financial Statements**

**Year Ended August 31, 2021**

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#### **5. WINNIPEG FOUNDATION**

In 2010 the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund was established at The Winnipeg Foundation. As of September 30, 2020, the year-end of The Winnipeg Foundation, there was a total of \$3,340,281 in contributed capital to the fund with a market value of \$4,968,940. The current spending policy rate is 5% (2020 - 5%) distributed annually, with the allocated spending amounts for 2021 set at \$237,769. Funds received through distributions from The Winnipeg Foundation are restricted in use per the fund agreement and Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund Act C.C.S.M c.P70. Fund revenue is recognized as expenses are incurred related to the purpose of the organization, and any remaining amounts recorded as a deferred contribution.

#### **6. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE**

The organization's primary source of funding is through grants. The organization's ability to continue viable operations is dependent upon maintaining these grants.

#### **7. COMPARATIVE FIGURES**

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.



**PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**

**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures by Program (Unaudited)**

*(Schedule 1)*

**Year Ended August 31, 2021**

	2021	2020
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Environment and Climate Change Canada	\$ 290,300	\$ 185,300
Winnipeg Foundation distribution	197,289	290,540
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	68,100	73,100
Audubon Summer Internship Grant	8,145	-
Donations	164	-
	<b>563,998</b>	<b>548,940</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Communications	42,237	20,800
Economic diversification	-	721
General administration	203,384	202,803
Governance	-	881
Informing and educating public	4,545	27,016
Monitoring	312,312	286,944
Safeguarding cultural heritage	1,520	9,775
	<b>563,998</b>	<b>548,940</b>
<b>INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>





## THANK YOU TO OUR DONOR COMMUNITY

The Board of Directors is tremendously grateful for the growing community of generous and loyal donors who contributed to the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund and the newly created Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Fund this year:

- Anonymous (monthly)
- Devona Adams
- Christine Caligiuri
- Genevieve Eden
- Richard M. Farthing-Nichol
- Irene Fogarty
- Susan Fonseca, in memory of Lawrence “Teddy Boy” Houle
- Doug Gilmore
- Paul Hogue
- Gord Jones
- Siegfried and Tannis Laser
- Conor Mullally
- Christina Priest (quarterly), in memory of Mary Beaver, Batchewana First Nation
- Sherry Rasmussen
- Jonathan Rudin
- Don Sullivan
- Christopher Sunde

### SPECIAL THANKS ALSO TO:

- The Winnipeg Foundation, for matching grants applied to the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund and the Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Fund; and
- CanadaHelps, for donations made through their Partner Giving Programs.

Miigwech, thank you, for sustaining our mission to safeguard Anishinaabe cultural heritage and the boreal forest for the benefit of all humanity, for today and forever.

To make a donation, and for information about the impact your donations have, please visit us at [pimaki.ca](https://pimaki.ca).



**pimaki.ca**





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