

PIMACHIOWIN AKI WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Land that Gives Life **DP BALPDV.LBP**

Annual Report 2023



PIMACHIOWIN AKI IS OJIBWE FOR THE Land that Gives Life

(pim MATCH – o win – a KEH)

Our Vision and Mission

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

Pimachiowin Aki is a 29,040 km² 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.

Pimachiowin Aki 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 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.







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WAAJIYE!

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Welcome to our Annual Report for 2023

This year, we celebrate 5 years as a World Heritage Site! We reaffirm our commitment to preserve and promote this place of natural beauty and the cultural traditions of Anishinaabeg who care for this land.

Every year our efforts and connections grow. We are proud of our accomplishments this year, and know that there is much more to do. This Annual Report presents just some of the highlights and examples of the work the Board of Directors and Secretariat have undertaken this year on behalf of the Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners. Together with the First Nations of Bloodvein River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi and Poplar River, the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario, our donor community, project funders, and many individuals who share their time and talents with us, we are enthusiastic about our mission and remain confident we can make a positive difference for the people and places of Pimachiowin Aki.

To ensure Pimachiowin Aki is cared for, and its importance is understood and celebrated, the partnership continues to run six core programs:



This Report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the Board of Directors and Secretariat, on behalf of all Members of the Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners, over the past year.





Who We Are

The Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site is managed with the support and advice of a Board of Directors, whose members are:

CO-CHAIRS

WILLIAM YOUNG is the Director for Bloodvein River First Nation. William is a former Chief, and served as a Councillor for four terms. He also worked as a Guardians Program Coordinator, and is currently the Land-based Learning Facilitator for his community.

DIRECTORS

AUGUSTINE KEEPER is the Director for Little Grand Rapids First Nation and is the Director of Education for the Abbalak Thunderswift Memorial School. 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.

(late) JOE OWEN served as the Director for Pauingassi First Nation for many years before his passing on 14 August 2023. Joe will always be remembered for his leadership, kindness, attentiveness, sense of humour, and great interest in the well-being of his community and Pimachiowin Aki. He leaves the Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners a stronger organization and is dearly missed by us all.

ED HUDSON is the Director for Poplar River First Nation, the Treasurer of the organization, and a Councillor for the Poplar River 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. **BRUCE BREMNER** represents the Government of Manitoba on the Board of 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. 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.

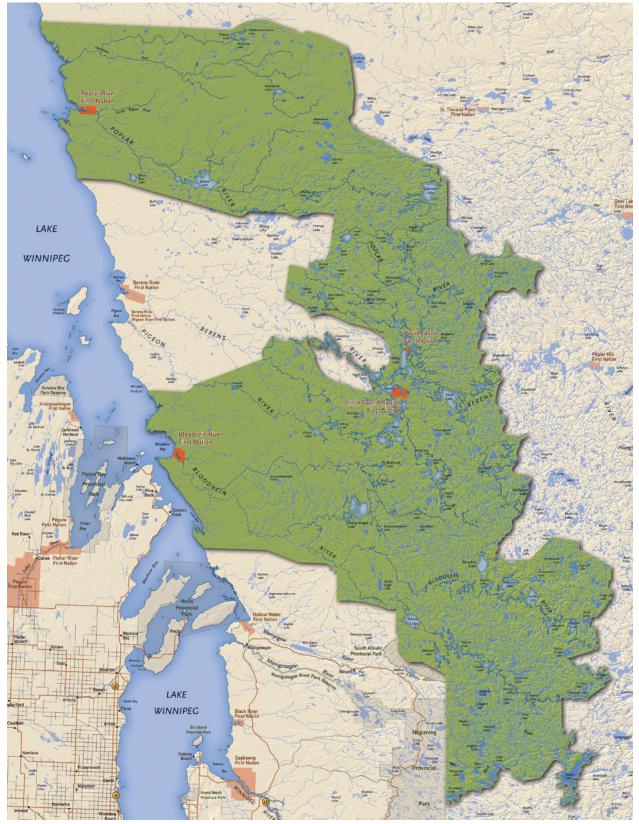
MYLES PERCHUK represents the Government of Ontario on the Board of Directors, and is the District Manager for the Red Lake – Sioux Lookout District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Myles has been with the District for 20 years in various positions, including Resource Operations Supervisor.

BENSON PASCAL was appointed as Director for Pauingassi First Nation on 28 August 2023. Benson is Councillor for the First Nation's government, currently serving his third consecutive term. Previously he worked as a water plant operator, and as a workshop and training facilitator. Since he was 17 years old, Benson worked on construction projects including the Omishoosh Memorial School in his community.

Staff

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

PIMACHIOWIN AKI WORLD HERITAGE SITE







Pimachiowin Aki (pronounced pim-MA-cho-win ah-KEH) means "the land that gives life", and "living the good life on the land".

"Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site is a place of natural beauty so overwhelming it is humbling and impossible to describe without discussing its importance in the lives of the Anishinaabeg who have cared for this land and its creatures for millennia."

> -INDIGENOUS TOURISM ONTARIO, 2023, https://www.instagram.com/p/Cy01xR7uFC0/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

Pimachiowin Aki is Canada's first and only mixed World Heritage site and associative cultural landscape, 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.





2022 Annual General Meeting

The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners hosted its 17th Annual General Meeting at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on the Long Plain First Nation reserve in Winnipeg on January 26-27, 2023. This was one of the most well-attended AGMs in the history of the partnership.

Pimachiowin Aki Directors chose this time of year to host the AGM as a cost-saving measure, to align with the winter road season.

Daniel Crow and Marcel Hardisty opened the meeting with a Pipe Song and Prayer.

Following remarks from the Co-Chairs and approval of the financial statements as presented by Laura Smith, Financial Services Manager, and Alana Ramshaw, Senior Financial Services Advisor for ONBusiness Chartered Professional Accountants Inc., the following guests shared presentations on their activities with us this year:

- Pimachiowin Aki Habitat and Cultural Features Mapping Project: James Ehnes, ECOSTEM Ltd.
- Indigenous-led Common Tern Conservation Project: Jeff Wells, National Audubon Society
- University of Manitoba Monitoring Habitat Intactness and Climate Change Resilience using Migratory Birds: Nicola Koper; and Tree Health Monitoring Guidelines: Jacob Sawchyn
- University College Dublin Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas; Exploratory Study of Canada's Current and Tentative World Heritage sites: Irene Fogarty
- Naamiwan's Boodaade Dream Drum: Trevor Osmond, Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre
- Nametwaawin, Land and Language Project: Maureen Matthews, Rachel Erickson, Manitoba Museum
- Pimachiowin Aki Anishinaapek Shikwa Okihkentamawiniiwa: Kaa Kaapish (Gerald Neufeld)

The meeting wrapped up with a First Nations Guardians - Manitoba Government staff conference on a wide range of topics, and a Pimachiowin Aki Members and Directors discussion on priorities and common stewardship goals.

Daniel Crow and Marcel Hardisty closed the meeting with a Travelling Song.





PIMACHIOWIN AKI PROGRAMS

Monitoring

For the sixth year in a row, the Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners has been coordinating a successful First Nations Guardians Network. With financial support of the Government of Canada and the First Nations-Federal Pilot Joint Working Group, First Nations Guardians continued to be the foundation of the partnership's Monitoring Program.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:

Environment and Environmemt et Climate Change Canada Changement climatique Canada

A new First Nations National Guardians Network was introduced in 2022-23 to administer program funds and connect Guardians initiatives across the country. The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners began working with the National Network on a multi-year proposal this year and is well-positioned to continue Guardians operations in the future should the proposal be a success.

Highlights of Monitoring Program activities and outcomes in the reporting year are:

- Guardians were active in communication and advancement of land management plan goals for First Nations' ancestral lands and the broader World Heritage site;
- Monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation and any changes observed in the lands and waters across the site continued, with Guardians regularly contributing data and information to the partnership's Information Management System;



Arriving at a monitoring site near Pauingassi

- Guardians, Directors, community members and constituents contributed to Pimachiowin Aki's first ever United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Periodic Report, submitted to the World Heritage Centre this year. Periodic Reporting is one of the core conservation monitoring mechanisms of the *World Heritage Convention*. Results of this exercise will be published by the World Heritage Centre in December 2023, and a report will be presented at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2024;
- Pimachiowin Aki First Nation Guardians, Directors and leadership attended the Màmandòsewin: Place of Gathering and Sharing, First Nations National Guardians Gathering hosted by the Indigenous Leadership Initiative in Ottawa on May 9-11, 2023. This was the largest National Guardians Gathering to date. The Gathering was a chance to make connections and learn about the future of the National Guardians Network. Other community members and Pimachiowin Aki staff joined the Gathering via livestream;
- With support of Health & Air Quality Forecast Services for Environment and Climate Change Canada and the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alberta, Bloodvein River and Little Grand Rapids Guardians installed PurpleAir sensors to measure air quality in their communities. This is the first time air quality monitors have been deployed in Pimachiowin Aki. Unprecedented wildfire seasons over the past few years means monitoring air quality has become increasingly important. With local data, we can help people make better decisions about their health and safety, and track air quality over time. The measurements are wirelessly reported every 2 minutes, are published in near real time on an interactive map.



You can access the interactive map and see the readings at Bloodvein and Little Grand Rapids by going to **PurpleAir.com** and clicking on 'View the Map'.

Thanks to the First Nations Guardians, Pimachiowin Aki filled a gap in Canada's air quality monitoring system and joined a network of air quality sensors set up all over the world!

- Every summer, First Nations Guardians monitor water quality in Pimachiowin Aki through observation and sampling. This year, Pimachiowin Aki procured new water quality test kits for Guardians to detect contamination in drinking water in their communities. Connections were made with the Environmental Health Program at Southeast Resource Development Council to identify and prevent potential risks that could adversely impact the health of community members and the environment;
- For the first time in memory, ticks were detected in the Little Grand Rapids area. Thanks to the efforts of the First Nation's Guardian and an online program called eTick.ca, the ticks were identified as American dog ticks. American dog ticks do not transmit Lyme disease and typically occur in the southern portions of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia. This finding of the Little Grand Rapids First Nation Guardian corroborates recent evidence that the American dog tick's range is expanding. The Guardian's surveillance work, communications with community members and contributions to an electronic monitoring tool for ticks in Canada is leading to a greater awareness of tick species and potential health risks;
- With support of Pimachiowin Aki, the National Audubon Society Boreal Conservation Program, Elders, Guardians, and land-based learning instructors, students at Bloodvein River and Poplar River again participated in summer internships to document natural and cultural history and spend time learning about Guardians' skills, roles and responsibilities. The partnership acknowledges everyone involved for the opportunity to actively engage young people in our Guardians Network. Young people are our future leaders in protection and management of Pimachiowin Aki;

In a collaborative effort to better understand the abundance and distribution of songbirds within the boreal forest, First Nations Guardians and National Audubon Society scientists launched a bioacoustics research project across Poplar River First Nation ancestral lands. The use of Songmeters, or autonomous recording units (ARUs) allows for ongoing remote collection of audio data that can help us understand changes taking place within Pimachiowin Aki. This year, Birds of Poplar River: First Results was published, and ARUs were donated by the National Audubon Society to Pauingassi, Bloodvein and Little Grand Rapids First Nations. We look forward to expanding the monitoring activities of our Guardians Network and thank the National Audubon Society for their partnership and generous support!



American Kestrel - North America's littlest falcon - near Bloodvein River

• Early in the reporting year, two Poplar River First Nation Guardians, and the National Audubon Society's Chief Scientist and Director of Climate Science traveled up the Poplar River by canoe and replaced memory cards on ARUs to record birdsong in the mornings. This was an incredible experience to learn from each other, and showcase Guardians' work as an example of Indigenous-led conservation and land stewardship efforts in Canada.



"As a scientist and conservationist, I enjoyed visiting and experiencing the natural beauty of Pimachiowin Aki. And, I walked away from the visit understanding that we must fight for the preservation of rare cultures with the same vigor that we pursue the preservation of birds and biodiversity if we are truly interested in the future of the Earth."

--CHAD WILSEY, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, 2023, https://www.audubon.org/news/a-rainbow-overpimachiowin-aki

- As part of a project led by the Southeast Resource Development Council (SERDC), Guardians were asked to share knowledge about terrestrial species at risk in Pimachiowin Aki. Goals of this project are to increase land use planning and management capacity for SERDC, and to produce a guidebook about species at risk;
- A preliminary moderate-scale habitat map, and draft large-scale cultural features maps were in development this year, and maps were produced using data from the Information Management System (IMS) on various themes including cultural features, registered trapline sections, and place names. The partnership is grateful to ECOSTEM Ltd. for extending and enhancing the reach of Guardians' monitoring activities using satellite imagery, drones and GIS, hosting the partnership's IMS, and ensuring data and information are being stored, added to, organized, and shared in ways that are useful, maintain their integrity and credibility, and protect confidential information.

Safeguarding Cultural Heritage

The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners' Safeguarding Cultural Heritage Program advances the revitalization and preservation of Anishinaabemowin and Indigenous ways of knowing, and supports transmission of this heritage to future generations. This year, activities included:

 Traditional place names in Anishinaabemowin (in both Roman orthography and syllabics) recorded by Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations last year were mapped and checked for accuracy. This project is supported with financial and in-kind support of the Assembly of Partners and aims to help preserve Anishinaabemowin, local history, information about landscape resilience and change over time, navigational information, teachings, practices such as mikawiwin (a memory and storytelling exercise), and other knowledge invaluable to Anishinabeg and to the World Heritage site as a whole;

- Bloodvein River First Nation supported Lost Art Cartography's submission of the first draft of the First Nation's Traditional Place Names Map for inclusion in the ESRI (GIS software company) 2024 calendar;
- The database created for the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) Story Map for the Bloodvein River was shared by the CHRS Secretariat and Manitoba Parks for inclusion in the Pimachiowin Aki Information Management System. The data and information about natural, cultural and recreational values along the River will be updated annually based on monitoring reports prepared for the Bloodvein River. Ways to include Anishinaabemowin in the Story Map are also being explored;
- Data-sharing agreements for archaeological sites were concluded with Manitoba and Ontario. These agreements add to agreements previously ratified with Pimachiowin Aki to access land information in both provinces.
- A community workshop in Pauingassi about traditional medicines was sponsored by the partnership. Participants discussed traditional plant names, when to harvest them, parts of plants used for medicines, symptoms they treat, how to prepare them, and how they are used today.

"The important thing is I'm trying to encourage Elders, whatever they still know, to exercise using that knowledge about medicines. The medicines help with some illnesses. It is nice to share with the people from other communities too. If Elders have any young people who come around to their houses, it is good to talk with them about some of the medicines we still have out there"

—(late) JOE OWEN, PIMACHIOWIN AKI BOARD MEMBER FOR PAUINGASSI FIRST NATION



- Pimachiowin Aki partners participated in a review of Ontario's trapline allocation policy to support the consistent and fair allocation of registered traplines and sustainable furbearer management. The policy supports customary governance of trapline areas, based on respect for the established interests of family groups with ties to defined harvesting areas and the role of senior family members in making decisions about the use of those areas;
- In-kind support was again provided by the organization to support the Nametwaawin: Land and Language project. This year, two private donors are honoured for their cash gifts in support of the Obaawingaashiing Aabijichiganan: Pauingassi collection book with a publication date expected in early 2024. The idea for this project was to use some of the research and expertise developed during the World Heritage site nomination and turn it into curriculum materials for schools. In spring of 2023, the Manitoba government began distributing six of the bilingual English and Anishinaabemowin books developed as part of this project: a total of 2,848 books for 37 school divisions and 71 First Nation schools. The books are also available to purchase from the Manitoba Museum;
- In summer 2023, Pimachiowin Aki collaborated on a project with the Secretariat of the Geographical Names Board of Canada and Canadian Heritage. This project consists of a public exhibition on the Plaza Bridge in Ottawa that showcases Indigenous place names in 20 of the 60+ Indigenous languages from across Canada. Each panel displays a photo or image of a geographic feature, the Indigenous place name, information on the Indigenous language and its current status. Pimachiowin Aki was chosen to represent Anishinaabemowin. The partnership was proud to contribute to this project and support the revitalization of Indigenous languages;



Pimachiowin Aki panel, "In the Languages of these Lands" exhibit, May 2023

 Pimachiowin Aki representatives attended "Cultural Voices from Arts and Heritage at the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27)", an online session organized by Athabasca University. This was an opportunity to hear about ways to inform and transform programming, training, and capacitybuilding shared at the 2022 United Nations Climate Conference where, for the first time, the parties to the UN Climate Convention acknowledged the critical linkages between cultural heritage and climate change.

Conserving Ecosystems

The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners continued to grow our network and enhance capacity to protect and monitor the ecological attributes of the site, including major river systems and wetlands, birds, fish and mammals, forests and ecological processes, and more than 20 species of conservation concern. Guardians, Elders, land and resource managers, biologists, drone operators, data classification and satellite image analysts led this important work.

Actions to monitor ecosystem health indicators were coordinated and integrated by the partnership across the World Heritage site. Indicators are a mainstay of the Conserving Ecosystems Program, defining aspects of the field program, data analyses and communication.



The indicators are:

- Condition of habitat for species at risk;
- Presence of invasive species;
- Wildfire occurrences; and
- Changes in climate.

These are just a few of a large, varied, and growing array of indicators in our ecosystem conservation work. The process of selecting indicators, how indicators are structured and used to inform decisions, continues. This process helps turn measurements (data) into information about Pimachiowin Aki's ecosystems that community members, research scientists, decisionmakers, and the public can use.

This year, the final report on "Using Bird Surveys to understand ecological health and context in Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site" was completed by a PhD candidate at the University of Manitoba. This project was initiated in 2020 to explore how monitoring bird communities within Pimachiowin Aki could provide information to complement Anishinaabe ways of knowing and monitoring change within the cultural landscape. First Nations Guardians received training in the field and contributed observations to the report. The report concludes that bird diversity and climate change resilience are higher inside Pimachiowin Aki than in areas outside of it, and that working with Guardians to collect additional data, and making use of ongoing Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas data, would significantly improve ecological monitoring. Guardians, the student and the student's academic supervisor also created a bird identification guide for species found in Pimachiowin Aki, which includes names in English, Anishinaabemowin, and Latin. This is a living quidebook that is continually being revised to improve its usefulness.

Several new, species-specific projects were initiated this year, including:

 Common Tern Restoration Project - in partnership with the National Audubon Society, this multi-year project aims to increase nesting success, survival and productivity of the Common Tern. United States federal and state agencies tasked with restoring species injured by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico proposed to fund efforts to protect and manage nesting Common Terns – one of the bird species most injured by the spill. Out of a total of 76 project ideas (including 59 bird ideas), this project was selected as one of the 7 preferred projects. The Pimachiowin Aki partnership is excited to work on one of the most significant long-term capacity-building and conservation impact investments that will be made with oil spill settlement funds, for the benefit of Common Terns and millions of other migratory birds that nest in Pimachiowin Aki;



Common Terns nesting near Bloodvein River

- Migratory bird and amphibian monitoring surveys

 the Canadian Wildlife Service contacted the
 Pimachiowin Aki partnership this year regarding
 a long-term project to better understand the
 distribution, abundance, and population trends of
 migratory songbirds and amphibian species that
 vocalize (e.g. frogs and toads) across Canada's boreal
 zone. This is a huge project, with opportunities for
 collaboration with Guardians, Elders and others on
 our work with ARUs and mapping in Pimachiowin Aki.
 On-the-ground surveys are expected to begin in 2024;
- Species at Risk monitoring surveys the Manitoba Wildlife Branch offered to collaborate with
 Pimachiowin Aki First Nations on an Aboriginal
 Fund for Species at Risk program proposal this year.
 Directors and Guardians worked with community members to compile lists of species that are of interest for monitoring and implementing protective measures. The lists include benefitting species and cultural keystone species as well as designated species at risk. The proposal will be submitted in October 2023. If successful, this would be a longterm opportunity to expand our Guardians Network and receive training and guidance in species identification and stewardship strategies.



Supporting Sustainable Economies

Within the range of potential economic development opportunities in Pimachiowin Aki, the organization focused efforts in the reporting year on ways to increase community-based employment opportunities, advance food sovereignty, and build capacity in the visitor economy.

Opportunities to increase the number of First Nations Guardians in the Pimachiowin Aki Network were pursued through multi-year proposals to: the National Guardians Network; the Deepwater Horizon Trustees (Common Tern Restoration Plan); and the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk. All three of these projects would provide access to training and skills-development as well as meaningful career opportunities for Pimachiowin Aki First Nations.

An Advisor with the Southeast Resource Development Council (SERDC) was invited to the 2022 Annual General Meeting to share information about Nutrition North Canada programs that support communities' food priorities and improve conditions for food sovereignty. The three fly-in First Nation communities in Pimachiowin Aki successfully sourced funds from the Harvesters Support Grant to purchase equipment and infrastructure to support harvesting, food-sharing, and improve the overall economic outlook and well-being of Anishinaabeg.

An opportunity to learn about birding tourism was provided to two people from Pimachiowin Aki this fall, thanks to the National Audubon Society. Building on conversations with 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 naturebased tourism businesses and inform development of sustainable tourism enterprises in Pimachiowin Aki, the delegation joined the fall migration camp at Hog Island and Monhegan Island in Maine. With so many sought-after bird species to see in Pimachiowin Aki, this type of tourism has the potential to generate funds for protected areas, engage the public about the value of ecosystems, and provide livelihood opportunities for the First Nations of Pimachiowin Aki.

Information, Education and Communications

The World Heritage Convention encourages us to strengthen the appreciation for World Heritage sites and enhance their protection through educational and information programs.





Here are some highlights of our Information, Education and Communications work this year:

 representatives of the Little Grand Rapids First Nation and staff of Pimachiowin Aki participated in "The Edmonton Round Table - Working Together at the Intersection of Culture and Nature: A World Heritage Context" at the Royal Alberta Museum in October, 2022. The meeting was organized by the Heritage Resources Management Program of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Athabasca University. The selected theme comes from the recent designation of two World Heritage Sites in Canada: Pimachiowin Aki, and Writing-on-Stone/Aísínai'pi. The Round Table's interest was in understanding the operational management of these sites. The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners is thankful to Little Grand Rapids and Athabasca

University for support to send a delegation, share experiences, and learn from others about how heritage sites with intersecting cultural and natural values can be managed in a more collaborative way and across administrative boundaries;

- Pimachiowin Aki was invited by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service to contribute to a panel for the "Knowing Nature: Stories of the Boreal Forest / Historias del bosque boreal" exhibit. The exhibition focuses on the biodiversity and global importance of the boreal through first person stories, authentic objects, interactive experiences, photography and videography;
- Keepers of the Land Guardianes de Jeff Wells

Pimachiowin Aki panel, Smithsonian Travelling Exhibition at the Michigan State University Museum

Online Map Platform launched this year, as well as for the UNESCO Periodic Reporting exercise. The Pimachiowin Aki partners are grateful to the Manitoba government's Lands and Parks staff, Ontario Parks, ECOSTEM Ltd., and Parks Canada for their work to confirm accuracy of the World Heritage site boundary and ensure the map has all the necessary elements (including the file where metadata is stored) that the platform and the World Heritage Centre were seeking. The online interactive map is available at:

https://whc.unesco.org/en/wh-gis/

 Pimachiowin Aki was again featured in Historic Places Day, this year held from July 8-23, 2023. This celebration of Canada's cultural heritage and historic places generated national exposure and access to resources for organizing events and attracting new



audiences for Pimachiowin Aki.

- Pimachiowin Aki Directors, Guardians, First Nations community members and the Executive Director were interviewed for several research projects, including:
- "Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan: Pimachiowin Aki and the Value of Living Cultural Landscapes", a case study on sustainable heritage by a Masters student at Carleton University, School of Indigenous and Canadian Studies:
- a dissertation on cogovernance 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 candidate at University College Dublin;

- the organization joined in the celebration of the new school at Little
- Grand Rapids First Nation by contributing to the development of a commemorative plaque and providing food for the feast;
- Pimachiowin Aki submitted a new provisional boundary map and shapefile for the World Heritage
- a Masters thesis in Geography by a student at Heidelberg University in Germany entitled, "Threat to UNESCO World Heritage - The Impact of the Corona Pandemic and the Consequences of the Decline in Visitor Numbers to UNESCO World Heritage Sites";



- a dissertation on understanding how minobimaadiziwin can help those on a journey to healing through land-based approaches, by a PhD candidate at Lakehead University, Health Sciences Department; and
- a project entitled, "Sites for Sustainable Development: Realizing the Potential of UNESCO designated sites to Advance Agenda 2030", launched by the Canadian Commission for UNESCO in partnership with the UK National Commission for UNESCO.
- As in every year, Pimachiowin Aki was asked for permission to use photographs featured in our communications. To name a few, requests were received from:
 - Nelson Education Ltd. for a web-based, K-12 digital learning library licensed by subscription to educational institutions worldwide;
 - a writer for a book entitled, *The Evolution of Heritage Conservation Practice in the 21st century;*
 - the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, whose request turned into a visit to Bloodvein River First Nation by a photographer and journalist with BESIDE Magazine; and
 - a photo researcher for Portage & Main Press, a Canadian publisher of educational resources, to include image(s) in a series that aims to support K-12 educators in engaging with Indigenous texts, perspectives, and teaching methods.

Wildfire Sparked Art at an International Festival



Jonathan Green's Fire Cyle at Nuit Blanche

Pimachiowin Aki was excited to be a part of an art installation of dancing trees created by artist Jonathan Green. The installation, which appeared during Nuit Blanche Winnipeg, was inspired in part by Pimachiowin Aki's fire cycle graphic. Green found the graphic on the Pimachiowin Aki website and "immediately loved its clarity, and the way it explains details such as wild berries becoming abundant, animals migrating, and how the land changes." He credits the graphic, adapted from work by Dr. Andrew Miller, with inspiring him to include trees from the boreal in his installation, which he designed to help festival-goers get a better understanding of how wildfires impact habitats.

College Students Connected to Pimachiowin Aki

Fifteen students from the Creative Communications program at Red River Polytechnic completed a marketing assignment for Pimachiowin Aki for the third year in a row. This year, for the first time, they conducted interviews with people connected to Pimachiowin Aki to write news articles covering a wide range of topics, from the boreal forest to local ancestry. Thank you to the students, their instructor Melodie Richard, and the interviewees who kindly donated their time:

- PhD Scholar Irene Fogarty
- filmmaker Michael Zelniker
- genealogical researcher Gerald Neufeld
- Vice President for Boreal Conservation at National Audubon Society Dr. Jeff Wells
- PhD candidate Chris De Ruyck, Natural Resources Institute, University of Manitoba
- Regional Fisheries Manager Eric Mullen

Pimachiowin Aki Shared Stories

Pimachiowin Aki published four digital newsletters to communicate with our growing audiences. Newsletter highlights include:

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*, we asked for permission to share a rare view of 21 artefacts from the Pauingassi collection. The collection is cared for in Sacred Storage at the Manitoba Museum and protected by community Guardians Elaine and Joshua Owen, who explained what happened when it was discovered that artefacts were missing from Pauingassi, and how they came to recover and protect the artefacts.





Wawezhi'on (dance cape) worn by Naamiwan's wife Koowin Owen, leader of the Ogichidaakweg in 1933

- We reflected on a stellar year of connections by sharing news, including:
 - filmmaker Michael Zelniker joined the Pimachiowin Aki Directors and members for a special screening of his documentary film *The Issue with Tissue – a Boreal Love Story*
 - Bloodvein River First Nation Guardian Melba Green joined National Audubon Society to celebrate Migratory Bird Day and remind the world that birds connect us all
 - a trapping instructor from Red Lake taught a group of mainly women at Little Grand Rapids First Nation how to create muskrat boxes while working towards their trapper education certificates
 - after studying Pimachiowin Aki over a three-year period, Dr. Gemma Faith published her thesis: Evaluating World Heritage Interpretation in Online Spaces and its Potential to Prime the Development of Eco-Cultural Tourism Experiences (Virtual and Onsite): A Case Study on Pimachiowin Aki, Canada's First Mixed World Heritage Site
- Clinton Keeper of Little Grand Rapids First Nation shared a Wiindigoo story told to him by his grandmother, Maggie Duck (Nenawan), who was told the story by her father, John Duck (Mahkoocens).
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation Guardian Naomi Moar explained the days-long process of smoking meat, with knowledge passed down by her grandmother.



Poplar River First Nation shared the first results of its Songmeter project, a collaboration with Audubon's Boreal Conservation program. *Thank you to contributors Councillor Eddie Hudson, Poplar River First Nation Guardians Norway Rabliauskas and Brad Bushie, Dr. Jeff Wells, and Elisha Corsiga*.



The Songmeter project captured recordings of three bird species listed as special concern, threatened, or endangered by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, inlcuding the Canada Warbler

- We celebrated our fifth anniversary by looking back at five special moments since Pimachiowin Aki became Canada's first mixed UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Language instructor Jason Jones explained how Ojibwe language comes from the land. "The land teaches us how things function, the actions they take, and what we see. We can almost visualize what's happening when we speak Ojibwe."



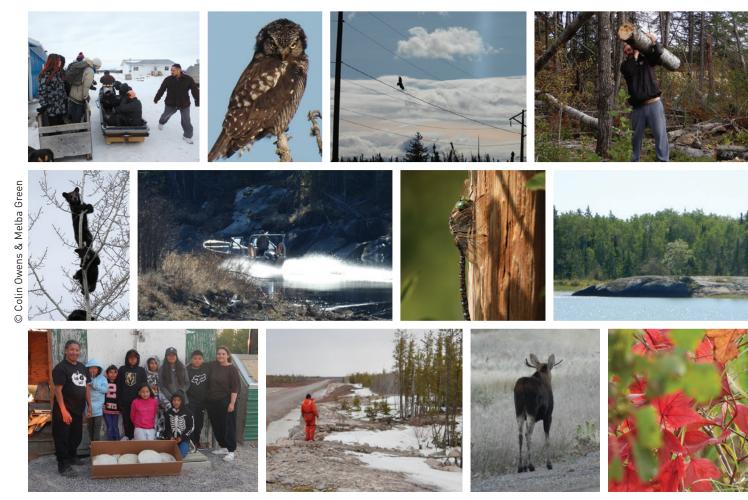
 Poplar River First Nation Lands program shared the work of the Guardians in their community to collect data and test water quality in the Poplar River that may affect fish harvests and access to fishing grounds.

© Jase Belt

"We are happy to share and highlight the work of our very competent Lands Guardians" Team. As a community, we are very proud of these young people and the work they do"

-POPLAR RIVER FIRST NATION LANDS PROGRAM, 2023

Guardians shared photos from across the land, which we added to the Pimachiowin Aki digital library.



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Fast Facts



Number of people who signed up for the Pimachiowin Aki newsletter, for a total of 959 subscribers



Number of times the Pimachiowin Aki news story The Lunar Calendar, Explained was viewed



Number of files downloaded from **pimaki.ca**



24,505 Visitors

Number of visitors to **pimaki.ca**, from 170 countries



In December 2022, the Board of Directors decided to take a step back from posting content on social media and direct resources to the newsletter, website and other communications and core programs. The Assembly of Partners is thankful for our community of loyal and active followers and the reach and impressions we had.

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Governance and Financial Sustainability

The shared success of our journey so far is a testament to hard work of the Pimachiowin Aki partners, and the trust and confidence that the organization's members, funders and donors have placed in us. This year, Directors continued to provide strategic direction, ensure resourcing to advance the organization's vision, mission, and goals, and served to build an effective, accountable and inclusive organization at all levels for all members.

At a governance workshop in the fall of 2022, the Board of Directors resolved to use "Assembly of Partners" in place of "Corporation" where possible. Assembly of Partners has been in use since 2006 when the organization was established, but Directors want it be more prominent in our communications. The name change better reflects our governance system and does not change the organization's legal status as an incorporated not-for-profit, registered charity.

As reported in 2021, Pimachiowin Aki was chosen as a solutions-provider for a Nature-Culture Thematic Community coordinated by the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee. The Community, known as PANORAMA, approached us this year with a request to feature the Pimachiowin Aki solution in a publication focused on Governance. Pimachiowin Aki was also showcased at the 15th United Nations Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (COP15) by the PANORAMA team as an innovative pathway toward "what works" in nature conservation.

In November 2022 and May 2023, the First Nations partners of Pimachiowin Aki contacted federal

Ministers and Members of Parliament to discuss a proposed investment in the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund. The Government of Canada provided in-kind support for Pimachiowin Aki's nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List but has not provided financial support for the site's operations and programs. The Assembly of Partners was grateful for the opportunity to work with Pivot Strategic, a consulting firm that surveyed the political landscape, provided strategic advice and gave us access to federal government decision-makers. Efforts to make a compelling case for long-term stewardship financing for Pimachiowin Aki continue.

Conversations were also initiated with Parks Canada this year to explore designation of a national park within Pimachiowin Aki as a way to support the site's operations and core programs. Parks Canada is mandated by Environment and Climate Change Canada to talk about potential partnerships and funding arrangements for new national parks. At the end of the reporting year, we were disappointed to learn that the pace of discussions would make it unlikely for Parks Canada to meet the timeline in their mandate around the establishment of new national parks.

Pimachiowin Aki is pleased to report that The Winnipeg Foundation's Board of Directors approved a spending rate of 5.0% for our permanent funds - the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund and the Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Fund. This rate was determined by the Foundation to be the best way to support agency funds at this time, and is also in alignment with Canada Revenue Agency's new disbursement quota requirements for foundations.





FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The attached Financial Statements show the position of Pimachiowin Aki at the end of the organization's fiscal year, August 31, 2023.

PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION

Financial Statements Year Ended August 31, 2023

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Pimachiowin Aki Corporation

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Pimachiowin Aki Corporation (the Organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2023, 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 Organization as at August 31, 2023, 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 Organization 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 Organization'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 Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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



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:

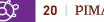
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting 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 Organization'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 Organization'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 Organization 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.

admander

Chartered Professional Accountants Inc.

Winnipeg, Manitoba January 16, 2024



Statement of Financial Position August 31, 2023

		2023		
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash	\$	766,027	\$	754,85
Accounts receivable		25,000		2,240
Government remittances recoverable (Note 3)		6,260		6,832
Prepaid expenses		8,072		27,31
	\$	805,359	\$	791,238
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	S	106,546	\$	127,023
Wages payable		9,686		8,810
Deferred contributions (Note 4)		683,602		649,874
		799,834		785,71
NET ASSETS		5,525		5,52
	s	805,359	\$	791,238

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD Director Director Director

Director Director Myles Perchuk Digitally signed by Myles Perchuk Date: 2024.01.17 10:21:20 - 06'00' Director

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Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended August 31, 2023

	2023		2022
REVENUES			
Winnipeg Foundation distribution (Note 5)	\$ 357,845	\$	182,380
Environment and Climate Change Canada	250,000	·	480,587
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	30,000		68,100
Donations	12,647		199
	650,492		731,266
EXPENSES			
Communications	37,756		23,692
Courier and postage	1,585		1,627
GIS support	-		1,486
Informing and educating public	589		12,248
Insurance	3,433		3,272
Interest and bank charges	51		1,075
Monitoring	326,647		467,801
Office	57,676		18,032
Professional fees	23,580		23,447
Safeguarding cultural heritage	874		9,027
Salaries and benefits	160,098		152,241
Telephone	4,502		5,308
Travel and accomodations	 33,701		12,010
	650,492		731,266
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	\$ -	\$	-

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Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended August 31, 2023

	2023			2022
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$	5,525	\$	5,525
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$	5,525	\$	5,525



Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended August 31, 2023

	2023		2022	
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ -	\$	-	
Changes in non-cash working capital:				
Accounts receivable	(22,760)		(2,240)	
Government remittances recoverable	572		(4,908)	
Prepaid expenses	19,239		(12,222)	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(20,477)		6,670	
Wages payable	870		80	
Deferred contributions	33,728		(151,353)	
	11,172		(163,973)	
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW	11,172		(163,973)	
CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR	754,855		918,828	
CASH - END OF YEAR	\$ 766,027	\$	754,855	

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Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2023

1. PURPOSE OF THE ORGANIZATION

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 organization 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 (ASNFPO).

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 amortizes cost include cash, accounts receivable, government remittances recoverable, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and wages 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.





Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended August 31, 2023

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. GOVERNMENT REMITTANCES RECOVERABLE

	2023	2022
Goods and services tax recoverable Source deductions payable	\$ 9,045 (2,785)	\$ 9,209 (2,377)
	\$ 6,260	\$ 6,832

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:

	Revenue						
	2022	1	Additions	R	ecognized		2023
Environment and Climate Change							
Canada	\$ -	\$	400,000	\$	250,000	\$	150,000
The Winnipeg Foundation	649,874		241,573		357,845		533,602
Ontario Ministry of Natural							-
Resources	-		30,000		30,000		-
	\$ 649,874	\$	671,573	\$	637,845	\$	683,602

PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION Notes to Financial Statements Year Ended August 31, 2023

5. WINNIPEG FOUNDATION

In 2010 the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund was established at The Winnipeg Foundation. As of September 30, 2022, the year-end of The Winnipeg Foundation, there was a total of \$3,375,601 in contributed capital to the fund with a market value of \$4,786,442. The current spending policy rate is 4.8% (2022 - 5%) distributed annually, with the allocated spending amounts for 2023 set at \$241,573. 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.



Statement of Revenues and Expenditures by Program (Unaudited)

(Schedule 1)

Year Ended August 31, 2023

	2023		2022	
REVENUES				
Winnipeg Foundation distribution	\$ 357,845	\$	182,380	
Environment and Climate Change Canada	250,000		480,587	
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	30,000		68,100	
Donations	12,647		199	
	650,492		731,266	
EXPENSES				
Communications	37,756		23,692	
Fundraising	10,660		10,498	
General administration	270,348		199,846	
Informing and educating public	589		12,248	
Monitoring	330,265		475,955	
Safeguarding cultural heritage	874		9,027	
	650,492		731,266	
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	\$ -	\$	-	

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Thank You To Our Donor Community

The Directors and members of the Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners share our gratitude for gifts made to the organization this year. In this annual reflection, we acknowledge the people whose generosity helped safeguard Anishinaabeg cultural heritage and support best practice in boreal forest stewardship.

A full list of the donors who contributed to the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund and the Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Fund since they were established is available in previous years' reports.

In addition to the people named here, we thank the many people who chose to make an anonymous donation to Pimachiowin Aki.

- Richie Allen
- Ksenia Broda-Milian, in honour of the cast, crew and creative team of "None of This is Happening" World Premiere play produced by Theatre Projects Manitoba
- Rhonda Bruchanski
- Lyn Caswell
- Claude J. Delisle
- Genevieve Eden
- P. Charles Feaver and Maureen Matthews
- Irene Fogarty
- Douglas Gilmore (Ishkodense), in memory of Peter and Joe Paishk

- Mary Granskou
- Gord Jones
- Nicola Koper
- Siegfried and Tannis Laser
- Christina Priest, in memory of Mary Beaver, Batchewana Band
- Nicolas Roy
- Wilma A. Sotas
- Eric Toth
- Nicole Tytgat
- Rachel Whidden

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.

"This is one of the last great conservation opportunities in human evolution on Earth."

-JEFF WELLS, VICE PRESIDENT, BOREAL CONSERVATION, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, from "Knowing Nature: Stories of the Boreal Forest / Historias del bosque boreal" exhibit brochure, 2023

To make a donation, and for information about the impact your donation has, please visit us at pimaki.ca.









PIMACHIOWIN AKI world heritage site

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