

your Dilico

SPRING 2025

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Connecting Child Welfare, Health Services, and Mental Health & Substance Health Around Individual, Family & Community Needs.

New Chief Executive Officer

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The Board of Directors are pleased to announce that Natalie Paavola has been selected as the new CEO of Dilico Anishinabek Family Care. A proud Anishinaabe Kwe from the Robinson Superior Treaty area, Natalie brings deep roots, unwavering dedication, and a strong commitment to serving Indigenous people. With over 17 years of experience at Dilico across many departments, she has built lasting relationships, and demonstrated a consistent dedication to community well-being.

Natalie leads through action and is a passionate advocate for health, wellness, and culturally grounded care. She has been a driving force in expanding community-based services, ensuring supports are available locally. She remains deeply committed to the founding vision of services created by First Nations, for First Nations, and to the belief that the work done today will help shape a stronger, healthier future for generations to come.



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1-855-623-8511**


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Red Dress Naming and Transfer Ceremony - Honouring Miskozi Gwiinawenim



On January 25, a sacred and meaningful ceremony was held at Dilico's Health and Wellness Centre to honour the Red Dress. Elder Beatrice Twance-Hynes led a pipe ceremony to offer prayers and formally give the dress her name.

Through ceremony and spirit connection, Elder Beatrice received the names:

Miskozi Gwiinawenim, meaning "she is red – miss/feel the absence of."

Miskozi Gwiinawenim remembers and honours the spirits of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people; bringing voice to the voiceless by educating and encouraging change in response to the ongoing crisis of domestic human trafficking of Indigenous women and girls.

With great care and intention, the responsibility for Miskozi Gwiinawenim has been transferred from Elder Beatrice to Lori Schmidt, Manager of the Anti-Human Trafficking Program, and Reigna Rose, Cultural Coordinator and Co-carrier of the dress.

She now resides at the Anti-Human Trafficking site, where she stands as a symbol of strength, remembrance, and protection—watching over those who have been touched by violence and have come to the house to begin a journey of healing and renewal.



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Expansion of CPSS and ALE Programs

We're pleased to share that the Community Personal Support Services (CPSS) is expanding its scope of care. In addition to the current supports, CPSS will now assist clients with daily living supports including:

- Personal grooming
- Medication reminders
- Meal preparation
- Friendly visiting
- Running errands
- Light housekeeping



This expansion allows to better support individuals who may not require intensive care still benefit from assistance with daily living activities.

In addition, the Adult Life Enrichment (ALE) program has secured additional resources to increase the frequency of its offerings. The enhanced ALE programming will now include:

- education and resources focused on detecting the early signs of dementia
- support for clients and caregivers navigating the dementia journey

These enhancements reflect our ongoing commitment to deliver compassionate, community-based care that meets the evolving needs of our clients and their families.

Have a question about foster
care OR are you ready to apply?

Dilico.com/fostercare
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Celebrating 25 Years of Cultural Summer Camps

This summer marks a significant milestone—25 years of Cultural Summer Camps at Dilico. Since their beginning in 2000, these camps have become a cornerstone of connection, healing, and cultural revitalization for hundreds of children and youth across the region. For a quarter century, the Cultural Summer Camps have created a space for youth to reconnect with their roots, learn from Elders and Knowledge Keepers, and experience the beauty of Anishinabek culture firsthand. From drum teachings, canoeing, and cultural crafting, to traditional cooking, storytelling, and sacred fire teachings, each summer is filled with learning and laughter, grounded in identity and belonging.

These camps offer more than just summer fun—they are a vital pathway to healing and pride. We give deep thanks to the many Elders, cultural mentors, and community leaders who have guided these camps with wisdom and heart. Their dedication has ensured that each generation continues to walk in the footsteps of those who came before, proud of their heritage and hopeful for the future.

Special recognition is also due to the staff and volunteers—past and present—whose commitment and love have made every camp a place of safety, spirit, and celebration. As we reflect on 25 years of memories and milestones, we also look to the future with excitement.

Chi-miigwetch to everyone who has been part of this journey. Here's to the next 25 years of learning, growing, and celebrating culture—together.

Registration is now open for this year's Cultural Summer Camps! We encourage youth to sign up early, as spaces fill quickly. If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to Jennifer Moore, District Mental Health Service Manager at JenniferMoore@Dilico.com —we're here to help.



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New Critical Response Program

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The Critical Response program was established to serve as a single point of contact for emergency management support for Dilico and its member First Nation communities; ensuring that when critical incidents arise, there is a dedicated team ready to provide coordinated, and culturally appropriate support.

The Critical Response Team is responsible for supporting, coordinating, and implementing comprehensive response plans in the event of an emergency. This includes helping communities navigate natural disasters, mental health crises, traumatic events, and other urgent situations. In addition to response efforts, the team plays a proactive role in promoting emergency preparedness and increasing awareness of potential risks that may impact individuals, families, and communities.

Support from the Critical Response Team is available on an as-needed basis. Communities and programs are encouraged to reach out not only during emergencies but also at any time to strengthen existing response plans, access additional resources, and receive guidance on best practices.



Rhiannon Vaillant
Critical Response Manager

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Critical Response Program Assistant

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All Staff Appreciation Day



In February, we hosted an All Staff Appreciation Day to recognize and celebrate the incredible dedication and hard work of our team. The event brought together over 400 team members for a day filled with gratitude, connection, and fun. Highlights included the presentation of our strategic plan, organizational updates, and special recognition of long-serving staff and milestone achievements. Staff engaged in team-building activities, enjoyed a lively emcee, and participated in a creative nametag contest that showcased team spirit and collaboration. It was a memorable day dedicated to honoring the heart of the organization— The Dilico Team.

HONOURING MAAMAWICHIGEWIN

We invite you to read our Annual Report, which highlights the incredible work accomplished over the 2023/2024 year. Inside, you'll find inspiring stories, key milestones, and a transparent look at the impact we've made together with First Nations, partners, and a dedicated team.

This report reflects our continued commitment to accountability, innovation, and community-driven service. We encourage everyone to explore the progress we've made—and the path we're building for the future.



dilico.com/resources-publications/

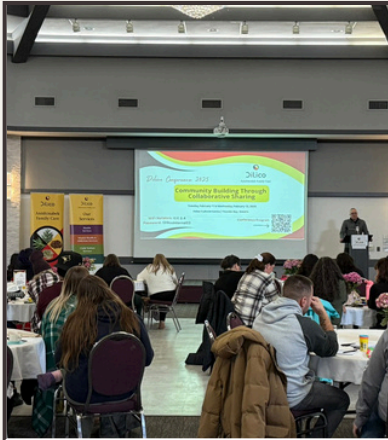
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Building Stronger Communities Through Collaboration

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This February, we proudly hosted an inspiring two-day conference focused on community building through collaboration. This gathering brought together staff from across our organization and representatives from several First Nations, united by a shared commitment to strengthen services, enhance capacity, and deepen connections across communities.

The event was designed to support learning, encourage dialogue, and share strategies for working effectively on the front lines of wellness and prevention. Over two impactful days, participants engaged in thoughtful presentations and practical workshops focused on some of the most pressing issues facing First Nation communities including:

- Frontline interventions for suicide and self-harm prevention
- Foundational skills in motivational interviewing
- Drugs, guns and gangs
- Impacts of opioids, sedatives, and stimulants
- Approaches to supporting individuals impacted by domestic violence
- Understanding and responding to psychosis
- Strengthening professional practice through effective case noting and legal documentation.

This conference was more than just an educational experience—it was a chance to connect, listen, and learn from one another. It highlighted the strength that comes from working together across teams and Nations, and reaffirmed our shared goal: to provide respectful, culturally grounded, and effective care. We look forward to building on this momentum in future gatherings and continuing our collective journey of community care and collaboration.

Upcoming Events

Dilico Adult Residential Treatment Centre Intake

- May 26 - June 20
- July 7 - August 1
- August 11 - September 5

Treatment dates subject to change. Please contact the Treatment Centre to confirm upcoming dates.

Female Intake: (807) 624-1819

Male Intake: (807) 624-1810

Dilico Spring Feast

Thursday, June 12

10am - 2pm

120 Carp River Rd, Fort William First Nation

Please bring small gift or giveaway item for your offering If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Dilico's Cultural Team

DILICO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT CULTURAL CAMPS

Girls

Ages 9 -12

July 8 - 11

Boys

Ages 9 -12

August 26 - 29

Chalet Lodge, Lake Helen Reserve
** Must be chaperoned by Frontline First Nation Staff**

TO REGISTER:
JENNIFERMOORE@DILICO.COM

WE ARE IN THE COMMUNITIES



3A Whitesand Dr
Whitesand First Nation

1-855-623-8511



118 Forestry Rd
Longlac

(807) 876-2267



#11-10th Street
Netmizaaggamig
Nishnaabeg

(807) 822-2521



112-4th Street
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