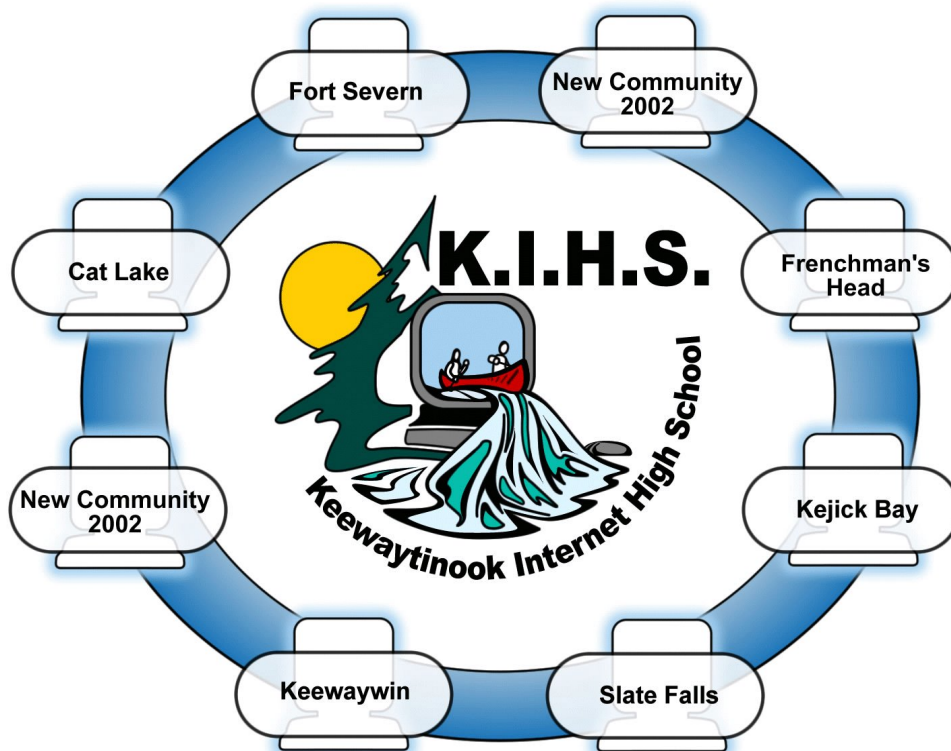# KEEWAYTINOOK INTERNET HIGH SCHOOL



# BECOME A PARTNER

This is an invitation for *your* community
to establish a
Keewaytinook Internet High School (KiHS) Classsroom
for grade 9 and 10 youth in your community.

**January 28, 2002**

## INDEX

## 1.    THE PEOPLE AND THE PROGRAM

### 1.1    The Online School

Keewaytinook Internet High School (KiHS) is a "Council Operated" Private School presently serving students in remote Ontario First Nation communities.

KiHS uses the Internet to deliver high school courses to students located in a traditional type computer classroom within their home community.

KiHS is the first Internet High School in Ontario to be authorized by the Ministry of Education to grant credits leading toward an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Currently,  KiHS has classrooms  in the First Nation communities of Cat Lake, Fort Severn, Frenchman's Head, Keewaywin, Kejick Bay, and Slate Falls.

### 1.2    The Students

KiHS students are youth who live in their home community and who otherwise would have to leave home to attend school. Successful KiHS students are:

- responsible and motivated to succeed in high school;
- of average or above average ability;
- willing to work hard to minimize academic gaps in their past schooling;
- full time students.

### 1.3    The KiHS Staff

- A trained *teacher* resides in the community and is present in the KiHS classroom.
- If there is a minimum total of thirteen (13) students enrolled,  a half time local *Classroom Technology Assistant* will help manage the classroom technical equipment and help students use the equipment effectively for their class work.
- The *Administrative staff* including a vice principal, guidance counsellor and support staff  is located at Keewaytinook Okimakanak's Balmertown office.   The current *principa*l lives in a non-participating community.  All are available by phone, fax, and most importantly,  e-mail.

### 1.4 The Courses

- A full time grade 9 program is currently offered. KiHS is requesting Ministry of Education support to offer grade 10 in the 2002-2003 school year.
- Courses meet Ontario Ministry Guidelines. They are adapted for online course delivery and where possible, for cultural relevance.
- Courses are at the *applied* or *open* level. Students who wish to prepare for university can, at the end of grade 10 , take transfer courses, allowing them to move into the *academic* stream, required for university entrance.

### 1.5 The Course Delivery

Look at the model below.
In 2002-2003, KiHS anticipates a minimum of eight (8) partner communities. The teacher in each community *instructs* one subject area over the Internet. In addition, the teacher *mentors* the students in the community classroom.
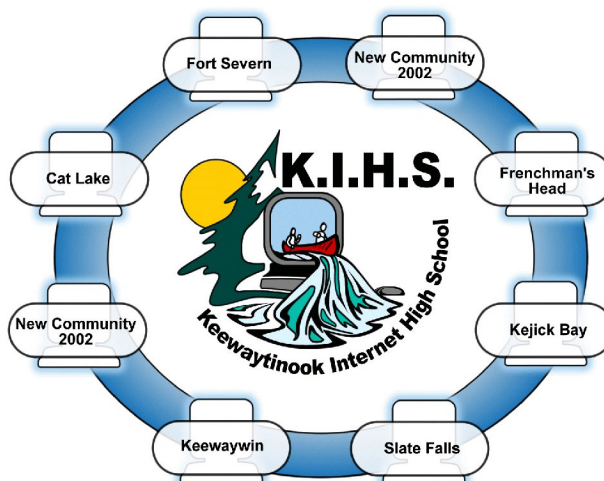


- The teacher in each community teaches one subject via the Internet.
- The students get the expertise of eight instructors.
- If there is fewer than eight communities, or if there is no one to cover a specific area, a teacher from "outside" the KiHS community can be contracted to teach a course.
- If there are more than eight communities, more options can be offered to students (depending on the total number of students registered in KiHS).

| 1.6 | The Classroom Routine |
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- Each student has a computer.
- The course runs in week long units.
  - By Sunday evening, each teacher instructor has put on-line the lessons for the upcoming week.
  - On Monday morning the students go on-line, find their assignments for the week, and organize their time for the week.
- The student may
  - do research on the computer;
  - work with a partner or group off the computer, and then submit the answers via computer;
- By Friday, the student has submitted all assignments for the week and has received some feedback on their previous week's work.
  Then we start over again.

| 2. | THE COMMUNITY CLASSROOM CAMPUS |
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### 2.1 The Space

Each community must identify and arrange for a building or space that becomes the KiHS Classroom.
- A portable classroom is ideal.
- An old house can be renovated by removing partitions.
- A building near the elementary school or the band office is ideal.
- A classroom or area inside the elementary school will work.

Once KiHS is established as an ongoing high school program in your community, your elementary school *may* be eligible for additional classroom space through INAC.

### 2.2 Classroom Operations and Maintenance

INAC is providing an additional allotment of O&M dollars through the current process in place for your elementary school. The community retains responsibility for upkeep and maintenance of the KiHS classroom.

| 3. | **BEHIND THE SCENES** |
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### 3.1 Internet Infrastructure

This year, KiHS campuses are using a portion of a shared community network providing a 128Kbps connection to the Internet.  This situation provides a minimum connection.

Support is available through Industry Canada's FedNor program to upgrade your current services to meet KiHS requirements. Contact Carl Seibel, Telecommunications Officer in the Thunder Bay office at 877-333-6733.

K-Net Services, a program of Keewaytinook Okimakanak will offer advice and support for completing your application. Contact either Dan Pellerin, K-Net Network Manager or Brian Beaton, K-Net Coordinator at 877-737-KNET (5638).

### 3.2 School Administration

- KiHS is administered through Keewaytinook Okimakanak, 127 Mine Road, Balmertown (800-387-3740).
- School supplies, texts etc. are shipped from that location.
- Financial services and accountability are provided through Keewaytinook Okimakanak.
- Infrastructure support services, computers etc. are distributed through K-Net Services in Sioux Lookout.

### 3.3    KiHS Steering Committee

- The school is establishing  a steering committee with one member from each participating community, under the direction of their Local Education Authority or the Chief of the First Nation.
  - The KiHS Steering Committee sets policy and provides direction and support to KiHS staff;
  - The KiHS steering committee meets:
    - 3-4 times a year face-to-face;
    - monthly via teleconference or videoconference when it becomes available.
  - The Steering Committee member is a liaison between KiHS and parents, Directors of Education, LEA and students. The member is the community's eyes, ears and voice to ensure that the KiHS program meets community students' needs.

- The Chiefs of Keewaytinook Okimakanak have made themselves available to provide direction and support as required.

As the number of partnering communities increases and expands beyond member communities of Keewaytinook Okimakanak , it may be appropriate to have the Steering Committee evolve into a KiHS Authority or Board of Directors.

### 3.4    Minimum Student Enrolment

In order to generate program revenue, students are placed on a KiHS nominal role, recorded at the end of September.

KiHS requires a commitment from your First Nation to register a minimum total of ten (10) students in grades 9 and 10.  This number is necessary in order to run the program financially.

## 4. PARTNERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

KiHS has developed through the good will and support of First Nation involved and other outside agencies. Each has a role to play to make KiHS successful for your students.

### 4.1 Community Commitment

Your community must:

- ensure that the technological infrastructure (Internet service) is in place by August 1 for a September start-up; (see 4.5.1)
- provide a classroom campus; (see 2.1)
- provide some standard classroom furniture (teacher's desk; some work tables or student desks;
- designate a teacherage and provide support and a welcome similar to that provided to elementary teachers. (Are you short of teacherages? Can we work together to hire a teaching couple? One would be for your elementary school and one for KiHS).
- appoint a member for the KiHS Steering Committee;
- enable usage of a photocopier and KiHS student access to bussing and gymnasium time;
- provide KiHS students and the local teacher with the same level of support and respect available for students and teachers in the elementary school;
- ensure liaison with existing community activities. Those who will be affected by the arrival of KiHS include the parents; the school O&M staff; the bus driver; Health programs; the principal of the Elementary school; the Director of Education, the Local Education Authority; the Chief and Council;
- Identify and inform prospective students and their parents of what KiHS offers;
- Ensure that students make wise choices about where to take their secondary schooling;
- Confirm enrolment of a minimum of 10 students.

Your community must be prepared to live with teens who otherwise would be away from the community attending school. Be prepared to grant them gymnasium time, provide them with life skills and health services as they require them, and help them gain the knowledge needed to become contributing members of the community.

Above all, be prepared to encourage them and to recognize and acknowledge their successes.

| 4.2 | KiHS: the Program. |

KiHS takes responsibility for:
- Obtaining (with community approval), paying, supervising and evaluating the KiHS community staff;
- Ensuring Ministry of Education accredited courses;
- Providing a computer, texts and school supplies to each student;
- Providing a classroom printer, fax, telephone line, scanner, digital camera, shared course supplies etc. to each classroom;
- Arranging KiHS Steering Committee meetings;
- Responding to direction set by KiHS Steering Committee;
- Program Administration.

| **4.3** | **K-Net Services.** |

- Provides technical advice and support via the K-Net Helpdesk.
- Provides access to the Internet and the programs required to participate in KiHS.
- Provides technical installation on a fee for service basis.

| **4.4** | **Keewaytinook Okimakanak** |

- Facilitates liaison with the funders to ensure program continuity.
- Provides financial and staffing administrative services on a fee for service arrangement.

| **4.5** | **Funding Agencies** |

### 4.5.1  Industry Canada

Industry Canada can financially support the required telecommunications link to your community. It takes time. Move quickly. For information contact Carl Seibel, Telecommunications Officer in the Thunder Bay office at 877-333-6733.

### 4.5.2  Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

INAC provides fund to:
- KiHS to provide the program;
- the community for classroom operation and maintenance;

### 4.5.3  KiHS

KiHS provides your community with a token amount to help defray costs of bussing, gymnasium usage, photocopier usage etc.

| 5. | How To Proceed in Becoming a KiHS campus. |
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- Talk with your Band Council; your Local Education Authority; Your Director of Education; the Parents; prospective students.  Decide who will ensure that each knows about KiHS.

- Contact Industry Canada to see how YOUR community can get sufficient connectivity to the Internet.

- Ensure that you have a minimum of 10 students committed to attending high school at home.

- Sign a  partnership agreement between  your community and Keewaytinook Okimakanak the sponsoring organization for KiHS.

| 6. | THE BOTTOM LINE |
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Keewaytinook Okimakanak has started Keewaytinook Internet High School because the Chiefs know that KiHS is _needed_ and is "_do-able_."

The chiefs also know that the best community high school program
will allow students to be in touch with their peers from _many_ northern communities, and will include expert teachers in _many_ subject areas.

The chiefs of Keewaytinook Okimakanak are saying,
***"Let's share a good thing."***

Join us in creating a positive and meaningful high school experience for
our leaders of tomorrow.
***Become a partner community in KiHS.***

| 7. | CONTACTS |
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For more information contact the following:

Geordie Kakepetum, Executive Director, Keewaytinook Okimakanak.
    Tel: 1-800-387-3740.  E-mail: geordie.kakepetum@knet.ca
Margaret Fiddler, KiHS Principal.
    Tel: (807) 774-1098.  E-mail: margaret.fiddler@knet.ca
Brian Beaton, K-Net Services.
    Tel: 1-877-737-KNET (5638). E-mail: brian.beaton@knet.ca

Visit the KiHS web site at http://kihs.knet.ca  for reports, documents and a program evaluation of the school.

***Deadline for Confirming Partnerships***
***April 1, 2002***
***for a campus startup of September, 2002.***