

ZOONGIDEYWIN MAAMAWEYUG • STRONGER TOGETHER



A GATHERING OF OUR VOTING PEOPLE

Teme Augama Anishnabek ages 18+
and Teme-Augama Anishnabai ages 16+

March 27, 28, 29/ 2026 at the North Bay Elk's Club

As promised in the April Blast,
here is more coverage of the

Zoongideywin

Maamaweyug

—Stronger Together—

Nation Gathering.

Photos by Paige Becker.

Video recordings of
the event are on the
member portal.

If you need access to the portal,

please contact
communication

@temagamifirstnation.ca



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The **Youth Panel** provided some of the weekend's most touching and insightful moments. Facilitated by Dale Turner, panellists were Dorian Ethier-Paul, Luke Potts, Kaiya Mongrain, Cheyanne Presseault, and Kazia Pladzyk.

- Discussion centered on navigating the modern world while remaining rooted in Anishinaabe identity. "code-switching" according to one's environment; dealing with tokenism, settler expectations. "Am I 'Indigenous enough'?"
- There is growing recognition of Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous ways of seeing in academics, especially sciences.
- Mental health struggles among youth are widespread and serious.
- "Indigenous Joy" can be a daily practice.

Youth are engaged. They want to be engaged. They want to be equipped to take over in care for and governance of the Nation.

Development of a Youth Council was enthusiastically recommended.



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The **Governance Workshop** was another highlight of the weekend; participants were split into 7 groups. Engagement was strong as people shared views, ideas, and feelings.

Workshop Questions:

- 1) What does Inherent Rights mean to you? What does it mean for our nation?
- 2) With respect to governance- what are the priorities that leadership should focus on for short and long term?
- 3) What are your suggestions to elected leadership on coming together under one governing structure?

Concern for the health of N'Daki Menan and jurisdiction over N'Daki Menan was clearly the stand-out, dominant theme.

The word "land" was mentioned 31 times across the flip charts from all seven groups.

Views on moving forward via the membership code and / or citizenship law and how to merge the 2 governments were varied. There was widespread support for merging into a single governance entity, but disunity in views as to how to achieve it.

Other common themes were:

- Desire for inclusion and access
- Need for historical and cultural information / teaching
- Support for evolving governance to an Odoodemag / Family Representatives system
- Building a sustainable, accessible future with emphasis on a land-based community site.



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