THE OGIMAA MIKANA PROJECT IS AN EFFORT TO RESTORE ANISHINAABEMOWIN PLACE-NAMES TO THE STREETS, AVENUES, ROADS, PATHS, AND TRAILS OF GICHI KIIWENGING (TORONTO) - TRANSFORMING A LANDSCAPE THAT OFTEN OBSCURES OR MAKES INVISIBLE THE PRESENCE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES. STARTING WITH A SMALL SECTION OF QUEEN ST., RE-NAMING IT OGIMAA MIKANA (LEADER’S TRAIL) IN TRIBUTE TO ALL THE STRONG WOMEN LEADERS OF THE IDLE NO MORE MOVEMENT, THE PROJECT HOPES TO EXPAND THROUGHOUT DOWNTOWN AND BEYOND.

CONTACT ARCHIVE RSS

29TH AUG 2016 | 112 NOTES
Anishinaabe manoomin inaakonigewin gosha.

Peterborough, Ontario
Anishinaabe manonmin inaakonigewin gosha.

Peterborough, Ontario

29TH AUG 2016 | 31 NOTES
Peterborough, Ontario

12TH JUL 2016 | 7 NOTES

Biskaabiiyang

North Bay, Ontario

11TH JUL 2016 | 50 NOTES

Biskaabiiyang, North Bay, Ontario

Biskaabiiyang

North Bay, Ontario

11TH JUL 2016 | 13 NOTES
Biskabiiyang.

North Bay, Ontario

Animikii-waajiw.
If you want to learn something, first you must learn this.

*Queen and Dufferin, Toronto*
For the past 3-4 years the Ogimaa Mikana Project has been replacing official street signs and historical plaques in the city of Toronto with Anishinaabe versions. We are slowly reclaiming our territories from an alien landscape committed to erasing us while contributing to the growing Indigenous cultural, political and linguistic revitalization efforts across Turtle Island. In the space between raising up our nations and languages and reminding non-Indigenous people that they are on Indian land, we hope to create dialogue.

Over the course of 2016 the Ogimaa Mikana Project will be installing billboards across Anishinaabeg territory. This campaign will draw on our language, philosophy and diplomacy to challenge, reflect on, and operationalize the concepts of reconciliation and decolonization.

Our first installation is in the rapidly gentrifying Parkdale neighbourhood of Toronto. Parkdale was home to a relatively large Indigenous community in the 1970s and 80s (and a much larger one pre-1830) but increasingly less so.

The billboard here reflects our original obligations to each other, which we feel are captured in the Dish with One Spoon wampum belt. The Dish with One Spoon is a common diplomatic metaphor for Great Lakes Indigenous nations. It is considered among the early treaties between the Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee and also among the first that French and English settlers were welcomed into.

All Canadians today should see themselves as living in the Dish.

The treaty imagines that we, as diverse peoples and nations, can live together peacefully in the same territory if we respect rights to mutual autonomy. But more, that we have obligations of mutual care, to each other and to the land we share. If we are serious about moving forward together in a good way, we must collectively re-learn these obligations. We must start at the beginning.

—

Anishinaabemowin translation for this installation is in Gchi’mnissing dialect, with help from Myrtle Jamieson.

*This project has been made possible through the generous support of the Ontario Arts Council Aboriginal Arts Projects grants.*

--------------------- 10TH MAR 2016 | 73 NOTES ---------------------

If you want to learn something, first you must learn this. Queen and Dufferin, Toronto.

If you want to learn something, first you must learn this.

*Queen and Dufferin, Toronto.*
Formerly Davenport Rd.

1 2 3 Older »