

PIMACHIOWIN AKI
WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Land that Gives Life

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ANNUAL REPORT 2025





PIMACHIOWIN AKI IS OJIBWE
FOR THE *Land that Gives Life*
(pim-MA-cho-win ah-KEH)

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 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.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Pimachiowin Aki
inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 2018



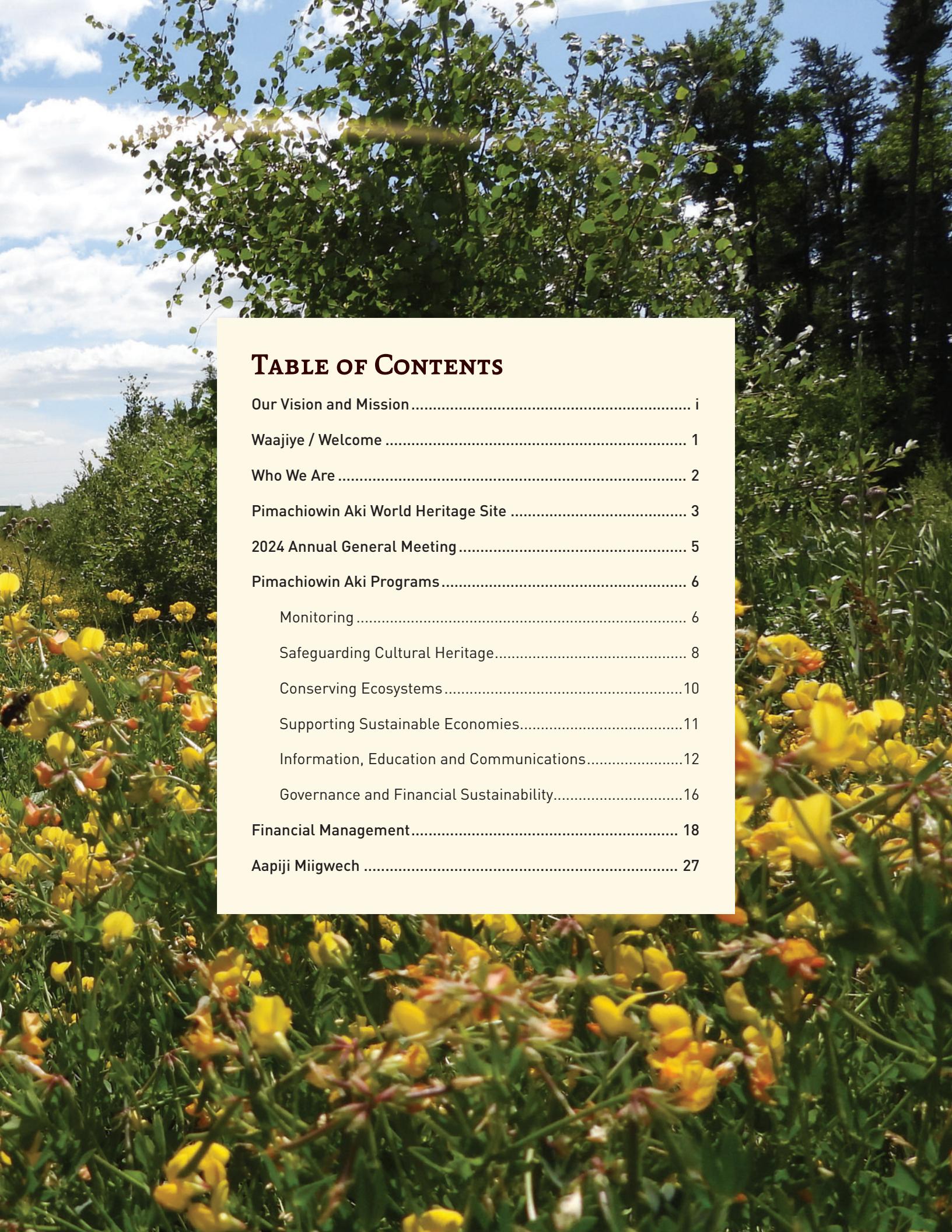


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WAAJIYE / WELCOME

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Welcome to our Annual Report for 2025

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Members of the Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners, we are pleased to present our 2025 Annual Report.

This year, we honoured two long-serving Directors and welcomed two new Directors to the Board. We are again a diverse and inclusive team with a depth of experience that demonstrates a long-standing commitment to the values, vision and mission of Pimachiowin Aki.

We commend Pimachiowin Aki First Nation Guardians for their service, and celebrate those who received accreditation this year. Guardians participated in an intensive training program to build skills and capacity in the work they do. We appreciate the First Nation National Guardians Network and Oceans North for these opportunities and support for one of the most important Indigenous-led conservation initiatives of all time.

Through Pimachiowin Aki's Board of Directors, network of volunteers, staff and donor community, we delivered results in six core program areas:

1	Monitoring	4	Supporting Sustainable Economies
2	Safeguarding Cultural Heritage	5	Information, Education and Communications
3	Conserving Ecosystems	6	Governance and Financial Sustainability

We invite you to reflect on how these programs and the stories embedded in the Pimachiowin Aki landscape have shaped this place of reciprocity and resilience for the future.

The Annual Report for 2025 is also available at:

https://pimaki.ca/wp-content/uploads/Pim_Aki_Annual_Report_2025.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 Land-based Learning Facilitator for his community. William is currently the Culture and Language Coordinator for Miskooseepi School in Bloodvein River First Nation.

ROB NEDOTIAFKO was appointed on February 4, 2025 to represent the Government of Manitoba on the Board of Directors. Rob brings a variety of perspectives and expertise to the Board, having worked with Poplar River First Nation on the Asatiwisipe Aki Land Management Plan, a foundation of the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site nomination. Rob is currently the Director of Parks with Manitoba Environment and Climate Change. This position was held by **BRUCE BREMNER** for the first half of the reporting year. Bruce served on the Board for 16 years, consistently demonstrating leadership and a passion for the organization's mission. His invaluable contributions, exceptional service, and positive impact on the people and places of Pimachiowin Aki will endure.

DIRECTORS

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. Ed is currently the CMHC Administrator for his community's housing program.

ENIL KEEPER was appointed on August 28, 2025 to represent Little Grand Rapids First Nation on the Board of Directors. Enil has been part of the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage initiative since its inception. He is a former Chief and served as a Councillor for his community for 20 years. He also worked as an RCMP officer, an assistant Conservation Officer and Home-School Coordinator. Enil was born in a cabin on Sharpstone Lake and lived from the land for many years. He has a great interest in education and learning outcomes for young people in his community. Enil replaces **AUGUSTINE KEEPER** who held the position for more than a decade and who brought many ideas forward that strengthened the organization and enabled the partnership to achieve results over the long-term.

BENSON PASCAL represents Pauingassi First Nation on the Board of Directors. Benson is Councillor for his First Nation's government, currently serving a 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.

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 22 years in various positions, including Resource Operations Supervisor.

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

The Land that Gives Life

Pimachiowin Aki (pronounced pim-MA-cho-win ah-KEH) means “the land that gives life” in Anishinaabemowin, the Ojibwe language spoken here.

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.

This is a place that provides a home for globally-threatened species, and sustains our well-being by protecting water sources, buffering against climate impacts, supporting livelihoods, and celebrating cultural values.

We are proud to be part of the *World Heritage Convention*, the most widely-accepted international conservation treaty in human history.





2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Pimachiowin Aki Assembly of Partners hosted its 19th Annual General Meeting at the Hilton Garden Inn in Winnipeg on January 29, 2025.

Sophia Rabliauskas opened the meeting with a Prayer, followed by a Moment of Silence, and a Memorial Song with Ray and Norway Rabliauskas for the late Elder Leslie Orvis Sr. of Bloodvein River First Nation who passed away in December 2024.

The Honourable Mike Moyes, Manitoba Minister of Environment and Climate Change, provided opening remarks and acknowledged everyone for their work to create an internationally-acclaimed network of protected areas. He recognized Anishinaabeg for leading this work, and being stewards of the land since time immemorial. Minister Moyes said he is committed to partnerships in a spirit of reconciliation and enhancing protection of lands. He expressed sincere thanks for the opportunity to be at the meeting on behalf of Premier Kineew and the entire Manitoba government.



The Honourable Mike Moyes,
Manitoba Minister of Environment
and Climate Change



Listening to presentations at the 2024 AGM

Minister Moyes' greetings were followed by an introduction to Oceans North, a national conservation charity working in partnership with communities to protect ecosystems, fish and fish habitat, and ways of life. Oceans North has a recent mandate to work on freshwater ecosystems in partnership with First Nation communities.

Alana Ramshaw, Financial Services Manager with ONBusiness Chartered Professional Accountants Inc., presented the 2024 Financial Statements and Auditor's Report. The organization was given a clean audit report.

Guest speakers were then invited to share the following presentations:

- Names - People and places - 1876 and Onward -
Kaa Kaapish-Gerald Neufeld
- Pimachiowin Aki: A Summary of Recent Research with
University College Dublin, Ireland - Irene Fogarty
- Nametwaawin, Land and Language Project -
Rachel Erickson and Rob Gendron, Manitoba Museum
- Obaawingaashiing Gichi-Aabijitaawinan, Pauingassi Collection -
Maureen Matthews, Carol Beaulieu and Kate McDonald,
Gaagige Ganawendamaang Anishinaabemowin
- Greetings from Brian Carpenter, Head Archivist for Indigenous
Collections at the Library of the American Philosophical Society,
brought by Maureen Matthews
- National Audubon Society-Pimachiowin Aki Collaborations - Jeff Wells



Map presented by Kaa Kaapish (Gerald Neufeld)

Directors and Members thanked our esteemed guests for the resources and opportunities they provided to Pimachiowin Aki. These remarkable people have contributed so much to our partnership and ability to serve all of our constituents in a meaningful way. Miigwech.





PIMACHIOWIN AKI PROGRAMS

Monitoring

Monitoring the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site was again led by First Nation Guardians in the four Anishinaabe First Nation communities. Keeping watch on ecosystem processes, species diversity and cultural attributes, and being points of contact for community members, leaders, government staff, researchers and visitors to the site, were primary responsibilities of Guardians this year.

Two of the four Pimachiowin Aki First Nation Guardians took part in a five-week (200-hour) training program in spring of 2025. Through this program, Guardians enhanced their skills in the identification of plants, birds, amphibians, wildlife, fish and fish habitat, aquatic conditions, erosion and sediment control, environmental monitoring techniques, and protection of ancestral lands and waters.



Bloodvein River First Nation Guardian Melba Green



Poplar River First Nation Guardian Owen Bear

This work, and the training opportunities realized this year, were undertaken with the financial support of the First Nations National Guardians Network.



Several community members and the Guardian for Bloodvein River First Nation were trained in river monitoring and data collection techniques this summer. Large portions of the Bloodvein River upstream of the community were surveyed, and students were engaged in workshops and classroom presentations. Data on fish species, the benthic layer and water quality were collected with support of Oceans North and AAE Tech Services. A community event is being planned next year to present the results of this work and talk about future plans.

Pimachiowin Aki's Monitoring Program received a lot of international attention early in the reporting year, including from:

- the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), to contribute to the World Heritage Outlook and identify evolving trends in the global status of natural World Heritage; and
- the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), to present on monitoring mechanisms implemented at Pimachiowin Aki, part of the course on "Managing World Heritage: People Nature Culture" (PNC24).



Bloodvein River monitoring





The organization explored grants and partnerships to support the work of the First Nation Guardians and overall Monitoring Program. These included:

- the Canada Foundation for Innovation - Innovations Fund, in partnership with the University of Manitoba, to increase the availability of mobile equipment for First Nation communities to maintain or start environmental monitoring activities;
- the Indigenous Partnerships for Species at Risk Fund, in partnership with Manitoba Wildlife Branch, to expand and enhance the work of Guardians to monitor, report on, assess, and educate people about species at risk and culturally significant species;
- the Habitat Stewardship Program for Aquatic Species at Risk, to address threats described in recovery documents and assessment reports, strengthen community-led capacity in monitoring and communications, document Anishinaabe ways of knowing and advance protection and conservation activities for culturally-significant species;
- the Weston Foundation, in partnership with the National Audubon Society, to: develop bird and bat monitoring projects; gather knowledge about birds, fire management and practices; increase numbers of youth guardians; tag priority bird species and invest in MOTUS towers to contribute data to a network of stations used to study and conserve migratory birds, bats, and insects.

The organization is positioned to continue pursuing these and other programs to support our Monitoring Program in the new year.

Additional highlights of Program outcomes in the reporting year were:

- Communities in Focus, a CBC community news bureau project, travelled to Poplar River First Nation in the fall and interviewed Poplar River First Nation Lands Guardians. Pimachiowin Aki staff fielded questions about the World Heritage Site and Guardians Network;



CBC team in Poplar River First Nation

- a new alignment for the winter road to Pauingassi First Nation and Little Grand Rapids First Nation was reviewed by Guardians, leadership, community members, and Pimachiowin Aki staff. The new alignment is proposed to come from the northwest (near Berens River First Nation) to make use of a recently upgraded all-season road, avoid several deep-water crossings, and allow for a longer season for transport of supplies to the communities. As part of this review, the boundary layer for Pimachiowin Aki on the online ArcGIS platform was updated with support from a GIS mapping expert with the National Audubon Society;
- Guardians deployed acoustic recording units (ARUs) to collect data about migratory birds, amphibians and bats for research and conservation;
- Guardians took young people out on the land and taught them about Guardians' roles and responsibilities and what it means to be good stewards of the land. Guardians reported positive learning outcomes and observations that young people are "better listeners outside";



Sharing land-based knowledge with Bloodvein River students

- Guardians monitored water quality, water levels, shoreline erosion, algal blooms, and soil moisture content. Elders observed that the muskeg is drying and creating an increased risk of wildfire. Muskeg monitoring research verified Elders' observations;



Muskeg monitoring





- Pimachiowin Aki participated in a survey on how Environment and Climate Change Canada engages Indigenous peoples in conservation. The objective of this survey, initiated in 2018 when the Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Network was established, and conducted annually, is to improve engagement while improving decision-making and conservation outcomes;
- As reported last year, the World Heritage Committee adopted the Periodic Report for Europe and North America, to which Pimachiowin Aki contributed. Periodic Reporting is a monitoring tool supporting sites managers in improving conservation efforts while also providing information to the global community about implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. This year, Pimachiowin Aki was invited to participate in a survey reflecting on the Periodic Reporting process. The recommendations and proposals developed during this reflection were presented for discussion and adoption by the World Heritage Committee at its 47th session in July 2025; and
- Concurrent with the Periodic Reporting exercise, Pimachiowin Aki provided GIS information to support the World Heritage Online Map Platform. Information provided this year centred on why there is no formal buffer polyline for the site but rather 'adjacent areas' with complementary legal and planning frameworks that take account of the values of Pimachiowin Aki. Pimachiowin Aki is considered large enough on its own to capture all of the attributes that convey its Outstanding Universal Value, integrity and authenticity, and ensure its continued protection.

Safeguarding Cultural Heritage

We know that the Pimachiowin Aki landscape is a deeply cultural space, with a storied history that reflects the relationship between our communities and environment over millennia. How the Pimachiowin Aki partners worked to safeguard cultural heritage took on many forms this year, from revitalizing language to sharing teachings, and developing policy.



Pimachiowin Aki staff, Guardians and knowledge-keepers continued to work with Little Grand Rapids and Pauingassi community members on traditional place names maps to help preserve Anishinaabemowin, local history, information about landscape resilience and change over time, navigational information, teachings and practices. This year, we had the opportunity to work with Manitoba's Provincial Toponymist, and a Master's student. At the end of the reporting year, draft maps were plotted for community review and verification. The First Nations will also decide which names to make official so they can appear on Google Maps and future topographical maps. Thank you to the Manitoba Lands and Planning Branch for helping to make these maps possible through in-kind GIS mapping services.

TRAPLINE_MAP_ID	NAME_ANISHINAABEMOWIN	NAME_SYLLABICS	NAME_ENGLISH_TRANSLATION
11	Ajidamoo Neyashilwan	አजිදාමා නේයාෂිල්වන	Squirrel Point
11	Kapeetawapikitaywung	කාපේටාවපිකිටායුංග	inner caves / flat
12	16	බාගින්වින් යාගාගිං	small lake where thunderbird strikes
12	22	Gapakigamak zaagaigan	a detour on a lake
12	31	ලේංගිං බාගාගිං	Long Lake / Longkin Lake
12	44	ලේංගිං	
12	52		
12	77	ගාගාගිවපිශ්කා යාගාගිං	raven lake
12	116	මාක්ව යාගාගිං	Bear Lake
12	117	ගායාෂික්ව යාගාගිං	Seagull Lake
12	118	ඡැගීම යාගාගිං	Mosquito Lake
12	162	මාක්ව බාවිටිග	bear rapids
12	185	අශිගාමින්සි	rock island

Mapping excerpt from Little Grand Rapids First Nation



A story published on our website was the answer to a question about Anishinaabemowin that one of our U.S.-based subscribers has been asking for the past 30 years. "Lessons in Ojibwe – Language that Comes From the Land" is an interview we produced for the Pimachiowin Aki newsletter with educator, Jason Jones. This story is one of the many ways we are helping people keep Anishinaabemowin and our cultural heritage alive.





The culture is built inside the language.



— JASON JONES, June 2023

Work began this year on translating Pimachiowin Aki's Statement of Outstanding Universal Value from English to Anishinaabemowin (Roman orthography and syllabics). Supported by a grant from Parks Canada, the translation will be available on the Pimachiowin Aki website and in local schools and other community spaces next year.

Our partnership with the American Philosophical Society (APS) continued to enhance our work to keep Anishinaabe cultural heritage and identity known and understood for generations to come. One of the collections at the APS is a large set of photographs and writings made by the anthropologist A. Irving Hallowell when he visited communities on the Berens River in the 1930s. We are grateful to the APS for keeping this collection in trust for – and readily accessible to – our Members.



We consider our work with Pimachiowin Aki to be one of the most historically important collaborations with Native Americans and First Nations in the long and distinguished 250-year history of the American Philosophical Society.



— HEAD ARCHIVIST,

Center for Native American and Indigenous Research,
American Philosophical Society

The APS archives enriched our Safeguarding Cultural Heritage Program by being part of the series of books produced through the Nametwaawin: Land and Language outreach project. This year we celebrated completion of the final book in the series: Obaawingaashiing Gichi-Aabijitaawinan, Pauingassi Collection. We also supported an application to the Manitoba Arts Council for a grant to support the

development of teacher resources, workshops, and travel to the four First Nation communities to deliver the Nametwaawin project kits in a meaningful way.



Nametwaawin: Land and Language outreach project

In the spring of 2025, the Bloodvein River First Nation Director and Guardian hosted a meeting with Elders, leadership, students, provincial government staff, and the Manitoba Director and Pimachiowin Aki staff to develop and implement a moose conservation strategy. Moose are – and have always been – a cultural keystone species to Anishinaabeg. Discussions centred on monitoring the moose population, support for Guardians, mandatory reporting by licensed hunters, and implementation of the Pimitotah Land Management Plan for Bloodvein River First Nation ancestral lands. The meeting concluded with a commitment to continue the dialogue and implement interim measures to reduce hunting pressure especially at access points near the community.



Bloodvein River First Nation airstrip

Directors, Guardians, trapline holders and other knowledge-keepers continued to review existing land use policies, allocation and permitting processes and make recommendations for improved decision-making





in Pimachiowin Aki. Indicators of the cultural landscape were safeguarded in accordance with Gikendaasowin (Indigenous ways of knowing), customary law, provincial policy, and direction in the World Heritage Site Management Plan, community-based land management plans, and provincial park plans.

Conserving Ecosystems

At the end of the reporting year, Manitoba was experiencing its worst wildfire season in three decades. Fires skirted Pimachiowin Aki at the Atikaki Park and Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve boundaries. Park users were evacuated to ensure safety.

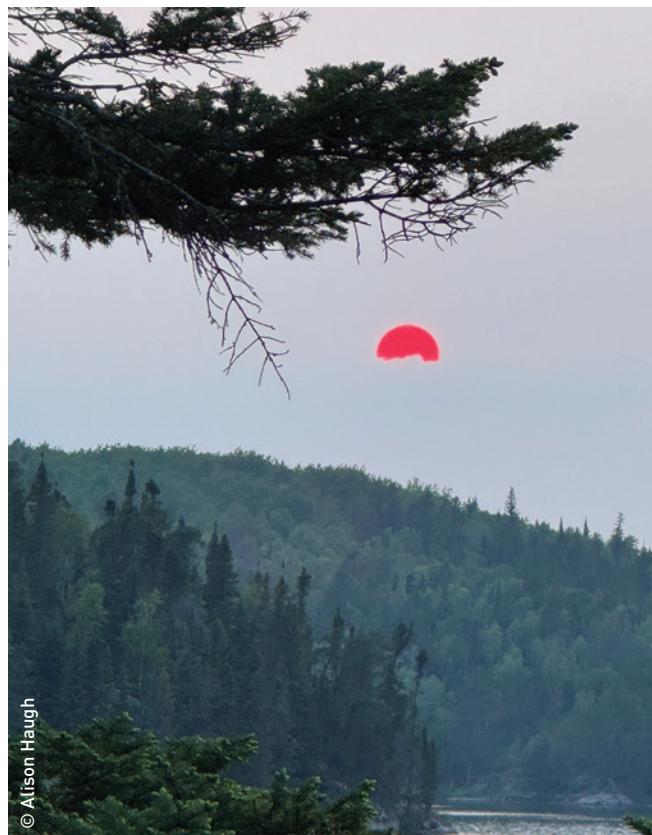
The increase in size and frequency of wildfires, a trend climate change is likely to exacerbate, is considered to be a threat to Pimachiowin Aki's integrity by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). This year's World Heritage Outlook, launched at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, gives Pimachiowin Aki the top ranking despite the risks posed by wildfire and a changing climate. The size and north-south extent of Pimachiowin Aki contribute to climatic variability that continues to sustain ecosystem and species diversity.



© Melba Green
Fire suppression near Bloodvein River First Nation

Pimachiowin Aki's ecosystems have evolved with fire and depend on it for renewal. Wildfire also enhances the cultural landscape, as Anishinaabeg of Pimachiowin Aki keep and pass down knowledge of resource availability following fires, such as moose, blueberries, morels, and medicines.

To ensure safety during the wildfire season, Guardians installed PurpleAir sensors in Bloodvein River and Little Grand Rapids First Nations. This year, the sensor in Little Grand Rapids was upgraded with support of Environment and Climate Change Canada.



© Alison Haugh
Sunset during wildfire season

How wildfires impact bird communities in the site was also of interest to our Members this year. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) produced a report with the data they collected in Pimachiowin Aki last summer to answer this question. We are planning more work with CWS to understand these associations and expand the datasets, potentially doing surveys with Guardians along the winter road network next year. Thank you to CWS for collecting and sharing these datasets with us, and enhancing our Conserving Ecosystems and Monitoring Programs.



So grateful to have been able to work within Pimachiowin Aki, an experience that will stay with me forever.

— MEGAN EDGAR,
27 March 2025, Wildlife Biologist,
Canadian Wildlife Service (Prairie Region)





Our Directors and Members were also invited this year to contribute to research by a Masters student at the University of Winnipeg on the impacts of climate-related disasters, such as wildfires and smoke evacuations, on First Nations communities.

On behalf of Pimachiowin Aki, our Director for Little Grand Rapids First Nation and ecologists with ECOSTEM Ltd. attended a session on re-estimating the natural forest conditions in Ontario's boreal forest. This was a technical exercise to support implementation of the Boreal Landscape Guide in forest management planning in Ontario.

As part of our work on Conserving Ecosystems, it is our responsibility to review work permit applications in the site. This year, we reviewed crown land permit and provincial park permit applications for right-of-way vegetation work proposed along transmission lines between Pauingassi and Little Grand Rapids, and the Pigeon River to Little Grand Rapids. This work will utilize existing winter roads and clear heli pads to allow access for maintenance crews.

At the Convention on Biological Diversity conference in Cali, Columbia this year, the World Health Organization and IUCN presented a report on the interplay between biodiversity conservation and human health. Pimachiowin Aki was chosen as a case study to provide guidance and practical recommendations for policymakers and others involved in protected areas, health programs and world heritage site management. Conference delegates represented almost every country in the world. We were pleased to contribute to the report and the global understanding of nature-based solutions for health and well-being.

Supporting Sustainable Economies

This year marks the 7th consecutive year Pimachiowin Aki was successful in raising funds for full-time First Nation Lands Guardians positions. A portion of these funds was dedicated to training opportunities and advancing Guardians along professional career pathways. Investment in the Pimachiowin Aki Guardians network is creating socio-economic benefits and opportunities to grow local economies and ensure Anishinaabe livelihoods remain a priority use of ancestral lands and the World Heritage Site.



Ice-fishing with young people on the Bloodvein River

In-kind staff support was provided to our First Nation communities to investigate the feasibility of community solar power projects to address high gas prices and power outages; develop home gardens and greenhouses; and deliver wild food to community homes and for celebrations and feasts.



Garden in Little Grand Rapids First Nation

In support of other Program objectives, the organization continued to:

- investigate non-timber forest products, map wild rice lakes, and assess community interest, capacity, markets, and grant funding programs;
- engage in research partnerships to enhance Guardians' data collection and analysis skills, co-create knowledge and best practice in all of our Program areas;
- explore opportunities for payments for ecosystem services to support implementation of community-based land management plans and programs, and provide well-paying and meaningful research and work opportunities for First Nation members and project partners.





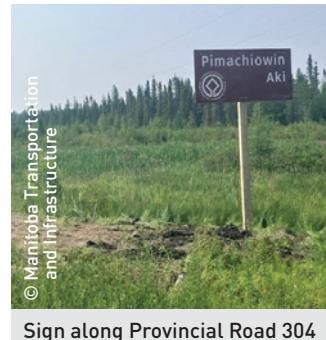
Information, Education and Communications

This year marked continued growth in global interest in Pimachiowin Aki. As more people seek to understand the World Heritage site's natural and cultural significance, we focused on sharing stories and knowledge from our communities who care for the land and others who have meaningful ties here. Web features created this year include:

- Poplar River First Nation Guardian Owen Bear reflected on his life and work, and his experience at the National Audubon Society's Hog Island Camp;
- Irene Fogarty shared insights from her PhD research on Indigenous Peoples and guardianship of protected areas in Canada;
- Bloodvein River First Nation Guardian Melba Green offered tips on interpreting animal tracks to understand their winter activities, habitats, and movements;
- Enil Keeper of Little Grand Rapids First Nation recounted his experience growing up on the land—hunting, trapping, and watching his grandma cook his favourite, moose and bannock;
- Gerald Neufeld (Kaa kaapish) shared his discoveries about original names of people and places in Pimachiowin Aki;
- Poplar River First Nation shared a four-year report for the Community-Based Monitoring Project: *Droning on for Climate Monitoring: Equipping Poplar River First Nation With Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems and Data Analysis Capacity for Measuring Algal Blooms and Shoreline Erosion on Lake Winnipeg*;

- Pimachiowin Aki Director William Young of Bloodvein River First Nation described what to watch for when helping Guardians steward moose during the busy fall hunt.

The summer of 2025 marked the installation of five signs along Provincial Road 304 for the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site. The signs meet provincial transportation engineering standards for installation on the road right-of-way, as well as UNESCO's guidelines for use of the World Heritage Emblem. These are the first signs for a World Heritage Site in Manitoba. The Pimachiowin Aki partners are grateful to Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure Highway Engineering Services and Traffic Signing Crew, and the UNESCO Communication and Global Monitoring Unit for making this project happen.



Sign along Provincial Road 304

© Manitoba Transportation and Infrastructure

We shared information with many people and organizations about our experiences in land management planning, protected areas and world heritage, including with:

- UNESCO World Heritage Centre, for a book and online publication about how Indigenous knowledge is shaping and leading conservation efforts and World Heritage sites;



The site is a major part of my doctoral research on the urgency of Indigenous Peoples' leadership in protected areas conservation in Canada... I found it profoundly moving that Anishinaabe Elders wanted to pursue World Heritage inscription so Pimachiowin Aki would be protected for all humanity. The resilience, determination and generosity of the Anishinaabe First Nations are lessons for all.



— IRENE FOGARTY, June 2025, Doctor of Philosophy in World Heritage, University College Dublin, School of Archaeology





- Manitoba Parks Branch, on potential application of the *East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act*, to enable land management planning by First Nations in northern Manitoba;
- The National Audubon Society, for an infographic about the benefits of conservation;
- Minecraft, for an educational game spearheaded by Bloodvein River First Nation and Logics Academy that takes place in a pixelated version of Pimachiowin Aki and teaches young people about biodiversity and traditional land stewardship;
- Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism for a social media calendar that educates people about Pimachiowin Aki as one of Ontario's two World Heritage sites;
- AFAR Magazine, for an article entitled, "12 Extraordinary UNESCO World Heritage Sites Where Nature Meets Culture";
- The National Trust for Canada, for an article in their member magazine, *Locale*;
- *National Geographic Adventure (Australia)*, for an article about the cultural and historical significance of Pimachiowin Aki and experiential travel on the Bloodvein River; and
- The Canadian Commission for UNESCO, on K-12 resources for educators to foster sustainability awareness.

We shared photos taken by Guardians and others, which we added to the Pimachiowin Aki library.





FAST FACTS



1,136
Subscribers

Seventy-four people signed up for the Pimachiowin Aki newsletter, for a total of 1,136 subscribers



34,000
Visitors

Number of visits to pimaki.ca





PIMAKI.CA



72,307
Web Page Views

TOP PAGES

- The Lunar Calendar, Explained **16,908 views!**
- Bloodvein River First Nation
- Calendars
- Lessons in Ojibwe—Language That Comes From the Land (Part 1)
- 5 Animal Track Patterns to Spot This Winter



The Pimachiowin Aki Lunar Calendar

With permission and full credit to Pimachiowin Aki:

- An Italian theatre director used the lunar calendar in a pamphlet for a production of The Unplugging by Algonquin playwright Yvette Nolan.
- Oakbank Elementary School used the Lunar Calendar graphic on a school plaque.
- Canadian Commission for UNESCO used the calendar in a publication created with over 40 knowledge holders in education for sustainable development and Indigenous land-based learning.



866
Downloads

532

Canada

207

USA

127

Other

Number of files downloaded from pimaki.ca





Governance and Financial Sustainability

The Board of Directors is pleased to report that the organization continued to deliver on our mandate and the impact we aim to make. Coinciding with the appointment of two new Directors, we completed a formal review of the partnership's Strategic Plan, assessing overall progress and evaluating if our goals remain relevant. Progress has been made on all goals, even without budget appropriations for Conserving Ecosystems, Supporting Sustainable Economies, and Governance programs this year.

In May 2025, Pimachiowin Aki Directors, staff and First Nations leadership met with the Manitoba Minister of Environment and Climate Change and staff, and staff of Manitoba Natural Resources and Indigenous Futures, to resume our working relationship and revisit the province's commitment to create a \$10 million fund for Pimachiowin Aki. Only \$2.9 million of the commitment was fulfilled, and annual grants to the organization were discontinued in 2019. Approaches to engaging the federal government to capitalize the Fund were also discussed.

Article 5 of the *World Heritage Convention* emphasizes the responsibility of Canada to ensure the protection, conservation, and presentation of our nation's heritage. This includes establishing services and implementing financial measures. To this end, our partnership continued to advocate for a federal commitment to the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Site, including in the context of a Nature Agreement announced by the Government of Manitoba.

Over four hundred donations have been made since the combined Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund and Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Fund was created. The market value of the combined Fund at the end of the reporting year was \$5.8 million. The Pimachiowin Aki partnership acknowledges our donors, and The Winnipeg Foundation for managing this endowment and helping us reach our goal of assured financing for protection of Pimachiowin Aki's ecosystems and cultural landscape for all humanity forever.

We recognize that a combination of approaches offers the best investment option. The organization continued to look at financing options beyond existing sources and reduce our reliance on grants. Building and enhancing donor relations, and renewing interest in Pimachiowin Aki among non-government organizations and philanthropic foundations were again top priorities of the partnership.

This year, we diversified our approach to engage our supporters and drive meaningful donations through the creation of a Shop page on our website. For every donation of \$300 or more, donors receive a copy of the *Obaawingaashiing Gichi-Aabijitaawinan – Pauingassi* Collection book. Because our organization is a registered charity, the value of a benefit to donors cannot exceed 10% of the value of the donation. In future years, we will be positioned to offer the books and other items for purchase on our Shop page, such as maps, posters and branded apparel, to raise income for our programs.



Manitoba's unique ecosystems support local communities and Indigenous peoples by providing jobs, sustaining traditions, and contributing to the economy. Protecting them isn't just about conservation—it's about making sure they remain a resource for future generations. By collaborating with the province and Indigenous partners, we're taking real action to preserve these landscapes.



— THE HONOURABLE TERRY DUGUID,
Minister of Sport and Minister responsible for Prairies Economic Development Canada, March 7, 2025





Foundations that generated earned media and raised awareness of Pimachiowin Aki during the World Heritage site nomination bid were also approached this year. This kind of exposure changed the way the *World Heritage Convention* is implemented and has helped to leverage conservation gains across the globe. Given these endorsements, we asked for consideration of significant and leading contributions to the Fund and advice on other potential donors. With predictable and sustainable financing, there are many opportunities to advance shared goals, and ensure that these kinds of protected areas are here for the long-term.

Several changes and improvements were made to our operations such as the appointment of a new auditor, a new accounting software package, a new company profile, and migration of our website to a high-performance data server to improve response times.

The partnership is grateful to ECOSTEM Ltd. for hosting our data library and information management system free-of-charge again this year, 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. ECOSTEM's support and friendship has given our organization agility, operational efficiency, and enhanced communications and decision-making capacity. With increased capacity, we are ready to attract researchers, research institutions and other partners, and diversify revenue sources.

The screenshot shows the Pimachiowin Aki website. At the top, there are navigation links for News, Resources, Visit, About Us, Keeping the Land, The Land That Gives Life, Fast Facts, and Contact, along with social media icons. The main content area features a large image of a traditional beaded item, possibly a moccasin or a bag, with a red and white pattern. A 'Shop' button is overlaid on the image. Below this, there is a section for the book 'Obaawingaassing Gichi-Aabijitaawinan | Pauingassi Collection' by Maureen Matthews, Elaine and Joshua Owen, with translations by Roger Roulette and Carol Beaulieu. The book cover is shown with a red and white design. To the right of the book image, there is descriptive text and a list of details about the book, including its format (Paperback, 216 Pages), languages (English and Anishinaabemowin), and a call to action to receive a copy by making a donation of \$300.00 or more to The Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund (through The Winnipeg Foundation). The foundation's logo is also visible.

[Shop page on pimaki.ca](#)





FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The attached Financial Statements show the position of Pimachiowin Aki at the end of the organization's fiscal year, August 31, 2025.

PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION
Financial Statements
Year Ended August 31, 2025



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, 2025, 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 (the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at August 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

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 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 these 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 ASNPO, 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 related 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.

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.





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

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
January 27, 2026

CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANT

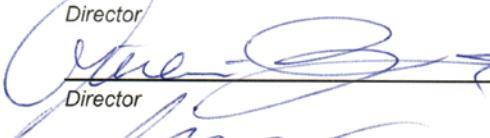


**PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION****Statement of Financial Position****August 31, 2025**

	2025	2024
Assets		
Current		
Cash	\$ 734,962	\$ 729,414
Accounts receivable	-	8,444
Government remittances recoverable (Note 4)	1,208	-
Prepaid expenses	3,803	3,799
	<hr/> \$ 739,973	<hr/> \$ 741,657
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 93,167	\$ 110,309
Government remittances payable (Note 4)	-	1,074
Wages payable	12,374	8,705
Deferred contributions (Note 5)	628,907	616,044
	<hr/> 734,448	<hr/> 736,132
Net assets	<hr/> 5,525	<hr/> 5,525
	<hr/> \$ 739,973	<hr/> \$ 741,657

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD



Director


Director


Director



Director


Director


Director





PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Year Ended August 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Revenues		
Winnipeg Foundation distribution (Note 6)	\$ 251,652	\$ 193,558
Environment and Climate Change Canada	93,691	250,000
First Nations National Guardians Network	145,706	104,101
Donations	317	9,953
Other grants	12,400	-
	503,766	557,612
Expenses		
Communication	21,762	3,836
Courier and postage	1,880	1,256
Informing and educating public	9,571	17,732
Insurance	3,799	3,831
Interest and bank charges	24	26
Monitoring	188,151	260,436
Office	23,275	34,587
Professional fees	20,660	33,173
Safeguarding cultural heritage	13,356	118
Salaries and wages	167,393	168,464
Telephone	4,791	5,341
Travel and accomodation	49,104	28,812
	503,766	557,612
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ -	\$ -





PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Year Ended August 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Net assets - beginning of year	\$ 5,525	\$ 5,525
Net assets - end of year	\$ 5,525	\$ 5,525





PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION

Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended August 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Operating activities		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	8,444	16,556
Government remittances recoverable (payable)	(2,282)	7,334
Prepaid expenses	(4)	4,273
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(17,142)	3,763
Wages payable	3,669	(981)
Deferred contributions	12,863	(67,558)
	5,548	(36,613)
Increase (decrease) in cash flow	5,548	(36,613)
Cash - beginning of year	729,414	766,027
Cash - end of year	\$ 734,962	\$ 729,414





PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2025

1. Purpose of the organization

Pimachiowin Aki Corporation (the "organization") is a not-for-profit organization federally incorporated in Canada. As a registered charity the organization is exempt from the payment of income tax under Subsection 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. Basis of presentation

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

3. Summary of significant accounting policies

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

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.

Revenue recognition

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

Government funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada 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.





PIMACHIOWIN AKI CORPORATION

Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended August 31, 2025

4. Government remittances recoverable (payable)

	2025	2024
Goods and services tax recoverable	\$ 5,708	\$ 4,141
Source deductions payable	(4,500)	(5,215)
	\$ 1,208	\$ (1,074)

5. 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
The Winnipeg Foundation	\$ 595,224	\$ 254,104	\$ (251,652)	\$ 597,676
First Nations National Guardians Network	20,820	124,886	(145,706)	-
Environment and Climate Change Canada	-	124,922	(93,691)	31,231
	\$ 616,044	\$ 503,912	\$ (491,049)	\$ 628,907

6. Winnipeg Foundation

In 2010 the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund was established at The Winnipeg Foundation. The current spending policy rate is 5% distributed annually, with the allocated spending amounts for 2025 set at \$254,104. 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.

7. 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.





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MANY THANKS

To our 2025 supporters, for investing in Pimachiowin Aki through your donations, grants to our programs, and in-kind contributions - we thank each of you for placing your trust in us to steward these funds and maximize their impact. We are grateful and humbled by your appreciation of what is at stake, and what is possible when we work together.

This year, the following people made contributions through CanadaHelps, and to the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund and Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Fund invested by The Winnipeg Foundation.

We also thank the many people who chose to make anonymous donations to Pimachiowin Aki this year, including a donor-advised fund for a significant contribution toward the cost of printing the Obaawingaashiing Gichi-Aabijitaawinan, Pauingassi Collection books available on our website.

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

- Richie Allen
- Jean-Guy Bourgeois
- Rhonda Bruchanski
- Claude J. Delisle
- Genevieve Eden
- P. Charles Feaver and Maureen Matthews
- Kyle Fitzpatrick
- Irene Fogarty
- Chris Fuerth, for the Pimachiowin Aki Guardians Fund
- Doug Gilmore (Ishkodense)
- Mary Granskou
- Siegfried and Tannis Laser
- Conor Mullally, in honour of Global Centre for Indigenomics
- Marc André Pauzé
- United Way of Winnipeg
- Rachel Whidden

SPECIAL THANKS ALSO TO:

- The Winnipeg Foundation, for matching grants applied to the Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Fund and Pimachiowin Aki Guardians 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.



The full 2025 Annual Report with financial statements is available here:
https://pimaki.ca/wp-content/uploads/Pim_Aki_Annual_Report_2025.pdf







PIMACHIOWIN AKI WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The Land that Gives Life

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pimaki.ca

