

3/9/2023 Gaagige - Mikwendaagoziwag Updates
Press Release

**Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag Committee Members, Duluth
Indigenous Commissioners, MN State Representative, MN MMIR
Office, Testimony: STATE OF MINNESOTA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Public Safety Finance and Policy**

Members of the Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag MMIWg2S Reward Fund Committee , State Representative, Duluth Indigenous Commissioners, Director of the Minnesota MMIR Office collaboratively testify to establish a state reward fund account and urge Representatives and committee members to support:

HF 1376 (2023) A bill for an act relating to public safety; establishing a statewide reward fund for information on missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls,2 spirit people. The name of the reward fund is Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag “They will be Remembered Forever”

Testifying today to establish a reward fund account in a special revenue fund appropriated to the commissioner of public safety, expand the MN MMIR office with a reward account advisory board and money appropriated to the reward account.

“The director of the Office for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, in consultation with the Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag reward advisory group: shall determine the eligibility criteria,... procedures for granting rewards... and is authorized to pay a reward to any person who provides relevant information relating to a missing and murdered Indigenous woman, child, and Two-Spirit relative investigation and supporting community-based efforts through funding community-led searches and search kits,...community-led communications, ...and other justice-related expenses.”
(<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2023/0/52/laws.5.24.0#laws.5.24.0>)

HF 1376 (Kozlowski) Reward fund established for information on missing and murdered Indigenous relatives, and money appropriated.

Authored by MN State Representative Alicia Kozlowski and sponsored by Minnesota Representatives Heather Keeler, JamieBecker-Finn, MariaPérez-Vega, LeighFinke, AishaGomez, Jessica Hanson, Liz Olson, Samantha Sencer-Mura, Kaela Berg, Athena Hollins

STATE OF MINNESOTA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETY-THIRD SESSION - [Public Safety Finance and Policy](#)

Thursday, March 9, 2023 Hearing

HF 1376 (Kozlowski) Reward fund established for information on missing and murdered Indigenous relatives, and money appropriated.

<https://www.house.mn.gov/committees/minutes/93020/90279>

Video: <https://www.house.mn.gov/hjvid/93/896537>

The full bill can be found here: House File 1376

<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/2023/0/52/laws.5.24.0#laws.5.24.0>

Testimony by: MN State Representative, Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag Committee Members,
Duluth Indigenous Commissioners,
Director of the MN MMIR Office, MMIWR family Advocates

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MN State Representative Alicia Kozlowski (DFL) District: 08B

Rene Ann Goodrich, Native Lives Matter Coalition, Duluth Indigenous Commissioner

Phoebe Davis, Member, Duluth Indigenous Commissioner

Juliette Rudie, Director, MN Missing and Murdered Relatives Office

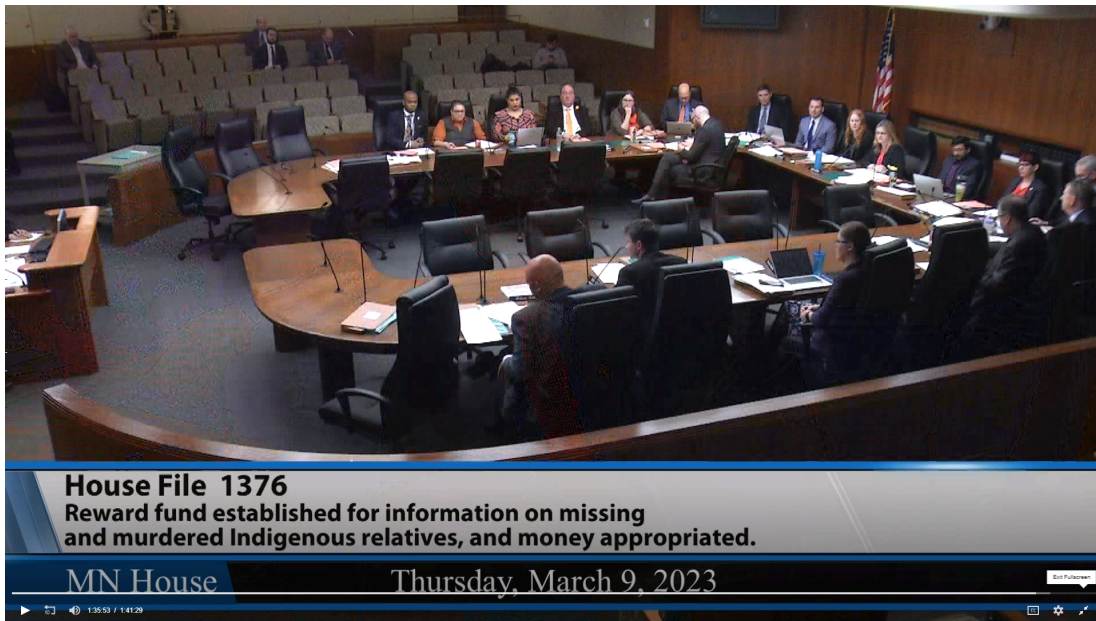
“Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag reward fund is the first of its kind in the state of Minnesota established in Duluth 1/10/2022. It is a collaborative effort between the city of Duluth, grassroots advocates with MMIWg2S families, and community non-profit organizations, Native Lives Matter Coalition and Mending the Sacred Hoop. An Indigenous led community response to the MMIWg2S epidemic which serves as an inspiration and model for others. Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag anticipates and encourages the growth of the program to include relatives, BIPOC, multiple jurisdictions, tribal and state level legislation.”-

Rene Ann Goodrich, Native Lives Matter Coalition 2022

Gaagige - Mikwendaagoziwag Reward Fund Committee Partners

Native Lives Matter Coalition, MMIWg2S, MMIWR Family Advocates

Duluth Indigenous Commissioners



House File 1376

Reward fund established for information on missing and murdered Indigenous relatives, and money appropriated.

MN House

Thursday, March 9, 2023



Rep. Alicia Kozlowski (DFL)

Education: M.B.A., College of St. Scholastica

MN House

Thursday, March 9, 2023

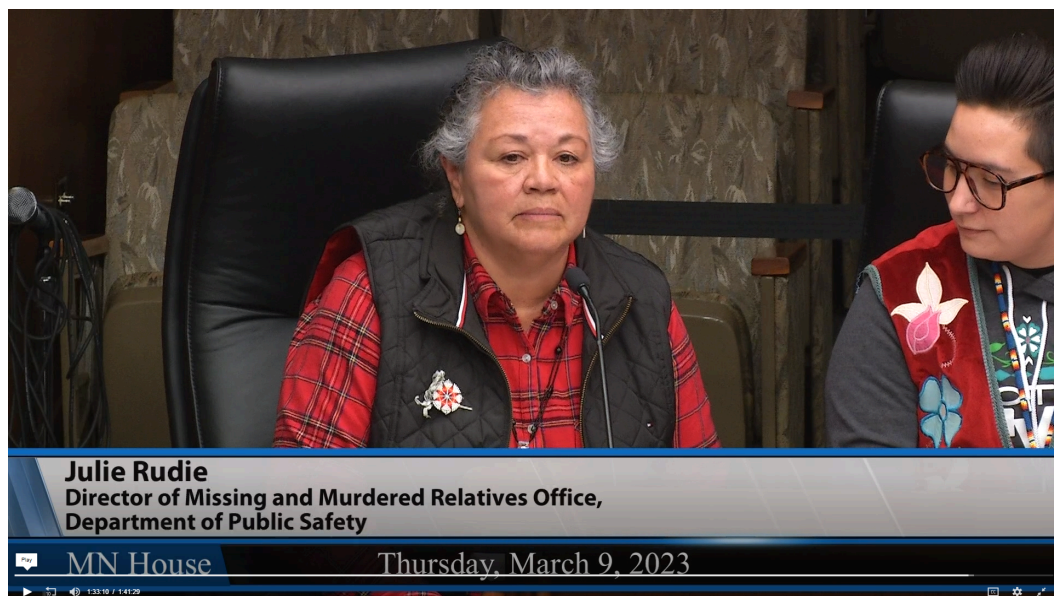
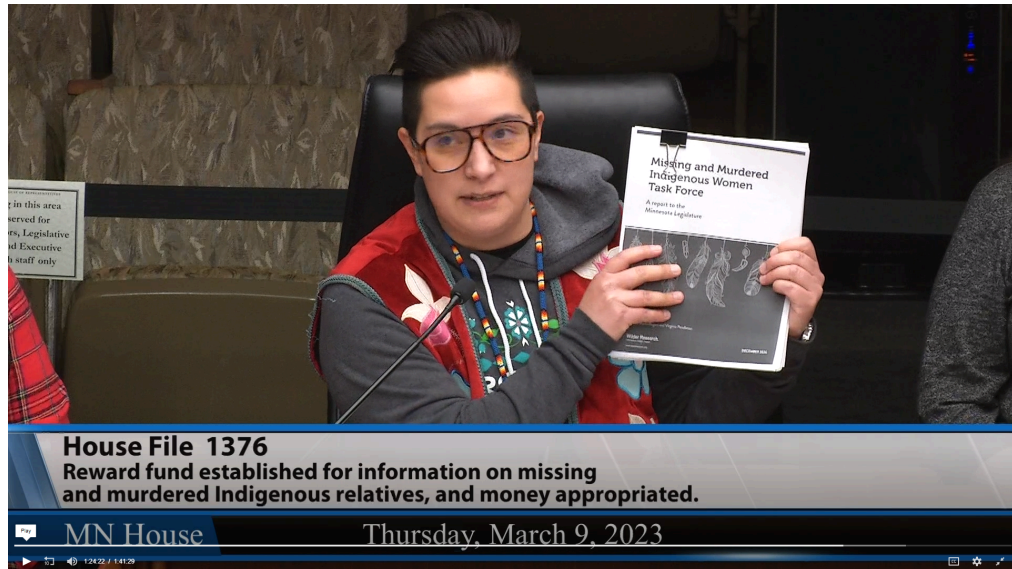


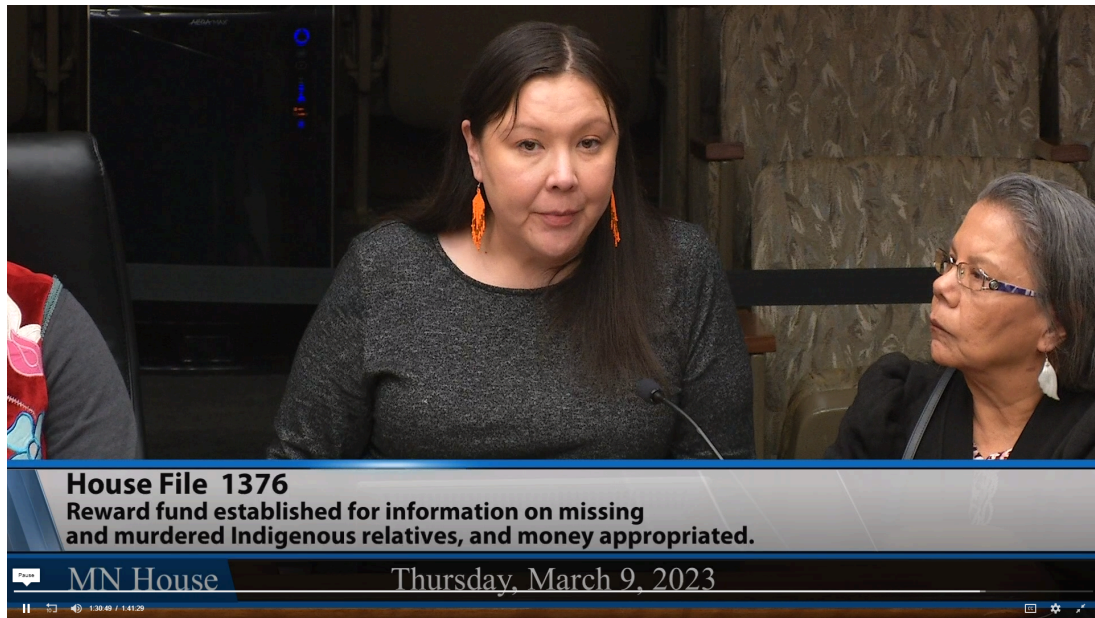
Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn (DFL)

District: 40B Roseville 4th Term

MN House

Thursday, March 9, 2023





*Phoebe Davis reading for the committee the City of Duluth announcement
Establishing Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag 1/10/2022
On Line Announcement Link <http://rb.gy/y0sz5f>
Press Conference Link: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1233581460500702>*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



City of Duluth Communications Office

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*For more information contact Kate Van Daele,
Public Information Officer at 218-730-5309*

DATE: 1/14/2022

SUBJECT: Community partners announce Reward Fund Program

BY: Kate Van Daele, Public Information Officer

***Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People
“Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag” Reward Fund Program announced***

[Duluth, MN] The City of Duluth, Native Lives Matter Coalition, and Mending the Sacred Hoop have announced the creation of a Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit (MMIWg2S) People Reward Fund. The Fund has been titled Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag, Ojibwe meaning “You will be remembered forever”. The Fund was formally approved by the Duluth City Council at their January 10 meeting.

Originally inspired by the open case of Sheila St. Clair, the Indigenous-led fund was established to help law enforcement agencies solve violent crimes against Indigenous women, girls, and two spirit peoples.

“The Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag Reward Fund bolsters the City’s commitment to ending the MMIWg2S epidemic by filling an important gap to address injustices and promote healing in our region,” Mayor Emily Larson said.

“These efforts demonstrate an Indigenous-led, grassroots community response, and collaborative effort with the City of Duluth in response to the ongoing epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two Spirit People. The reward fund program serves as a model and we anticipate and encourage the future growth of the Program,” said Rene Ann Goodrich, Founder of Native Lives Matter Coalition.

All funds raised will directly benefit the Reward Fund Program. The collaboration has been working together for the past few months. The collaborative will announce how members of the public can donate in the weeks to come. The fund is the first of its kind in the State of Minnesota, and is already being talked about being duplicated in other communities.

“The establishment of the Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag Fund represents a historic partnership between the City of Duluth and the Indigenous community in the Twin Ports that will help us find our missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two spirit people and bring them home,” Katy Eagle, Executive Director of Mending the Sacred Hoop said.

The Duluth Police Department has been a long-time supporter of ending and preventing human trafficking and exploitation.

“We hope to provide an additional incentive for those with information to come forward and aid us with our investigations,” Chief Mike Tusken said. “We want nothing more than to solve these types of cases for the victims, survivors, and their loved ones.”

While the City of Duluth has partnered with the Indigenous community on this effort in the past, city leaders are excited to formalize the education and awareness into action.

“It’s time for all to see what we, as Indigenous peoples, have always known: Indigenous women, girls, and two spirit people are born leaders and matriarchs and we deserve to thrive with dignity, love, and respect,” said Alicia Kozlowski, Community Relations Officer.

More details about the fund will follow in the coming weeks. If you have any information about Sheila St. Clair, the public is encouraged to call the Duluth Police Department’s Violent Crimes Unit at (218) 730-5050.



Resource Links:

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HF 1376 (Kozlowski) Reward fund established for information on missing and murdered Indigenous relatives, and money appropriated.

<https://www.house.mn.gov/committees/minutes/93020/90279>

Rep. Kozlowski presented HF 1376 based on the H1376A23-0059 amendment
Testifiers on HF 1376:

- Rene Ann Goodrich, Tribal Leader, Native Lives Matter Coalition
- Phoebe Davis, Member, Indigenous Commission of Duluth, Minnesota
- Juliette Rudie, Director, Missing and Murdered Relatives Office

Video: <https://www.house.mn.gov/hjvid/93/896537>

Chair Moller renewed the motion to lay over HF 1376. The bill was laid over to be included into the Omnibus bill 2022-2023 legislative session.

Laid over to be included into the Omnibus bill 2022-2023 legislative session
(Senate File 2909)

