

Willard Pine is a beloved and respected Anishinaabe (Ojibway) Elder from the Garden River First Nation. His father is Elder Dan Pine and his great-grandfather Shingwaukose who was the Garden River Chief who signed the Robinson-Huron Treaty at Sault Ste. Marie in 1850.

Willard is a traditional healer, knowledge keeper, teacher, advisor and counsellor and is an important leader in his community and throughout the territory. Willard is always there to support his community in times of celebration, sickness, bereavement and hardships. He is regularly called upon to perform smudging ceremonies, sweats, traditional burials and to provide teachings. He sits on many committees and councils to ensure community work is grounded in traditional culture and honours our ancestors. Willard is also well known for his humour. He believes laughter is medicine.

