

## **FNMI INITIATIVES 2026 FUNDRAISING July 21 to September 30**

In the past two years, Trinity has raised funds for the Chippewas of Georgina Island Pow Wow Coordinator Lauri Hoeg to assist her in two ways. The first helps the Pow Wow Coordinator give cash honoraria for children and youth who wear their Regalia and dance in their People's Pow Wow Circle. These children and youth take time to learn the cultural and spiritual practices passed through generations of Ancestors to honour Creator/Divine Mystery/Great Spirit as well as special people in their community. The second helps the Pow Wow Coordinator provide a Feast for those who provide leadership at the Pow Wow, celebrating the gifts of their time and faithfulness in this sacred gathering.

The Chippewas of Georgina Island seek to be called Waaseya Gamiing Bemaadzjiig, People Who Live Beside Shining Waters rather than being named by Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada Sir Peregrine Maitland in 1818 in honour of King George III. The Williams Treaties of 1923 restricted these Anishinaabeg to three islands, separated from the mainland by the rising of waters in Lake Simcoe after the Trent-Severn Waterways while seizing thousands of acres of land for settlement from their traditional territories which were needed for this Original People to feed, clothe, build homes, and harvest medicines. Further amendments of the Indian Act of 1876 prohibited cultural and spiritual practices and discouraged the use of their language. Politicians and members of Churches believed that Indigenous Peoples needed to be assimilated into Canadian society and did not have the capability to be equal to European Settlers and their descendants. The ways in which the Williams Treaties was established and implemented were excessively oppressive and discriminatory, leading to a Settlement Agreement in 2018 with seven First Nations along with the federal and provincial governments.

**From June 21 to September 30, please prayerfully consider donating towards providing this support for the Chippewas of Georgina Island to celebrate their language, culture, and spiritual practices, connecting with Creator/Divine Mystery/Great Spirit and honouring the teachings of their Ancestors. Please designate your donations as FNMI INITIATIVES 2026 in whatever way in which you demonstrate your generosity towards our ongoing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.**