

FALL 2023

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

your Dilico

Providing Culturally Safe Health, Mental Health and Addictions and Child Welfare services

Naloxone Distribution & Education Project

Dilico secured funding to procure Naloxone kits for distribution in First Nation communities. Several Mental Health & Addiction staff hosted a Harm Reduction education series within the Robinson Superior affiliated communities. The sessions included a presentation on Harm Reduction focusing on the dangers of the current toxic substance supply and where to seek assistance. Naloxone kits were distributed during the sessions. More sessions are scheduled throughout the Fall and winter.



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Red Dress Creation Story

In the Spring of 2023, the Spirit of the red dress came to visit a Dilico worker who guides anti-violence practices for the agency, including human trafficking. The vision came through when a young Indigenous youth wore a red dress and white leather tassels that flowed with silver beads. The young woman wore strawberry beaded earrings, a necklace, a silver and turquoise belt, and white leather moccasins with strawberry accents. During this visit, she carried a small white leather purse where the young woman grabbed medicine from and approached the worker, placed the tobacco in her palm, where the young woman smiled with a nod, then walked away gracefully. The worker knew this was a message from Spirit and approached the Elder for guidance.

The worker attended the ceremony and soon learned that Spirit gave her responsibility for the creation and bringing life to the dress. While this task may sound straightforward, the worker attended ceremonies to honour and feed the Spirit of the dress and seek guidance on the creation and delivery of the red dress. The red dress symbolizes a young woman, an Indigenous female youth, who represents Indigenous girls and youth who have been murdered or are missing. The dress carries a powerful presence. The dress reflects the power and strength to honour those taken by violence. The red dress remembers and honours those spirits, bringing voice to the voiceless.

The worker was guided in a ceremony to understand that her responsibility was the creation and not to carry the dress as part of her bundle. The Spirit explained that the red dress's care, responsibility, and advocacy will be gifted and honoured to another Anishinaabe Kwe within the agency. Spirit further explained that it is the workers' role to ignite learning through honouring ways for our people. This is how we always learned as Anishinaabek people; as such, passing the red dress will encourage our ways of learning at the agency. The worker was told she will know who to honour the dress within time. The dress was birthed on July 28, 2023, and gifted to Evelyn Pelletier as the carrier. Recognizing Evelyn's lifelong dedication to advocacy for the safety and well-being of Anishinaabe children and families, whom red dress chooses as a carrier. Forthcoming, the red dress will be prepared for a naming ceremony to give her a name and teachings moving forward.

Currently, the red dress is integrated into Dilico Anishinabek Family Care's ceremonies, trainings, events, and honouring those taken by violence. When passersby see the red dress, they are intrigued by the imagery. When individuals came closer to investigate, they could read about the creation story of the red dress and learn about the crisis of violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada with the correlation of the child welfare system and human trafficking.

Midwifery Program

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care’s Midwifery team consists of three midwives; Lisa Bishop, Amy Pelletier, and Suzanne Fitzpatrick, one social worker, and one program assistant who provide specialized Midwifery care to Indigenous Women and their families in a holistic and culturally safe way. The team travels out to the Robinson Superior communities to meet with expecting mothers and follow their perinatal (pre-birth, birth, and post-birth) journeys. In 2019 we acquired the ability to apprentice our first Indigenous Midwife. Suzanne Fitzpatrick began her apprenticeship which she successfully completed in January 2022, we are very proud of Suzanne and her accomplishments!

The Dilico Midwifery team understands firsthand the daily struggles of Indigenous Women and families and aims to alleviate that burden by learning and incorporating traditional teachings and culturally safe care. The team continues to work closely with our Dilico teams and partners to ensure gaps are filled and service needs are met. The team has had great success thus far and we look forward to enhancing that success for the years to come. The goal of the Dilico Midwifery team is to have an Anishinabe name, which will be honoured at a special ceremony.

Please contact Georgina Redsky or Gerri Goodman for more information.

Fall Feasts

Dilico offices conducted a number fall feasts across the organization, sharing teachings, feasting sacred items and joining together in ceremony, song and dance.



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Dilico's newly certified Diabetes Educators

Congratulations to 3 of Dilico's Nursing Diabetes Educators, Kelsey Goldsmith, Breanna Beecken and Michelle Morriseau-Belanger on becoming Certified Diabetes Educators (CDE). They have all successfully passed the Canadian Diabetes Educator's Certification Board exam. A CDE is committed to excellence in diabetes education, with a sound knowledge base in diabetes care/management and education processes, in addition to effective communication skills. All 3 nurses are commended on their dedication to furthering their education for the health and well-being of our community members.



HR ATTENDS TORONTO CAREER FAIR

HR Officers Cassidy and Rebecca attended the University of Toronto Career Fair on September 19th.



In hopes to advertise our agency to a broader spectrum, they met with over 3000 students and alumni at the St. George campus. During the career fair, they were able to network with not only current students and alumni, but also with other organizations and university staff to build connections to help aid our recruitment efforts. Dilico was one of the few other social service agencies in attendance and made strong connections with potential applicants. They were able to showcase not only our amazing agency, but the beauty that Thunder Bay and District has to offer.

This was a very great opportunity for our recruitment efforts, and we hope to be able to attend more events in Southern Ontario as we noticed many were interested in learning more about Dilico and applying to open positions.

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2nd Annual Honouring our Children Run

Thank you again to all our sponsors and community participants for joining us on September 30th. Bringing together communities to honour the memory of Indigenous children lost to the residential school system and to support the ongoing healing journey of survivors and their families was the focus of the 2nd Annual Honouring our Children Run. Dilico Anishinabek Family Care and Mazanaajim Children's Foundation are committed to promoting truth, reconciliation, and healing in Indigenous communities. We believe that events like the Honouring Our Children Run play an important role in raising awareness and building solidarity around these critical issues.

The funds raised go to support and help children reach their full potential. With a variety of funds dedicated to inspiring and mobilizing people and responding to their individual, family, or community needs, you can choose which way you would like to make an impact.



We hope that you stay connected to our cause through our website and social media: <https://mazinaajim.com/>



Chi-Miigwetch to our amazing volunteers!

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Fully funded Personal Support Worker training

Dilico in partnership with Saint Elizabeth Health are offering for the third year a fully funded Personal Support Worker Training Program. The program includes in-person seminars, online modules, clinical training, and clinical placements. All students will have cultural, and program supports as needed throughout the program. Tuition, books, supplies, travel, meals, and accommodation will be covered for all students. Graduates will receive a Personal Support Worker Certificate from Saint Elizabeth Health.

Admission requirements for this course are:

- Grade 12 Secondary School Diploma or a General Educational Development (GED Certificate) or be of Mature Student Status.
- Must be 18 years of age or older.



Personal Support Worker Training Program

Dilico
Anishinabek Family Care

Dilico Anishinabek Family Care through SE Health is pleased to offer a fully funded Personal Support Worker Training Program

For more information or to receive an application package please contact:

 healthservices@dilico.com

 1-855-623-8511 or 1-807-623-8511

 First Nations, Inuit & Métis Program



Preference will be given to students from:

- Animbigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek
- Biigtigong Nishnaabeg
- Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek
- Fort William First Nation
- Ginoogaming First Nation
- Whitesand First Nation
- Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek
- Long Lake #58 First Nation
- Michipicoten First Nation
- Pawgwasheeng
- Pic Moberg First Nation
- Red Rock Band
- Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek

For more information or to receive an application package please contact via email at healthservices@dilico.com or call 1-855-623-8511.

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Gakina Maamawedaa (Everyone Together)

**5th Annual Pow Wow
Monday November 6, 2023**

**Fort William First Nation Community Hall
400 Anemki Drive, Fort William First Nation**

**1:00pm Grand Entry
1:30pm Welcoming New Dancers to the circle
2:00pm Jingle Dress Special - Honouring
unmarked graves at Residential Schools
3:00pm Effie Zoccole Award
3:30pm Traditional Dance Special in Memory
of Late Richard Lyons
4:00pm Dilico Red Dress Vision Story
4:30pm Feast
5:00pm Hand Drumming Special
6:00pm Giveaway**

**REGISTRATION
FROM 12:00PM -
2:00PM**

**CRAFT TABLES AND
FOOD VENDORS BY
INVITATION ONLY**

**M.C. Garry Gustafson
Arena Director Joshua Gagnon
Host Drum Gaa-nii-ba-wich Makoo
(Standing Bear)
Spiritual Advisor Elder Lawrence
Wanakamik
Head Dancers Dustin Gagne and
Aungelle Wabigwan**

**For more information please contact Dilico's Cultural Program
(807) 623-8511**

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Upcoming Events

Dilico Adult Residential Treatment Centre Intake

- November 20 - December 15, 2023

Please note treatment dates may be subject to change. Contact the Treatment Centre to confirm upcoming dates.

Female Intake Worker: (807) 624-1819

Male Intake Worker: (807) 624-1810



This past October, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care encouraged individuals to mentor, volunteer, foster, educate yourself, spread awareness, promote inclusivity, celebrate someone you know that's making a difference in a child's life and dress purple!

To learn more about the annual step up campaign visit: dilico.com/stepup

WE ARE IN THE COMMUNITIES



3A Whitesand Dr
Whitesand First
Nation

1-855-623-8511



118 Forestry Rd
Longlac

(807) 822-2521



#11-10th Street
Netmizaaggamig
Nishnaabeg

(807) 822-2521



112-4th Street
Nipigon

(807) 887-2514



200 Anemki Place
Fort William First
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