

[SF1916](#) / [HF209](#) appropriation for:



Akiing acquired the Carnegie Library building in Park Rapids and designated the site as the Giiwediningong: The Museum and Cultural Center of the North. The proposed legislation ([Senate File 1916](#) and [House File 2091](#)) provides funding for museum-related programming and educational efforts to teach the public about the history and cultural heritage of Indigenous people in Minnesota.

Bill details include:

- \$460,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$460,000 in fiscal year 2025 are appropriated from the arts and cultural heritage fund to the board of directors of the Minnesota Humanities Center for grants for museum-related programming and educational efforts to teach the public about the history and cultural heritage of Indigenous people in Minnesota. Of this amount:
- 1) \$260,000 each year is to upgrade and convert the Carnegie Library building in Park Rapids to Giiwediningong - The Museum and Cultural Center of the North;
- (2) \$100,000 each year is to coordinate, curate, and organize displays of collections from Honor the Earth, Akiing, and other organizations at the museum; and
- (3) \$100,000 each year to develop curriculum and program presentations for ongoing learning activities provided at the museum.

Importance of the Giiwediningong: The Museum and Cultural Center of the North:

"Giiwediningong: The Museum and Cultural Center of the North will offer all Minnesotans the opportunity to better understand the original people of this land while giving a louder voice to the Anishinaabe people who now live, work and practice the ways of their ancestors in northern Minnesota." - **Senator Mary Kunesh (39, DFL)**

"Preserving and educating one's cultural heritage ensures that heritage will survive for future generations. That's why establishing funding for physical upgrades to the museum building and allocating sufficient programming dollars are so important to pass during this legislative session."

- **Representative Alicia Kozlowski (DFL) District: 08B**



GIIWEDINONG

TREATY RIGHTS AND CULTURE MUSEUM

HISTORY

Miwenzha, long ago, *Misaabe Wajiw* was born, that's a long ridge on the shore of Lake Superior, which is the body of a sleeping giant, Missabe. Biiwaabik is the Anishinaabe word for iron. This is the land of the Anishinaabe.

Then came empire and colonization. To some this was the Missabe Iron Range. That's how it began, the theft of the land, the biiwaabik, and the dispossession of indigenous people. This is when the so-called mining treaties were signed; the 1837 1842 and 1854 and 1855 treaties with the Anishinaabe.

This is also how the Carnegie Family made it rich. The opening of the fabulously rich Mesabi Range in Minnesota in 1892 created the opportunity for Andrew Carnegie to take control of North America's richest iron deposits.

In 1901, Andrew Carnegie, the world's richest man, retired. He became a person who gives money to good causes. Carnegie supported education; he gave money to towns and cities to build public libraries.

The City of Park Rapids, Minnesota once had a Carnegie Library. Then the City Council moved the library to insure handicapped access. Carnegie Library became a home to private businesses, including Enbridge, a Canadian multinational pipeline. Enbridge wanted to put in Line 3, the largest tar sands pipeline in the United States.

In 2015, Enbridge purchased the former Carnegie Library, deploying it as a headquarters for their expansion in the 1855 Treaty Territory. This seared Honor the Earth. They responded by creating a presence, standing outside the offices with signs, and to keep warm they would dance, and sing. This became a gathering event for Water Protectors in 2021. Enbridge began selling off their properties after commissioning Line 3. In fall of 2022, Skiing acquired the former Carnegie Library.

