



PIMACHIOWIN AKI  
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

*The Land that Gives Life*

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ANNUAL REPORT 2024





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

© Ōtake Hidehiro

## **OUR VISION AND MISSION**

Pimachiowin Aki 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 boreal forest.

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.

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.



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Pimachiowin Aki  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2018







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# WAAJIYE / WELCOME

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## Welcome to our Annual Report for 2024

We invite you to hear our story of the past year, our 6<sup>th</sup> year commemorating World Heritage listing, and 22<sup>nd</sup> year honouring the Elders and leaders who envisioned a protected areas network worthy of international recognition. The Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site has always been imagined not just for recognition, but for long-term protection. This report reflects on the projects and programs we have been working on to ensure Pimachiowin Aki's conservation legacy continues.

The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners is proud to bring our commitment to safeguard this rare and special place into the future, and present our stories of natural and cultural heritage to the world. The partnership continues to be a source of resilience and innovation, achieving conservation work at scale, and creating positive outcomes for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Benefits of World Heritage listing were realized again this year, despite the discontinuation of operating grants from our provincial government partners. Through Pimachiowin Aki's network of volunteers, staff and donor community, we delivered results in six core program areas:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1</b> Monitoring                     | <b>4</b> Supporting Sustainable Economies          |
| <b>2</b> Safeguarding Cultural Heritage | <b>5</b> Information, Education and Communications |
| <b>3</b> Conserving Ecosystems          | <b>6</b> Governance and Financial Sustainability   |

This Report chronicles 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.

The Annual Report for 2024 is also available at:

[https://pimaki.ca/wp-content/uploads/Pim\\_Aki\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2024.pdf](https://pimaki.ca/wp-content/uploads/Pim_Aki_Annual_Report_2024.pdf)







## 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.

**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.

### 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, Augustine 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 – Sioux Lookout District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Myles has been with the District for 21 years in various positions, including Resource Operations Supervisor.

**BENSON PASCAL** represents Pauingassi First Nation on the Board of Directors. 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.

**ED HUDSON** is the Director for Poplar River First Nation and Treasurer of the Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners. Ed served as a Councillor for the Poplar River First Nation government for the past 6 years, and for several terms before then. 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 and Secretary 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” in Anishinaabemowin, the Ojibwe language spoken here.



*The journey to Pimachiowin Aki’s World Heritage Site listing was imagined, initiated and implemented by the First Nations stewards of these lands. This was demonstrated through the commitment to linking together numerous protected sites ... It was important enough that the partnership went through tremendous efforts in order to achieve this inscription and ensure the protection of these lands.*

—CASE STUDY PREPARED BY SAMANTHA DAVID, CARLETON UNIVERSITY, 2023  
<https://sustainableheritagecasestudies.ca/2023/01/28/keeping-the-land-at-pimachiowin-aki/>

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 this category.

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.



© Bruce Bremner  
Maureen Matthews at the 2023 AGM



© Bruce Bremner  
Kaa Kaapish and Pauingassi First Nation Elders and Leaders at the 2023 AGM





## 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners hosted its 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at the Viscount Gort Hotel in Winnipeg on January 16, 2024.

Martina Fisher opened the meeting with a Song and a Prayer. Norway, Sophia and Ray Rabliauskas honoured the late Joe Owen, Pimachiowin Aki Director for Pauingassi First Nation, with a Memorial Song.

Co-Chairs Bruce Bremner and William Young welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting. They remarked that this is an important opportunity to inform people about Pimachiowin Aki, to demonstrate accountability to everyone and to UNESCO, and to meet with friends.



Opening Prayer at the 2023 AGM, Martina Fisher, Bloodvein River First Nation

Following remarks from the Co-Chairs, the financial statements were presented by Laura Smith, Senior Financial Services Manager, Alana Ramshaw, Financial Services Manager, and Tyler Nguy, Financial Services Advisor for ONBusiness Chartered Professional Accountants Inc. Pimachiowin Aki was given a clean audit report again this year.

Guest speakers were then invited to share presentations on their activities with Pimachiowin Aki in the reporting year:

- Obaawingaashiing Aabijichiganan - Nametwaawin Project: Maureen Matthews and Carol Beaulieu
- Etuaptmumk Flora and Fauna Project: Jennifer MacRae; and Whiteshell Petroforms: Diane Maytwayashing
- Surnames and Airplanes: Kaa Kaapish (Gerald Neufeld)

The meeting wrapped up with a WordCloud survey. Members were asked about the past, present and future of Pimachiowin Aki. The size of the word in the cloud corresponds with its frequency – the larger the word, the more often it was mentioned. This survey tool helped identify current concerns and priorities of Members, and inform future budgets, allocate staff resources, and gauge strategic plan direction. Survey responses aligned with the organization’s mandate, and performance this year in our two biggest program areas – Monitoring – Guardians; and Information, Education and Communications.

**What are your priorities for Pimachiowin Aki?**

information  
**guardians**  
all living species  
 educate our youth  
protect water  
**keeping it known**

**What are your concerns for the future of Pimachiowin Aki?**

**winter road**  
apocalypse  
**forest fires**  
**invasive species**







## PIMACHIOWIN AKI PROGRAMS

### Monitoring

The cornerstone of the Pimachiowin Aki Monitoring program is our Guardians Network. From April 2018 to March 2024, Pimachiowin Aki received annual grants from Environment and Climate Change Canada for the Network as part of a pilot project. In April 2024, Pimachiowin Aki made a successful application to the newly-established First Nations National Guardians Network for program funds until March 2026. The partnership acknowledges and appreciates the Government of Canada and the First Nations National Guardians Network for their contributions this year.

This project was undertaken with the financial support of:



Environment and  
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et  
Changement climatique Canada



Highlights of Monitoring Program outcomes in the reporting year were:

- a full-time Guardian is employed in each of the four Pimachiowin Aki First Nation communities;
- Elders and other knowledge-keepers were engaged in developing a broader set of indicators and metrics to provide a reliable statement on the condition of - and trends in - ecosystem health and the cultural landscape. The organization provided support for several workshops including an Elders' gathering in Little Grand Rapids First Nation in March 2024;
- With support of Pimachiowin Aki, the National Audubon Society Boreal Conservation Program, Elders, Guardians, and land-based learning instructors, students in Pimachiowin Aki again participated in summer internships to document natural and cultural history and spend time learning about Guardians' skills, roles and responsibilities. The partnership appreciates everyone who actively engaged young people in our Guardians Network;
- the partners again focused efforts on development and refinement of a monitoring framework for cultural and ecosystem values to guide activities that are the responsibility of Guardians;

- data and information provided by Guardians about the cultural landscape and ecosystem health were added to the Information Management System and data library. The Pimachiowin Aki Information Management System and data library continued to be stored, added to, organized, and shared in ways that were useful, maintained their integrity and credibility, and protected confidential information;
- work continued on a moderate-scale habitat map, and large-scale cultural features maps to establish a baseline and inventory of indicators for monitoring over the long-term, and to foster knowledge transfer and exchange;
- the Pimachiowin Aki Director and Guardian for Bloodvein River First Nation hosted evaluators of Environment and Climate Change Canada's Guardians Initiative. Pimachiowin Aki was chosen as a case study and site visit location. The report is available here:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/corporate/transparency/priorities-management/evaluations/evaluation-eccc-indigenous-guardians-initiative-2024.html>



*You cannot ensure the future of World Heritage without the youth, the next caretakers.*

—LAZARE ELOUNDOU ASSOMO, DIRECTOR OF THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE





“ *The Indigenous Guardians Initiative continues to be relevant... the Initiative provides Indigenous peoples, through grants and contributions, with more opportunities for stewardship of their traditional lands, waters, and ice. Funding is provided to support Indigenous rights and responsibilities in protecting and conserving ecosystems, developing, and maintaining sustainable economies, and continuing the profound connections between natural landscapes and Indigenous cultures.*

—EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA'S INDIGENOUS GUARDIANS INITIATIVE, AUGUST 2024  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/corporate/transparency/priorities-management/evaluations/evaluation-eccc-indigenous-guardians-initiative-2024.html>



Arriving in Bloodvein River First Nation

- the Guardian for Bloodvein River First Nation was profiled in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System newsletter, sharing her love of nature and teaching the next generation of Guardians about the responsibilities of this important work;

“ *The land speaks to you. Show respect and you will have a safe journey.*

—MELBA GREEN, GUARDIAN FOR BLOODVEIN RIVER FIRST NATION, IN AN INTERVIEW FOR THE CANADIAN HERITAGE RIVERS SYSTEM NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2023

- Pimachiowin Aki also contributed to a cross-jurisdictional review of Guardians programs led by an Indigenous Youth Internship Program intern working as a Research Coordinator with the British Columbia Government's Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship;

- information and applications circulated by the governments of Manitoba and Ontario were reviewed, and significant or sensitive issues which required shared management decisions were identified, including: a proposal to realign the winter road network to make use of a recently upgraded all-season road and avoid several deep water crossings; and meetings with an eco-tourism company to explore potential collaborations in offering canoe trips on the Pigeon River;
- Pimachiowin Aki First Nations, Directors, Guardians and staff prepared for the launch of the Common Tern Restoration Project in partnership with the National Audubon Society. In appreciation of Audubon's Boreal Conservation team, the following training and networking opportunities were available this year:
  - Guardians from Little Grand Rapids, Bloodvein, and Poplar River travelled to the Audubon Seabird Institute at Hog Island, Maine, June 2-6, 2024 to learn about ways to support populations of Common Terns as they recover from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico; and



Delegation of First Nation Guardians at Hog Island, Maine, June 2024







- Audubon Tern experts travelled to Bloodvein and Poplar River to meet with Pimachiowin Aki First Nation Guardians, with Pauingassi's Lands Guardian attending the Bloodvein session.



© Melba Green  
Guardian Colin Owens and National Audubon Society staff in Bloodvein River First Nation, June 2024

Next year, once funds are available from the grant, 8 part-time positions and enhanced capacity will be added to the Pimachiowin Aki First Nation Guardians Network for the next 3-5 years.

*“ I met a lot of amazing people at Hog Island, including people from Seal River. I enjoyed the learning and travelling, and hope to build a relationship with them in future ... Hog Island is a beautiful island filled with wildlife, so many birds ... The Common Tern is a great defender and will chase predators away for miles.*

— OWEN BEAR, PIMACHIOWIN AKI PARTNERS MEETING, AUGUST 2024



© Owen Beara  
Guardian Owen Bear at Audubon Seabird Institute, Hog Island, Maine, June 2024

*“ We went out in the boat and there were Common Tern chicks running all over. I took Sue (Susan Schubel, “Seabird Sue”, Audubon Outreach Educator and Disney Conservation Hero) to the school. We are getting students to do projects on migratory birds next year, and will be working with Melba (Guardian for Bloodvein River First Nation). We are looking forward to working with Sue and Melba on the Tern project.*

— RAMONA LADOUCCER, CULTURE COORDINATOR WITH THE JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE PROGRAM, BLOODVEIN, AUGUST 2024

- First Nations Guardians continued to collect audio data using Songmeters, or autonomous recording units in collaboration with the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to better understand the abundance and distribution of songbirds within the World Heritage site, building upon data retrieved and analyzed for the *Birds of Poplar River: First Results* report;
- Last year, Pimachiowin Aki fulfilled Periodic Reporting obligations to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. Periodic Reporting is one of the core monitoring mechanisms of the *World Heritage Convention*. This year, the Committee adopted the Periodic Report for Europe and North America, and endorsed the Regional Action Plan developed in cooperation with all States Parties in the Region. Some of the most pressing emerging needs across the Region relate to climate change mitigation and resilience, invasive terrestrial species, impacts of tourism, sources of funding for conservation and management, and changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge systems. The Regional Action Plan will be reviewed again in 2027 and 2030;
- The UNESCO Chair on Observation and Education at Heidelberg University invited Pimachiowin Aki to participate in a survey about the use of digital GeoMedia at World Heritage sites to enhance monitoring activities. The results of the survey are expected to flow into the design of GeoMedia capacity development training courses, which will be offered to site managers free of charge;
- Information was shared with The Indigenous Leadership Initiative, the IISAAK OLAM Foundation, the First Nations National Guardians Network, and





the Conservation through Reconciliation Partnership for development of an interactive map of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas and Guardians programs across the country; and

- Pimachiowin Aki contributed to the World Heritage Online Map Platform, the first online geographic information system for World Heritage which has been developed to use remote sensing and earth observation technologies for more effective monitoring, management and protection. The platform is available here: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/wh-gis/>

### Safeguarding Cultural Heritage

Safeguarding Cultural Heritage Program achievements in the reporting year advance the revitalization and preservation of Anishinaabemowin and Indigenous knowledge, beliefs and practices, and ensure transmission of this heritage to future generations.

This year, Program expenditures and staff activities were primarily directed to the Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi First Nations’ named places mapping projects, and the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage site-level cultural features mapping projects. Draft maps produced in late 2023 were reviewed by community members throughout the year. The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners gratefully acknowledges our Elders and community members for sharing their knowledge, the Pimachiowin Aki Directors and Guardians for leading these projects, and ECOSTEM Ltd. for bringing all data together in one place, keeping it safe, and producing maps for community verification and use.

Collaboration with the Manitoba Museum on the Nametwaawin – Land and Language Project continued this year to provide outreach and curriculum development for the four Pimachiowin Aki First Nation schools and schools throughout the province. The educational materials produced to date are:

- Poplar River Anishinaabe Plant Guide – Gaa-nitaawigigin
- Gikino’amaagedaa Anishinaabemowin – Let’s teach the Ojibway Language
- Omazinaakizonan Mishibaaawitigong – Photos from Little Grand Rapids
- Onji’aawasowinan – “do’s and don’ts” Colouring Book
- Obaawingaashiing Gichi-Aabijitaawinan – Pauingassi Collection (in press).

The partnership is grateful to our private donors for their support in completing the final book, and to the Museum for the opportunity to work together on this project.

The organization welcomed Ōtake Hidehiro to Pimachiowin Aki twice this year: to Pauingassi in the fall, and Little Grand Rapids in the spring. We are honoured that he chose to visit our communities and share his professional photography with us, contributing to our communications, and records of material culture and practices on the land.

Throughout the year, maps were produced using data from the Pimachiowin Aki Information Management System on various cultural attributes including traplines, cabin locations, travel routes, and topographic maps for inventorying campsites. Data and information collected by Pimachiowin Aki First Nations this year and in past years are contributing to the realization of goals across all of the partners’ core program areas.

Customary laws, and ways of knowing and interpreting the Pimachiowin Aki cultural landscape are defined in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe language). Anishinaabemowin continued to be prominent in our First Nation communities, publications, programs and at all meetings of the Pimachiowin Aki Directors, Guardians and Assembly of Partners.

Pimachiowin Aki contributed to a story for *The Walrus* magazine, in collaboration with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, entitled, “More Than Words - How Indigenous language revitalization holds the key to the biodiversity crisis”. The partnership is grateful to Jason Jones, an Ojibwe educator, for his interview and for working with us on an eNews series.

Pimachiowin Aki partners continued to review and observe Ontario’s trapline allocation policy to support the consistent and fair allocation of registered traplines and 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. Traditional livelihood activities such as trapping, are indicators of Pimachiowin Aki Anishinaabe cultural landscape health.







Data-sharing agreements for archaeological sites concluded with Manitoba and Ontario late last year enabled sharing of data with Pimachiowin Aki this year. The partnership is grateful to the staff of Manitoba Historic Resources and Ontario Archaeology Program Unit for facilitating the agreements and collating the spatial data and information. Pimachiowin Aki respects that the data and information must be handled with care and kept out of the public domain. Initial assessment of the data is that there are many more sites and more detailed information than what was sourced for the World Heritage nomination.

### Conserving Ecosystems

Pimachiowin Aki was part of an assessment this year of natural and mixed World Heritage sites conducted by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The assessment is being conducted to determine the prospects for maintaining World Heritage values of sites over time. The last assessment in 2020 gave Pimachiowin Aki the top rating, and demonstrated the leadership role sites can play in protected areas conservation and management. The new assessment will be released in 2025 in the IUCN World Heritage Outlook report.

Bird communities in Pimachiowin Aki were again chosen by the partners as indicators of ecosystem health. Birds indicate overall habitat quality, create cost-effective monitoring solutions, and play a significant role in setting conservation action priorities for the ecosystems they occupy.

As reported in the Monitoring Program section, Guardians were trained in the United States and here at home in ways to increase nesting success, survival and productivity of the Common Tern. This long-term project will expand the Guardians' Network and enhance capacity for the benefit of our communities, Common Terns, and millions of other migratory birds that nest in Pimachiowin Aki.



© Otake Hidehiro

Common Terns near Little Grand Rapids First Nation community, May 2024

Little Grand Rapids First Nation hosted boreal ecologists with the Canadian Wildlife Service to conduct 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) in the boreal forest. Webinars, on-the-ground surveys, and donation of autonomous recording units to the community were part of the project this year.

Pimachiowin Aki staff and First Nation community members contributed to a report co-produced by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme about skills required for effective implementation of Nature-based Solutions and strategies for enhancing skills development in this domain.

In collaboration with the Manitoba Wildlife Branch, Pimachiowin Aki First Nations submitted a proposal to the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk program in October 2023. At the end of the reporting year, First Nations were awaiting news on the proposal. Being part of this program would represent a long-term opportunity to expand our Guardians Network and exchange information and skills development in species identification and stewardship strategies in the World Heritage site.

### Supporting Sustainable Economies

The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners continued to advance our mission in social and economic contexts through in-kind contributions to the Guardians Network, food security and communications. As in previous years, the organization coordinated Guardians activities and facilitated access by communities to food grown and harvested locally by providing operational support to people working on the ground. Pimachiowin Aki staff also supported community members who shared their time and knowledge with visitors and researchers to the site.

Funds were raised this year for Pimachiowin Aki First Nations Guardians to participate in a 5-week accredited training program. Next year, Guardians are positioned to receive training in monitoring techniques, species identification, erosion and sediment control, communications, critical thinking, record-keeping, and many other skills in a manner that follows Anishinaabe customary approaches and scientific inquiry.





Investment in the Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Network is creating:

- economic returns, including full-time jobs and renewed dialogue on economic development opportunities; and
- social returns, including meaningful work in a new economy and public service to monitor, steward and manage lands and waters, opportunities for youth to connect with the land and with Guardians, Elders and other knowledge-keepers, and contributions to the world's understanding of nature-culture connections in protected areas management.

Research into methods and factors to consider in quantifying economic and social costs, benefits and values of the Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Network continue.

Investment in habitat mapping has increased monitoring program outcomes without incurring additional costs. Investment in cultural features mapping is helping us understand what people are currently doing in terms of land-based livelihoods and informing our thinking about new enterprises and social capital for a diversified regional economy. Economies of scale continued to be realized by relying more on compliance-based approaches and less on enforcement of regulations where they apply, primarily through education and awareness of the site's attributes, values, land laws, and traditional and conventional management approaches.

Investment in local economic development projects, consistent with our charitable purpose, remains a priority that will be revisited when financial and human resources are available.

### Information, Education and Communications

The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners worked to raise and enhance awareness of the World Heritage site through various media, including our website, newsletters, presentations, learning exchanges, regional gatherings, partnerships with museums, heritage centres and learned societies, contributions to magazine articles, a news bureau project, and responses to inquiries from around the world.

We are educating the international community about the principles of Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan (Keeping the Land) to encourage respectful and sustainable use of lands and waters, and preserve the world's biocultural diversity.

We are also sharing lessons learned in nominating a mixed site – a rare achievement in the world – to help others who are working to safeguard Indigenous cultural landscapes and natural heritage.

Highlights of our Information, Education and Communications Program achievements this year are:

- Pimachiowin Aki and Ōtake Hidehiro's photography are featured in *BIOCITY* magazine, an environmental magazine published in Japan;
- Pimachiowin Aki is presented in an article in *BESIDE* magazine, in collaboration with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO. Thank you to Bloodvein River First Nation for hosting the journalist and photographer, and contributing content to the article;
- The story of Pimachiowin Aki's journey to become a World Heritage site is told in the spring issue of *The Cottager* magazine. Poplar River First Nation members were interviewed for the article, and Pimachiowin Aki staff supplied photos and checked content for accuracy;
- Pimachiowin Aki staff attended a joint meeting of managers of World Heritage sites from across the United States and Canada, to connect with each other, and learn about and discuss common activities and issues;
- The organization participated in a survey about challenges faced by World Heritage sites conducted by a postdoctoral researcher at ETH Zurich;
- Pimachiowin Aki worked with a theater director in Italy on a production about Indigenous cultures. The Anishinaabe lunar calendar featured on our website was featured in a booklet for audience members;
- Pimachiowin Aki staff was invited by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage, to speak at an event dedicated to developments in the World Heritage Convention in the margins of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee in New Delhi, India in July 2024;
- Poplar River First Nation hosted CBC Manitoba's Communities in Focus. A reporter and three colleagues travelled to Poplar River to profile the community and share key stories through video, news articles and radio broadcasts. Pimachiowin Aki staff provided background information and fielded questions from the reporter. The stories from this project included:
  - Lands Guardian from Poplar River works to protect World Heritage Site;







- Poplar River community garden sows seeds of sustainability;
  - Commercial fisher from Poplar River First Nation navigates challenging fall season; and
  - All-season road for fly-in First Nation remains on community's wish list.
- New web content was created this year that speaks to people's interests about the communities of Pimachiowin Aki. We shared this content through four digital newsletters. Highlights are:

★ Top eNews stories

★ **Oral History Recordings – Drum Dance Ceremony and Interview with Little Grand Rapids First Nation Medicine Man William Bones Leveque**  
Pimachiowin Aki shared recordings from a 1960s interview with Little Grand Rapids First Nation medicine man William Bones Leveque.

**How to Harvest Manoomin (Wild Rice)**

The late Joe Owen of Pauingassi First Nation described the process of harvesting manoomin, which he learned from his dad.

**Tribute to Joe Owen**

The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners grieved the loss of our dear friend Joe Owen and honoured him with memories from his childhood and reflections on his leadership as a Director of Pimachiowin Aki.

★ **Joe Owen – 10 Family Photos**

We shared a selection of photos featuring Joe as a child and his family across generations.

**Why Award-Winning Nature Photographer Ōtake Hidehiro Keeps Coming Back to Pimachiowin Aki**

Nature photographer Ōtake Hidehiro explained how a camping trip during his university days sparked his profound connection to the natural world and ultimately led him to the people and places of Pimachiowin Aki.

★ **6 Days of Cultural Experiences with Pauingassi First Nation Guardian Colin Owens**

Ōtake Hidehiro shared notes and photos from his time on the land in Pauingassi with Colin this year.

**Lessons in Ojibwe**

Educator Jason Jones shared his knowledge of the language, including the origins of the word miigwech and the meaning of words used in Pimachiowin Aki, where 80 per cent of people speak Anishinaabemowin.

**Air Quality in Pimachiowin Aki**

Guardians installed PurpleAir sensors in Bloodvein River and Little Grand Rapids to help residents make decisions about their health, such as when to stay indoors to avoid breathing in harmful wildfire smoke.

**An Ethical Moose Hunt**

Pimachiowin Aki reminded community members and all hunters to report to Guardians any waste, reckless hunting, or disrespectful behaviour.



Pauingassi First Nation Guardian Colin Owens

© Ōtake Hidehiro







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



© Melba Green







## FAST FACTS



103

Subscribers

Number of people who signed up for the Pimachiowin Aki newsletter, for a total of 1062 subscribers



16,908

Views

Number of times the Pimachiowin Aki news story The Lunar Calendar, Explained was viewed on pimaki.ca



866

Downloads

532 207 127  
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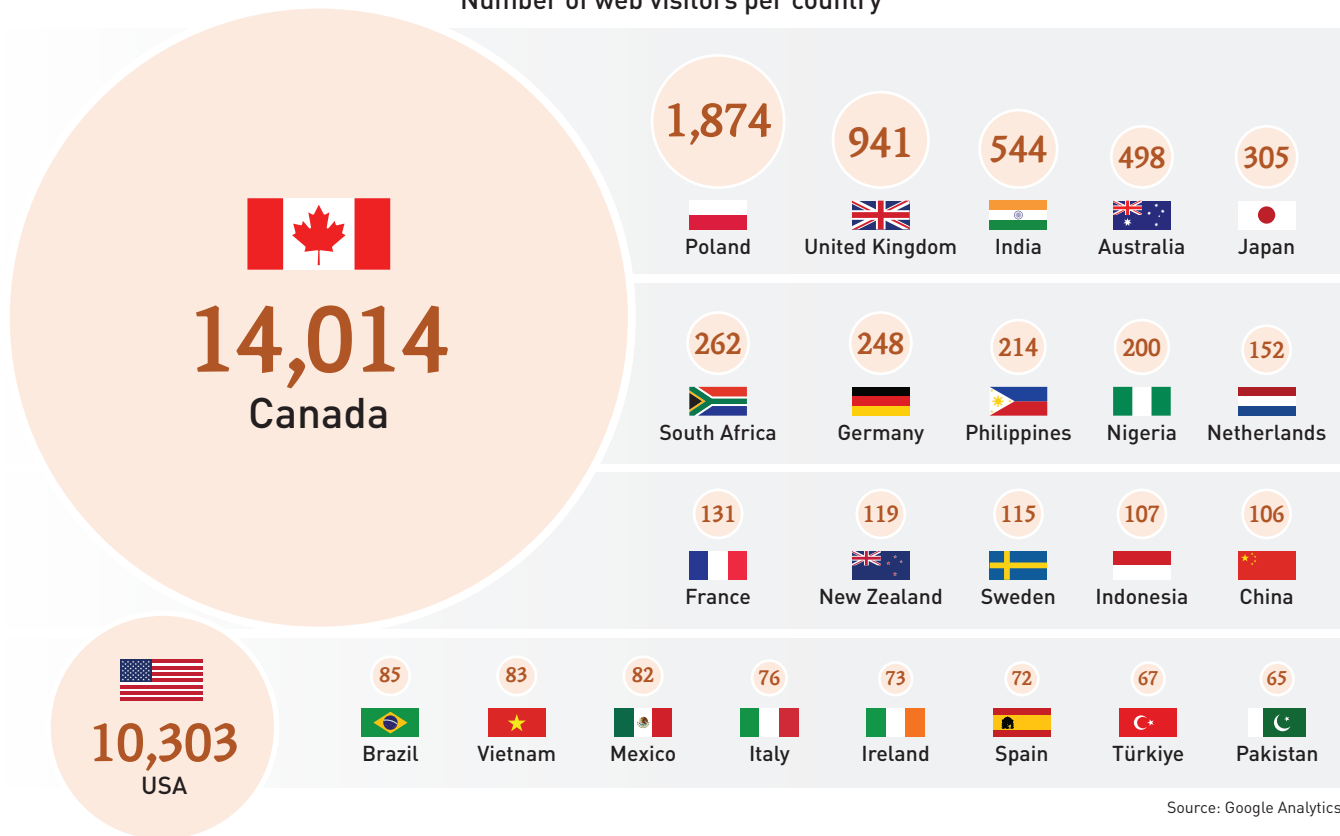


32,344

Visitors

Number of visitors to pimaki.ca, from 180 countries. There are 195 countries in the world

### Top 25 Countries Number of web visitors per country



Source: Google Analytics





## Governance and Financial Sustainability

Our mandate was reviewed this year to reassess the organization’s priorities and responsibilities, and ensure these are appropriate for the circumstances we faced. The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners is pleased to report that the organization worked to fulfill its mission, demonstrate public accountability, focus on activities that contributed most to our overall objectives and charitable purpose, follow governance best practice, and ensure that resources were managed in the best interests of our Members.

On requisitions of Directors, the Board was asked to clarify its decision-making process. New guidance was provided this year: to use email communications for information items only; and to reconcile the process prescribed by the organization’s General By-law (where the goal of full agreement is not emphasized) with a consensus decision-making process to allow for and encourage full communication and agreement wherever possible in making decisions in the best interests of the partnership as a whole. These improvements were included in a new draft decision-making policy.

Along with guidance on how decisions are made, the organization continued to operate in accordance with the principles described in the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage site nomination dossier. Decision-making is:

- unified and non-hierarchical;
- reflective of Ji-gichi-inenimidiyang, the principle in Ji-ganawendamang Gidakiiminaan of maintaining respectful relationships with other people; and
- conducted in accordance with the partnership’s collective accountability under the *World Heritage Convention*.

Our partnership’s governance approaches are “Solutions for a Healthy Planet” published on the Panorama platform. Panorama is a network of organizations, including GIZ, IUCN, UNDP, GRID-Arendal, UNEP, Rare, EcoHealth Alliance, ICCROM, World Bank Group, OCTO Group, ICOMOS, and IFOAM. The solutions contributed by Pimachiowin Aki are highly-visited on the platform and are helping people recognize patterns and inform policy recommendations. Pimachiowin Aki’s solutions are available here: <https://panorama.solutions/en/solution/valuing-interlinkages-between-nature-and-culture-planning-and-management-pimachiowin-aki>

Since its inception, the organization has functioned in a dynamic operating environment. This year, reductions in government grants and contributions shifted the organization’s focus toward a renewed relationship with our government partners. Letters from Pimachiowin Aki Directors were written to elected officials and staff of the Government of Manitoba, and a meeting of Pimachiowin Aki Directors and Manitoba Ministers and staff took place in February 2024. Working together to implement the land management plans that are the foundation of the World Heritage Site, and in-kind and capital contributions toward the goal of long-term stewardship financing were discussed, along with our common objectives to reduce reliance on government grants, grow the market value of the endowment fund, and harness the ability to make grants to the communities leading the work we support.



Co-chairs Bruce Bremner and William Young at the Manitoba Legislative building for a meeting with Government of Manitoba Ministers and staff, February 2024

A new contract with Peaceworks Technology Solutions for IT support was entered into this year, to use computer technology more effectively and affordably.

Next year, the organization will be launching a new Shop page on our website to engage our supporters and drive meaningful donations to the endowment fund.

A founding contribution of \$2.9 million from the Government of Manitoba to the endowment fund has supported our programs and operations for the past 14 years. The Assembly of Partners is grateful for this investment in the World Heritage site, for the contributions made by private donors, and for The Winnipeg Foundation’s expertise in investment and fund administration. The market value of the fund at our year-end was \$5.5 million.







## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

The attached Financial Statements show the position of Pimachiowin Aki at the end of the organization's fiscal year, August 31, 2024.

### **PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**

#### **Financial Statements**

**Year Ended August 31, 2024**







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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 Organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at August 31, 2024, 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, 2024, 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.

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
February 5, 2025

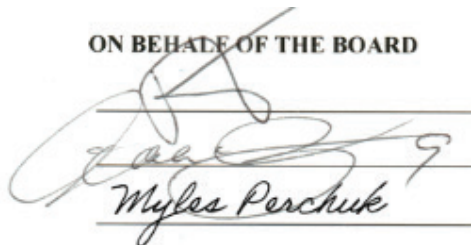
Chartered Professional Accountants Inc.

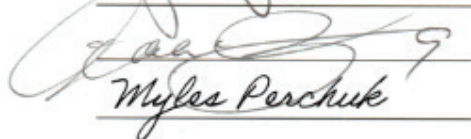



**PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**August 31, 2024**


	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash	\$ 729,414	\$ 766,027
Accounts receivable	8,444	25,000
Government remittances recoverable (Note 3)	-	6,260
Prepaid expenses	3,799	8,072
	<b>\$ 741,657</b>	<b>\$ 805,359</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 110,309	\$ 106,546
Government remittances payable (Note 3)	1,074	-
Wages payable	8,705	9,686
Deferred contributions (Note 4)	616,044	683,602
	<b>736,132</b>	<b>799,834</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>5,525</b>	<b>5,525</b>
	<b>\$ 741,657</b>	<b>\$ 805,359</b>

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD


  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Myles Perchuk  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director







**PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**  
**Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Year Ended August 31, 2024**

	2024	2023
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Winnipeg Foundation distribution <i>(Note 5)</i>	\$ 193,558	\$ 357,845
Environment and Climate Change Canada	250,000	250,000
First Nations National Guardians Network	104,101	-
Donations	9,953	12,647
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	-	30,000
	<b>557,612</b>	<b>650,492</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Communications	3,836	37,756
Courier and postage	1,256	1,585
Informing and educating public	17,732	589
Insurance	3,831	3,433
Interest and bank charges	26	51
Monitoring	260,436	326,647
Office	34,587	57,676
Professional fees	33,173	23,580
Safeguarding cultural heritage	118	874
Salaries and benefits	168,464	160,098
Telephone	5,341	4,502
Travel and accommodations	28,812	33,701
	<b>557,612</b>	<b>650,492</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, 2024**

	2024	2023
<b>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 5,525</b>	<b>\$ 5,525</b>
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 5,525</b>	<b>\$ 5,525</b>







**PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**

**Statement of Cash Flows**

**Year Ended August 31, 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	<b>16,556</b>	(22,760)
Government remittances recoverable (payable)	<b>7,334</b>	572
Prepaid expenses	<b>4,273</b>	19,239
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	<b>3,763</b>	(20,477)
Wages payable	<b>(981)</b>	870
Deferred contributions	<b>(67,558)</b>	33,728
	<b>(36,613)</b>	11,172
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW</b>	<b>(36,613)</b>	11,172
<b>CASH - BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>766,027</b>	754,855
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 729,414</b>	<b>\$ 766,027</b>



## PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION

### Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2024

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#### 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 amortized 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.

##### Capital assets

Capital 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. Capital 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, 2024**

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 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.

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

3. GOVERNMENT REMITTANCES RECOVERABLE (PAYABLE)

	2024	2023
Goods and services tax recoverable	\$ 4,141	\$ 9,045
Source deductions payable	(5,215)	(2,785)
	<b>\$ (1,074)</b>	<b>\$ 6,260</b>

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:

	2023	Additions	Revenue Recognized	2024
Environment and Climate Change Canada	\$ 150,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -
The Winnipeg Foundation	533,602	255,180	193,558	<b>595,224</b>
First Nations National Guardians Network	-	124,921	104,101	<b>20,820</b>
	<b>\$ 683,602</b>	<b>\$ 480,101</b>	<b>\$ 547,659</b>	<b>\$ 616,044</b>

5. WINNIPEG FOUNDATION

In 2010 the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund was established at The Winnipeg Foundation. As of September 30, 2023, the year-end of The Winnipeg Foundation, there was a total of \$3,391,454 in contributed capital to the fund with a market value of \$4,928,229. The current spending policy rate is 5% (2023 - 4.8%) distributed annually, with the allocated spending amounts for 2024 set at \$255,180. 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.



## **PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION**

### **Notes to Financial Statements**

**Year Ended August 31, 2024**

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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, 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Winnipeg Foundation distribution	\$ 193,558	\$ 357,845
Environment and Climate Change Canada	250,000	250,000
First Nations National Guardians Network	104,101	-
Donations	9,953	12,647
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources	-	30,000
	<b>557,612</b>	<b>650,492</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Communications	3,836	24,722
Fundraising	7,682	10,660
General administration	262,206	270,348
Informing and educating public	17,232	13,623
Monitoring	266,538	330,265
Safeguarding cultural heritage	118	874
	<b>557,612</b>	<b>650,492</b>
<b>INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



# MIIGWECH!

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## THANK YOU!

The Directors and Members of the Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners share our appreciation for all our donors, funders, partner organizations and volunteers who support our work to safeguard the boreal forest and Anishinaabe cultural landscape for now, and into the future.

This year, the following people made contributions through CanadaHelps and to the endowment fund at The Winnipeg Foundation. Thank you for being our inspiration and helping us meet the evolving needs of community-led conservation. We also thank the many people who chose to make anonymous donations to Pimachiowin Aki.

A full list of the donors who contributed to Pimachiowin Aki since the organization was established as a not-for-profit charity is available in previous years' annual reports.

- Richie Allen
- Jean-Guy Bourgeois
- Rhonda Bruchanski
- Lyn Caswell
- Claude J. Delisle
- Genevieve Eden
- P. Charles Feaver and Maureen Matthews
- Irene Fogarty
- Doug Gilmore (Ishkodense)
- Rose Van der Hooft
- Gord Jones, in memory of Joe Owen
- Russell W. Kovach
- Siegfried and Tannis Laser, in memory of Don Sullivan
- Susan Lingle
- Christopher Sunde
- United Way of Winnipeg

## SPECIAL THANKS ALSO TO:

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

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



The full 2024 Annual Report with financial statements is available here:  
[https://pimaki.ca/wp-content/uploads/Pim\\_Aki\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2024.pdf](https://pimaki.ca/wp-content/uploads/Pim_Aki_Annual_Report_2024.pdf)











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WORLD HERITAGE SITE

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