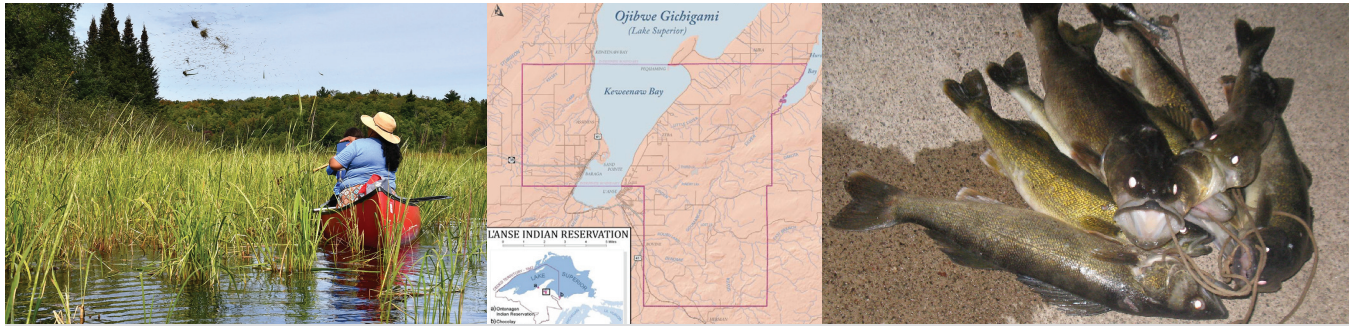


# *Anishinaabe-Gikendaasowin* in integrated assessment research in the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community for stewardship and governance partnerships



## CORE QUESTION:

In what ways can Indigenous knowledge from Michigan's tribal communities be applied respectfully and equitably to decision-making at different scales?

## FORMING PARTNERSHIPS TO SHARE INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

The Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) is the oldest and largest federally recognized Indian Tribe in Michigan, with treaty territory along Lake Superior's southern shoreline in the Upper Peninsula. KBIC strives to protect natural resources and preserve Ojibwa<sup>1</sup> culture.

Michigan's tribal communities hold a wealth of traditional ecological knowledge, reflecting cultural principles of community, place, respect, and interdependence. Their environmental stewardship approach relies on [\*Anishinaabe-gikendaasowin\*](#) as well as scientifically sound planning and management. In the Ojibwe language, *Anishinaabe* refers to Indigenous Ojibwe people, and *gikendaasowin* is defined as "knowledge" or "intelligence." Click the links to hear the words pronounced as part of the Ojibwe People's Dictionary. KBIC seeks a strategy for honoring [\*Anishinaabe-gikendaasowin\*](#), and sharing that knowledge with the broader Great Lakes management community to empower integrated action, planning, and research in the region.

## AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Valoree Gagnon, director of university-Indigenous partnerships at Michigan Technological University, is partnering with KBIC and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) to synthesize, honor, and share Indigenous community knowledge about natural resources and environmental science.

This project, designed in partnership with KBIC and GLIFWC, is rooted in existing relationships and is being pursued with respect and cultural sensitivity. Gagnon and her project team will compile and synthesize data, interviews, and literature already held by KBIC and tribal partners. They will create a guidance document to help KBIC share their knowledge about natural resources management, governance, and adaptation planning with communities and partners. Finally, they will convene an Indigenous Knowledge Symposium for KBIC's partners at local, regional state, provincial, tribal, federal, and university levels to strengthen the capacity for environmental stewardship and governance in the Great Lakes region.

The project will facilitate an exchange of knowledge among KBIC and other members of the Great Lakes management community to help foster an integrated approach to stewardship, governance, and research for natural resources in the region.

## CONTACT

### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

**Valoree S. Gagnon**

Director, University-Indigenous Community Partnerships, Great Lakes Research Center  
Michigan Technological University  
(906) 487-2810 | [vsgagnon@mtu.edu](mailto:vsgagnon@mtu.edu)

[michiganseagrant.org/research](http://michiganseagrant.org/research)

<sup>1</sup> Ojibwa and Ojibwe are variations in spelling referring to the same group of people. Other spellings include Ojibway and Chippewa.