

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek

Jiibegamigoong Policy



Member's COPY

Approved by Band Council Resolution #26-05-09

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PREAMBLE

Chief and Council are pleased to present the Jiibegamigoong Policy. This policy has been thoughtfully developed to provide clear guidance to our Members while upholding and respecting the sacredness of the Jiibegamigoong and the cultural values of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all activities within the Jiibegamigoong are carried out in a respectful, consistent, and well-managed manner. It outlines important information regarding monument and headstone sizes, the number of interments permitted within a family plot, maintenance standards, visiting hours, and the administrative processes that must be followed.

In addition, this policy identifies the required forms and procedures for interments, scattering rights, and other cemetery-related matters. By establishing these guidelines, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek aims to protect the dignity of those laid to rest, support families and loved ones, and ensure that the Jiibegamigoong remains a place of honour, reflection, and cultural significance for generations to come.

We thank all Members for their respect, cooperation, and shared commitment to caring for this sacred space.

Chief and Council

DEFINITIONS

“Amendments” means a minor change or addition designed to improve a text, piece of language etc.

“Burial” is the act of or ceremony of putting a deceased body into a grave in the ground.

“Cemetery” a burial ground or graveyard.

“Cremation” the disposal of a dead person’s body by cremation, typically after a funeral ceremony.

“Cremains” (a blend of cremated and remains) are gray ashes that remain after human cremation and are returned to families in a temporary container

“Funerals” is a ceremony for burying the of a deceased person.

“Headstone” is the memorial stone at the head of a grave.

“Interment Rights Holder” can determine who can be buried in your lot or plot.

“Inurement” means the opening and closing of a burial lot or plot for cremains.

“Jiibegamigoong” means cemetery in the Ojibwe language.

“Liability” the state of being responsible for something, especially by law.

“Marker” an object to indicate who is buried in the designated lot or plot.

“Member Recipient” is a member of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek or an affiliated member who has a Scattering Rights Holder Certificate or is an Interment Rights Holder Certificate.

“Scattering Rights Holder” is the person who has the right to direct or require the scattering remains on a designated scattering ground within the cemetery or the community.

“Urn” a container made from glass, metal or box which is used for storing the cremains.



Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's Community Mission Statement

"To foster a strong, cultural identity and to protect Mother Earth. To provide equal opportunities for all."

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's Community Vision Statement

"To grow BNA's economy and become recognized as a sustainable and supportive community where businesses succeed, members thrive, and culture is celebrated."

VISITING HOURS

Visitors are welcome to attend Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek's Jiibegamigoong preferably during daylight hours only. Daylight hours are defined as the period between sunrise and sunset. Visitors are asked to always conduct themselves in a respectful and peaceful manner, recognizing the sacred nature of Jiibegamigoong as a place of rest, remembrance, and reflection. Any activities that may disturb the tranquility of the grounds or interfere with the rights of Interment or Scattering Rights Holders are strictly prohibited.

CARE & MAINTENANCE

When matters arise regarding the maintenance, condition, or operation of our Jiibegamigoong, such matters shall be brought forward to Chief and Council for review and resolution. The Public Works Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that all walkways, grounds, and common areas are maintained in a safe, clean, and orderly condition. Other responsibilities include tree clearing as required for the cemetery expansion. Regular maintenance may include grass cutting, seasonal clean-up, snow removal where applicable, and the general upkeep of the cemetery fence, cross, and shared spaces. To preserve the respectful and tidy appearance of the cemetery, the Public Works Coordinator reserves the right to remove items deemed excessive, unsafe, or deteriorated. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Excessive wreaths or decorations or ornaments
- Withered or dead flowers
- Broken, faded, or weather-damaged ornaments
- Small trinkets that may interfere with maintenance or detract from the overall appearance of the grounds
- Reasonable efforts will be made to handle items respectfully during removal.

Any contractor hired by Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek to perform work within our Jiibegamigoong must receive written pre-approval from Chief and Council prior to commencing any work. Once approval has been granted, the contractor must notify both the Governance Coordinator and the Public Works Coordinator. The Interment Rights Holder will be notified of any approved work that affects the designated Lot or Plot.

Pre-approval is required for, but not limited to, the following activities:

- Landscaping or grading
- Delivery or installation of monuments and markers
- Alterations to existing monuments or markers
- Submission of work specifications and related documentation
- Proof of required approvals and permits for the designated Lot or Plot location
- Contractor check-in with the Governance Coordinator and Public Works Coordinator prior to beginning any work

Before commencing work, contractors must provide:

- Proof of Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) coverage
- Written confirmation of compliance with Ontario Health and Safety standards
- Environmental Protection and WHMIS documentation, where applicable
- Liability insurance coverage of not less than two (2) million dollars

Failure to comply with these requirements may result in suspension of work or removal from the cemetery grounds.

BURIALS

All cemetery-related business will be conducted during the regular business hours of the Administration Office.

No burial services shall be permitted on statutory holidays or weekends unless otherwise approved by the Governance Coordinator under exceptional circumstances.

The opening of a burial Lot or Plot for interment may require the temporary placement of earth on adjacent Lots or Plots. Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek reserves the right to determine the most appropriate location for such temporary placement. Every reasonable effort will be made to restore any affected area to its original condition as promptly as possible following the completion of the interment.

Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek retains the right of passage across and through Jiibegamigoong for the purposes of maintenance, safety, mapping, inspections, or any other activity necessary for the orderly operation of the cemetery.

LIABILITY & WAIVER

Employees and representatives of Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek shall not be held liable for any loss or damage, without limitation, to any Lot, Plot, Monument, Marker, or personal item placed in relation to an interment or scattering right. This includes damage caused by natural elements, Acts of the Creator, vandalism, weather conditions, ground movement, or circumstances beyond reasonable control.

Liability shall only arise in cases where direct loss or damage is proven to have resulted from the gross negligence of the cemetery. All Member Recipients or Rights Holders are required to complete and sign a Liability & Waiver Form prior to finalizing interment or scattering arrangements.

INTERMENT RIGHTS

To place cremains within Jiibegamigoong, an Interment Rights Holder Certificate must be completed and submitted prior to the selection of a Lot or Plot.

Within Jiibegamigoong:

- A *Lot* refers to a single designated space intended for the burial of one urn.
- A *Plot* refers to a larger designated area containing up to four units, where multiple urns may be interred.

Interment Rights grant the holder the right to inter cremains in the designated space but do not transfer ownership of the land itself. All interments must comply with the policies and procedures established by Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek.

SCATTERING RIGHTS & SCATTERING RIGHTS HOLDER

Due to the permanent and irreversible nature of the scattering process, Recipient Members must complete and sign a Scattering Rights Holder Form prior to any scattering taking place. The completed form must be returned to the Governance Coordinator and placed on record.

Scattering shall occur only in designated areas approved by the Governance Coordinator. Once scattering has occurred, the right cannot be reversed or transferred to another location.

HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

While there are no fees charged by Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek for the approval of headstones or flat markers, all associated costs—including the purchase, delivery, and installation of flat markers or headstones—are the responsibility of the Member Recipient or Interment Rights Holder.

All headstones and markers placed upon a Lot must be constructed of durable materials such as:

- Granite
- Marble
- Non-sedimentary stone
- Bronze
- Any other material approved by Chief and Council

All headstone sizes and designs require pre-approval from the Governance Coordinator prior to fabrication or installation.

Due to seasonal and winter conditions, the installation of markers shall not occur between September 30 and May 1 without prior written approval from the Governance Coordinator. This restriction is in place to prevent ground disturbance, frost damage, and safety concerns. All urns shall be interred at a depth of three (3) feet, with two (2) feet of soil covering the top of the urn. Each burial shall be spaced at least two (2) feet apart from any adjacent interment to ensure proper placement and preservation of the burial site.

Approved cremation lots and specifications include:

- **Single Cremation Lot:** One urn
- **Family Cremation Plot:** Maximum of four urns
- **Flat Marker:** Sizes vary and will require pre—authorization from the Governance Coordinator

All installations must comply with approved mapping and plot designation guidelines as outlined in the appendices of this policy.