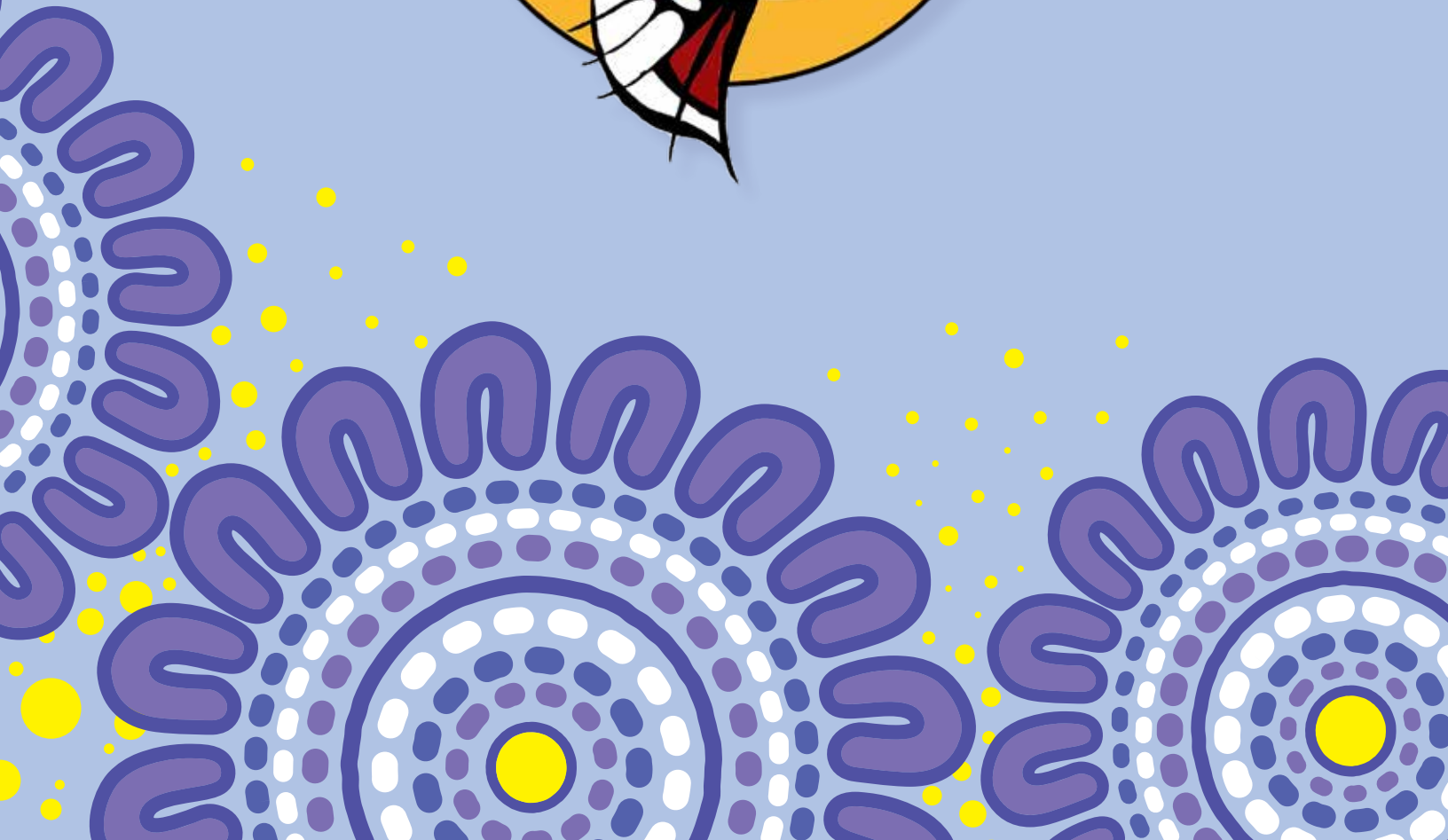
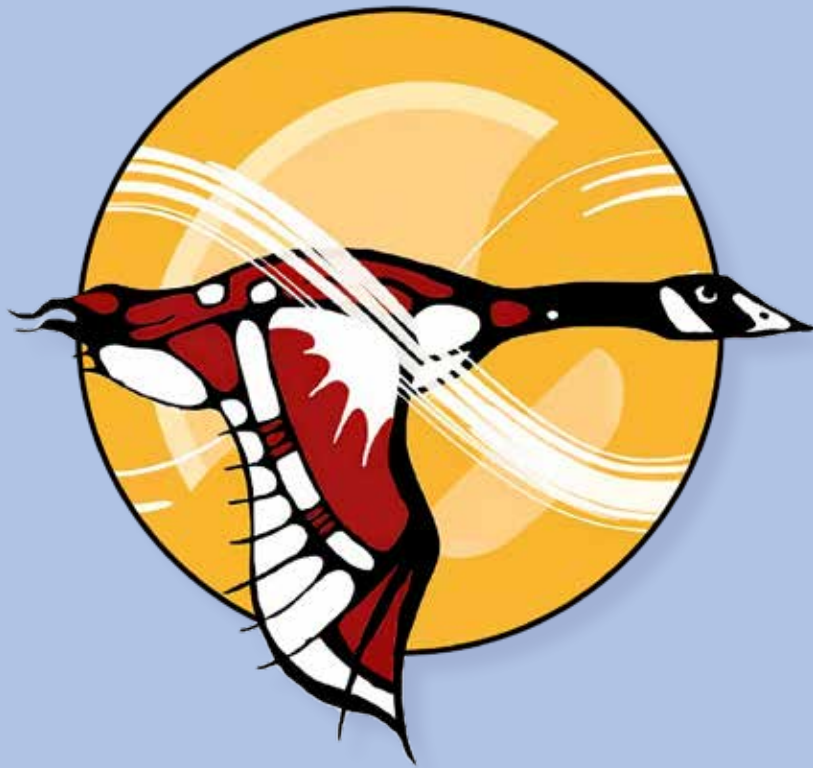


OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY GATHERING 2024



Greetings!
Kwey Kwey!
Wahchay!
Waaciye!
Aaniin!
Ainngai!
Tunngasugit!
Tanshi!
Tánsi!
Ninaskomitin!
Nooleelūndam éel páyan!
Iyuskin!
Kuwa!
Wotziye!
Pee-piihtikweek!
Boozhoo!
Shé:kon!
Gilakas'la!
Kii-te-daas a!
Wa.é ák.wé!
Sgëno!

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We acknowledge the gift of being on Anishnabek territory and specifically on Algonquin Territory. We want to recognize the two closest Algonquin First Nation communities: Kitigan Zibi and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan. We also recognize that today – Ottawa is a gathering place for First Nations, Inuit and Métis from across Canada. This land acknowledgement commits us to the original relationship we were building together – through friendship and peace.

Welcome from Prime Minister

Honourable Justin Trudeau



PRIME MINISTER · PREMIER MINISTRE

Message from the Prime Minister of Canada

It is with great honour that I welcome everyone to the annual community gathering of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC).

I would like to thank the 10 Indigenous delivery organizations that make up the OAC for the essential and lifesaving work they do to provide front-line programs and services in Ottawa. It is truly worthy of the highest praise.

As we gather today, we recognize the range of issues facing Ottawa's indigenous community, and the need to continue to work to improve outcomes. Since 2001, the OAC has delivered crucial advocacy in this respect, among the other incredible work that they do.

Let us also, today, celebrate Ottawa's Indigenous communities and their invaluable contributions to Canada. The diversity of your cultures – your traditions, cuisine, art, music, and so much more – all continue to greatly enrich the fabric of Canadian society.

I would like to congratulate the organizers for putting this great event together, and send my best wishes to all those in attendance.



Ottawa
2024

Welcome from Mayor

Mark Sutcliffe



Mark Sutcliffe
Mayor | Maire

Office of the Mayor City of Ottawa

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Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1
Tel.: 613-580-2496
Fax: 613-580-2509
Email: Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca

Bureau du maire Ville d'Ottawa

110, avenue Laurier Ouest
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1
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Télééc. : 613-580-2509
Courriel : Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca

May 22nd 2024

On behalf of Members of Ottawa City Council, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the leadership and member organizations of the **Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC)**, along with their friends and allies, participating in the annual **Community Gathering**, hosted by the OAC and taking place on unceded Anishinabe Algonquin territory.

Indigenous peoples have inhabited the Ottawa region for millennia and the City recognizes Indigenous self-determination through work which is focused on being increasingly Indigenous-led, where Indigenous voices guide what we do with and for them.

The City of Ottawa, through the Indigenous Relations Branch, has supported the OAC's recommendation that municipal staff participate in tables, including the Indigenous Women's Safety Table and the Indigenous Employment Leadership Advisory Table, led by the OAC to address Indigenous priorities.

A wide host of City services, including Housing, Children's Services, as well as Community Safety and Wellbeing, in addition to Community and Sustainability Funding, have fostered relationships supporting Indigenous-led approaches to meeting the needs of Indigenous residents.

Ottawa Public Health's 2023-2027 Strategic Plan includes a renewed commitment to Reconciliation, working in partnership with Urban Indigenous Peoples to promote wellbeing through dental services, vision screening, immunization, and health promotion resources.

As Head of Council, I congratulate the OAC, speakers and performers for dedicating insights, expertise and talents to the successful organization of this annual Community Gathering.

Allow me to offer my best wishes to everyone present for a productive and rewarding Community Gathering.

Sincerely,

Le 22 mai 2024

Au nom des membres du Conseil municipal d'Ottawa, je suis ravi d'accueillir chaleureusement les dirigeants et les organismes membres de la **Coalition autochtone d'Ottawa (CAO)**, ainsi que leurs amis et alliés, qui participent au **rassemblement communautaire** annuel organisé par la CAO et qui aura lieu sur un territoire non cédé de la Nation Anishinabe Algonquienne.

Les peuples autochtones habitent la région d'Ottawa depuis des millénaires, et la Ville reconnaît l'autodétermination des Autochtones dans le cadre de travaux qui sont de plus en plus pris en charge par les Autochtones et dans lesquels ces derniers ont voix au chapitre en ce qui concerne les actions que nous menons avec eux et en leur faveur.

Par l'entremise de la Direction des relations avec les Autochtones, la Ville d'Ottawa a appuyé la recommandation de la CAO voulant que des membres du personnel municipal participent à des tables dirigées par la CAO, notamment la Table ronde sur la sécurité des femmes autochtones et le Comité consultatif sur le leadership en matière d'employabilité des Autochtones, afin de traiter des priorités des Autochtones.

Un grand nombre de services municipaux, dont les Services du logement, les Services à l'enfance, Sécurité et Bien-être dans les collectivités, de même que le financement communautaire et de viabilité, ont favorisé l'établissement de relations soutenant les approches dirigées par les Autochtones pour répondre aux besoins des résidents autochtones.

Le Plan stratégique 2023-2027 de Santé publique Ottawa (SPO) comprend un engagement renouvelé à l'égard de la réconciliation, lequel s'appuie sur un partenariat avec les peuples autochtones urbains en vue de promouvoir le bien-être grâce à des services dentaires, des services de dépistage de problèmes de vue, des services d'immunisation et des ressources de promotion de la santé.

En tant que chef du Conseil, je félicite la CAO, les conférenciers et les artistes pour avoir mis leurs idées, leur expertise et leurs talents au service de l'organisation de ce rassemblement communautaire annuel afin d'en assurer la réussite.

Permettez-moi d'adresser à toutes les personnes présentes mes meilleurs vœux pour un rassemblement communautaire productif et enrichissant.

Cordialement,

Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor/Maire

Welcome from Ottawa Public Health

Dr. Vera Etches



Ottawa Public Health
100 Constellation Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K2G 6J8
healthsante@ottawa.ca

May 14, 2024

Kwey, Aniin, Shé:kon, Wachay, Aingai, Tawnshi, Hello and Bonjour,

For Ottawa Public Health, it remains vital that we make time to magnify Indigenous voices and partner with Indigenous-led organizations in Ottawa. We continue to collaborate with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition as the OAC is a leader in promoting wellbeing in our community. OPH's support includes contributions of financial resources and time invested to explore solutions and promote the priorities the OAC has identified with the diverse urban Indigenous community in Ottawa.

As you know, First Nations, Inuit, Métis and urban Indigenous peoples today face discrimination and racism that is rooted in practices of colonization and oppressive policies. OPH acknowledges that racism towards Indigenous peoples continues to be deeply woven throughout society and in our healthcare system. We are working with hospitals to change that experience. Within our public health organization, it is imperative that we ensure all Indigenous peoples are celebrated, taken seriously and feel accepted and listened to, regardless of their status – client or employee. Ensuring regular feedback from OAC members is part of how we are working to be accountable for improvement.

We recognize that work to advance Indigenous Rights and reconciliation requires a willingness to listen with an open heart and mind. We are aiming to tackle the work with humility, as we create stronger more responsive systems of learning and policy and program development for Indigenous health. We are working to influence partners across the city working on housing, mental health and addictions, as well as friends and family, as we grow our understanding of what is needed.

We appreciate how the OAC is amplifying your voice and shaping the environment for a better future. Thank you for how you are showing the way towards a City where all people and places are healthy and thriving.

Chi meegwetch, nia:wen kowa, qujannamiik, marsee, merci and thank you for how you are promoting wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Vera Etches
Medical Officer of Health



Welcome from OAC Co-Chairs

Mary Daoust and Mikki Adams



OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION
2323 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, ON, K1G 4J8

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition acknowledges that we are on unceded Algonquin-Anishinaabe territory.

May 22, 2024

Dear Ottawa Community members,

Establishing Ottawa as a place of belonging for Indigenous people remains our purpose at the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition. This year we have been pleasantly surprised, many times, by the number of people who also have that same goal and want to work with the OAC and our individual member organizations.

The OAC has worked tirelessly this year to create new spaces, opportunities and programs for the Indigenous community and to be advocates for urban Indigenous people in the City of Ottawa with the intent of the **Calls for Justice** out of the National Inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the **Calls for Action** from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. These intents will not become fully aware by government but by each of our actions in our everyday lives in our communities.

The power of culture, Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing and being is at the foundation of all of the work that we do at the OAC. We are creating something new that has never existed before. An Ottawa where Indigenous people belong.

The OAC is led by Executive Directors who have a deep love and commitment to support Indigenous community members in Ottawa to realize their purpose and live a good life. The OAC staff continues to grow and is focused on our collective vision and the priorities that come out of community.

The partners we have had the privilege to work with have inspired us, maddened us at times and reminded us that we are on this journey together. We cannot build an Ottawa that is meaningful and includes Indigenous people, unless we are all working together.

Thank you for being with us on this journey.

Thank you Merci

Meegwetch

Nakurmiik

Mary Daoust

Mary Daoust
Co-Chair,
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition



Stephanie Mikki Adams

Stephanie Mikki Adams
Co-Chair
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition



Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition



Thomas R. Louttit

Thomas is a member of the Moose Cree First Nation, whose traditional territory is located on the southwest side of James Bay, in northern Ontario. Thomas lives his life in service to others. He is an Elder, firekeeper, teacher, pipe-carrier, role model, lodge keeper, volunteer, and mentor. He demonstrates exemplary integrity, wisdom, humility, and leadership. Thomas, with his characteristic modesty, describes himself simply as "a helper to the people."

Aigah Attagutsiaq

Aigah Attagutsiaq was born and raised in Arctic Bay. When she moved about 20 years ago to Ottawa with her children, she began working as an adult educator and counselor and eventually studied to become an ordained Anglican minister. Throughout her life, Aigah has always sewn clothing and craft items out of sealskin and knows well how healing it can be to create and sew things for her family and to sell or give to others. Aigah's work as the only Inuit Anglican Minister, at St. Margaret's Anglican Church in Vanier in the City of Ottawa, keeps her extremely busy.



Parmailia Burgie

Senator Parm Burgie originally born in Toronto, a citizen the Métis Nation of Ontario. She has been Métis senator for the Ottawa Regional Métis Council and serving the council for over eight years. In her role as Senator, she helps foster bonds between community members at events and meetings as well as helping to keep Métis culture alive by sharing Métis traditions and ways of life. In addition, Parm actively volunteers in many other organizations within Ottawa.

Elders and Knowledge Keepers

Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition



Verna McGregor

Elder Verna McGregor is from the Algonquin Community of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, which is approximately 120 kilometres north of Ottawa. Ottawa is part of the Algonquin Nation's traditional lands. Verna works at Minwaashin Lodge, the Aboriginal Women's Support Centre located in Ottawa. Services and resources provided by Minwaashin Lodge assist in the empowerment of Aboriginal Women leaving violence.

Verna has remained firmly grounded in her community and nation by also being part of the group of traditional Grandmothers (Kokomisag) and Elders. This includes promoting the retention of the Algonquin language and culture, which is so important when addressing issues and connection to the land.



OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION



COMMUNITY GATHERING AGENDA

CELEBRATING OUR WORK AND COMMUNITY
MAY 22, 2024



4:00 PM

Registration/Game Centre/Booths Open

5:00 PM

Stan Wesley, Master of Ceremony

Opening Song

Ottawa River Singers

Opening Prayer

Thomas Louttit, First Nation Elder
Aigah Attagutsiak, Inuit Elder
Parm Burgie, Métis Elder

5:20 PM

Welcoming Remarks

Mary Daoust and **Mikki Adams**, Co-Chairs,
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

Jessica Bradley, Deputy Mayor of Ottawa

5:30 PM

Dinner is Served

5:45 PM

OAC Update to Community

Mary Daoust and **Mikki Adams**, Co-Chairs,
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

OAC Video Presentation

Joan Riggs, OAC Facilitator

6:00 PM

Acknowledging Our
Helpers

Elder Verna McGregor and **Joan Riggs**

- **Grandfather Thomas Louttit**
- **Grandmother Irene Compton**
- **Grandmother Irene Lindsey**
- **Elder Aigah Attagutsiak**
- **Senator Reta Gordon**
- **Clara Freire**, General Manager, Community and Social Services, City of Ottawa

Honour Song

Ottawa River Singers

6:30 PM

Inuit Throat Singers

Janice Oolayou and **Angeline Ivalu**

6:40 PM

Building an Inuit VAW
Shelter

Mikki Adams, Executive Director of
Innuuqatigiit

6:50 PM

First Nation Singer

Sara Kae

7:00 PM

Creating the Family
Healing Lodge

Mary Daoust, Executive Director of
Minwaashin Lodge

7:10 PM

First Nation Singer

Sara Kae

7:30 PM

Community Gifts and Prizes

Stan Wesley

7:40 PM

Indigenous Housing and
Homelessness Strategy

Marc Maracle and **Karen Green**
Stan Wesley (using Metrometer)



8:00 PM

First Nation Opera Singer Alicia Kayley



8:10 PM

Convene Community Circle Stan Wesley
Alicia Kayley

Closing Prayer

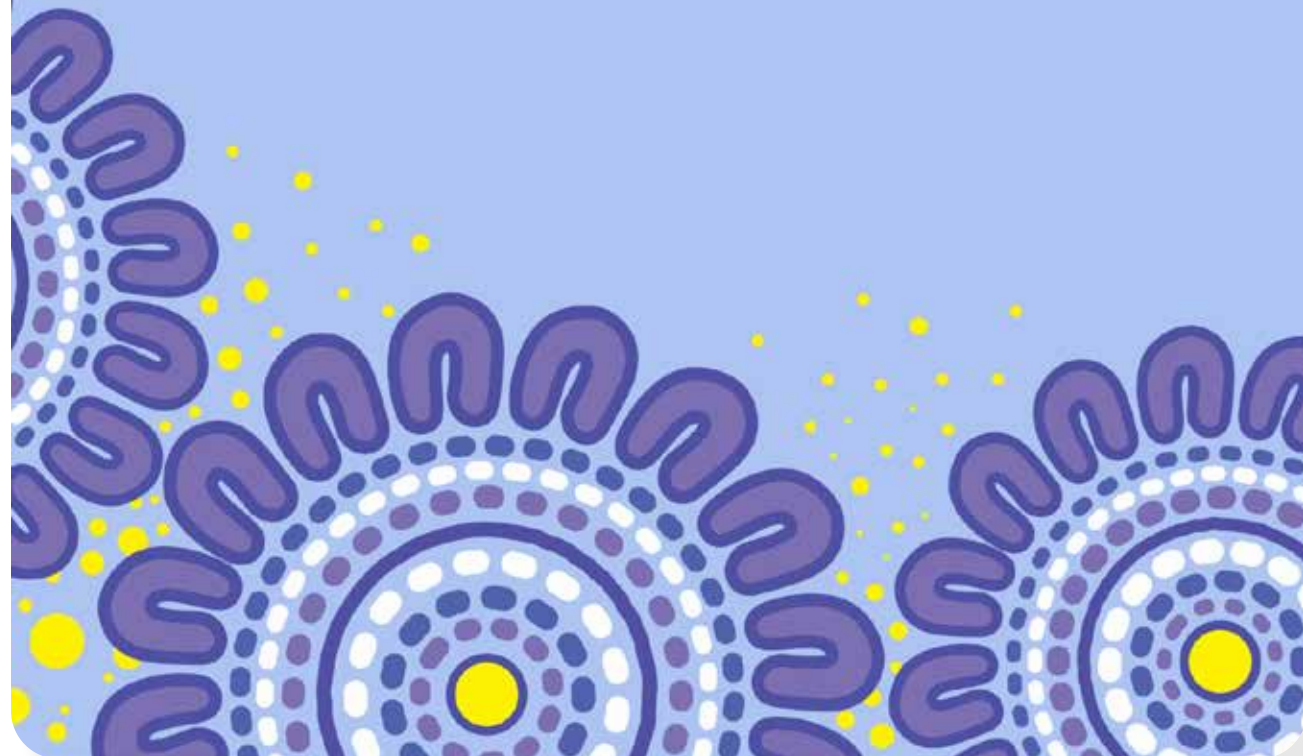
Thomas Louttit, First Nation Elder
Aigah Attagutsiak, Inuit Elder
Parm Burgie, Métis Elder

8:20 PM

Closing Song Ottawa River Singers

8:30 PM

End



Vision, Mission, and Guiding Principles

Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) was formed in 2001 as a means of presenting a unified voice on behalf of the Indigenous community. The Coalition is an alliance of Indigenous delivery organizations that provide front-line programs and services to Indigenous people living in the National Capital Region (NRC).

The current membership of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition includes Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Inuit Non-Profit Housing, Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families, Kagita Mikam, Makonsag Head Start, Minwaashin Lodge, Odawa Native Friendship Centre, Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth, Tungasuvvingat Inuit, and the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health.

The OAC advocates at the community, municipal, provincial and federal levels and seeks to educate and raise awareness on Indigenous issues and the unique circumstances of Indigenous people and their interests in Ottawa. Ultimately we seek to increase the positive and healthy choices available to Indigenous community members and their families across a wide and diverse range of considerations, whether it is health or housing or education to employment and training or access to cultural activities.

Our Mission

To provide a community based process for ongoing discussion through collaboration and coordinated, informed action on urban Indigenous issues in the City of Ottawa

Our Vision

To support a self-reliant, culturally engaged, healthy urban Aboriginal community in Ottawa.

Our Mandate

The OAC advocates at the community, municipal, provincial and federal levels and seeks to educate and raise awareness on Aboriginal issues and the unique circumstances of Ottawa area Aboriginal people and their interests.

Guiding Principles

- **One:** To utilize a holistic framework that acknowledges physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of all stages of the life cycle.
- **Two:** To respect and acknowledge Aboriginal cultural values and practices.
- **Three:** To recognize the value of capacity building at all levels and amongst all participants.
- **Four:** To foster and maintain respectful relationship and partnerships.

Updates

Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

Ten Indigenous service organizations, working together, and with key partners can do a lot of amazing work in a year. This provides an overview of the work we have been doing in the last year.

A year ago on May 29th, 2023, we came together, as a community, for the first time after COVID. The OAC Community Gathering included amazing speakers, entertainers and we had the opportunity to honour the Executive Directors that carried us through those two years.



The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition have organized our work around a number of key priorities that emerged out of our COVID research.



Updates

Indigenous Mental Well-Being Strategy

The Indigenous Mental Well-Being strategy continues to evolve with four main focuses at the centre of the strategy:

Land: Establishing in the City of Ottawa land for ceremony, land-based programming and healing. We are working closely with the City of Ottawa and other partners like Beechwood Cemetery to explore a place for urban Indigenous community members to come together.



Responding to gaps in services by expanding Indigenous service organizations: Three new initiatives have been started or are underway this year.

Indigenous Well-Being Workers are supporting Indigenous community members living at Gignul Housing and Inuit Non Profit Housing through wellness activities and focused support and referrals. The **Family Healing Lodge** and **Inuit VAW Shelter** are both initiatives that are responding to the needs of community members.

Supporting partners to provide culturally appropriate and trauma-informed services to Indigenous community members.

The OAC has been meeting with the Royal Ottawa Hospital and Access Mental Health to improve services and pathways between them and Indigenous service organizations.

Recognizing community as part of our healing: In addition to the annual Community Gathering, the OAC put on an event for Red Dress Day and will have a table at the Odawa Pow Wow for the first time.

We had four Elders gatherings for each season that grounds all of the work of the OAC and provides the Elders with an opportunity to laugh, cry and be with each other in community.



Updates

The Indigenous Women's Safety Table

The Indigenous Women's Safety Table did three learning events with **Ottawa Police Services** on providing safe and trauma-informed services to Indigenous women. Over 130 police members were trained.



Family Healing Lodge: For 15 years Minwaashin Lodge has been working to establish a Family Healing Lodge where Indigenous women can come to heal, address their addictions and bring their children with them for up to 6 months. All of the family will have the opportunity to learn and heal in a safe place. The OAC is working with Minwaashin to move one step closer to this dream with a business plan, proposal to NICHU, possible land and ongoing negotiations with funders and the City.



Inuit VAW Shelter: The OAC was able to successfully secure \$6.8M from the federal government to build the first Inuit VAW Shelter south of Inuit Nunagaut. The federal government is also providing \$1.8M in operating costs for each year for 20 years. On May 15th, the City of Ottawa transferred a piece of land that will be the home to the VAW Shelter. Special recognition needs to go to the 40 Inuit women who came to a workshop in February 2024 to guide the architects and the OAC on what is needed in the shelter for it to be a healing, healthy space. Minwaashin Lodge, Inuuqatigiit and Inuit Non-Profit Housing has been leading this initiative with the OAC.

Updates

The Indigenous Women's Safety Table



Red Dress Day: On May 3rd, 2024, the OAC held a day to educate and honour Indigenous women and girls who have gone missing and murdered. It was a day of reflection, honouring and learning and over 300 community members attended. Minwaashin Lodge was gifted a Red Jingle dress to recognize the healing work they do everyday in the community with Indigenous women and girls. The Ontario Native Women's Association provided the jingles for the dress. Orianna Elijah Brown, from Oneida Nation created 7 dresses to reflect the different women across Turtle Island that have been lost. One modern style dress was covered with the name of over 300 missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

ottawa.ctvnews.ca/observance-at-ottawa-city-hall-meant-to-give-time-to-process-meaning-of-national-red-dress-day-1.6873116

Updates

Research

The OAC Research team is small but continues to do amazing work.

COVID Research: The COVID research was validated through a number of workshops in the community. The infographics and research are now on the website and the research team presented at the Metropolis Conference in 2023 and provided Inuit-specific research at the ITK homelessness gathering. The COVID research is based on the experiences of 1,075 Ottawa Indigenous community members and informs the work of the OAC.

Collectively Caring for Indigenous Children and Youth: The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition in collaboration with Kids Come First wants to connect with 30 Indigenous families who have experienced barriers in accessing these services for their children and youth: mental health supports, developmental and cognitive assessment tools, and pediatric dentistry services. We will be working with 30 families to support them in telling their stories and increase access for Indigenous families.

Connecting with Indigenous community members who are not housed: In August of 2023, the Research team with ACAB, did a survey with Indigenous community members about their experiences of not being housed and what they would want to see in their future homes. The research team has presented the data in a number of places to support policy development and service improvements. We are also using the data to inform the Indigenous Housing and Homelessness team.

Research with the Alliance on Homelessness: The Alliance on Homelessness has been some exceptional work on what service gaps exist for community members. They had done an initial survey to service providers and worked with us to create and circulate a survey on how we as a community can collectively improve how we work with Indigenous community members. The report is currently being finalized and will be distributed in the summer of 2024.



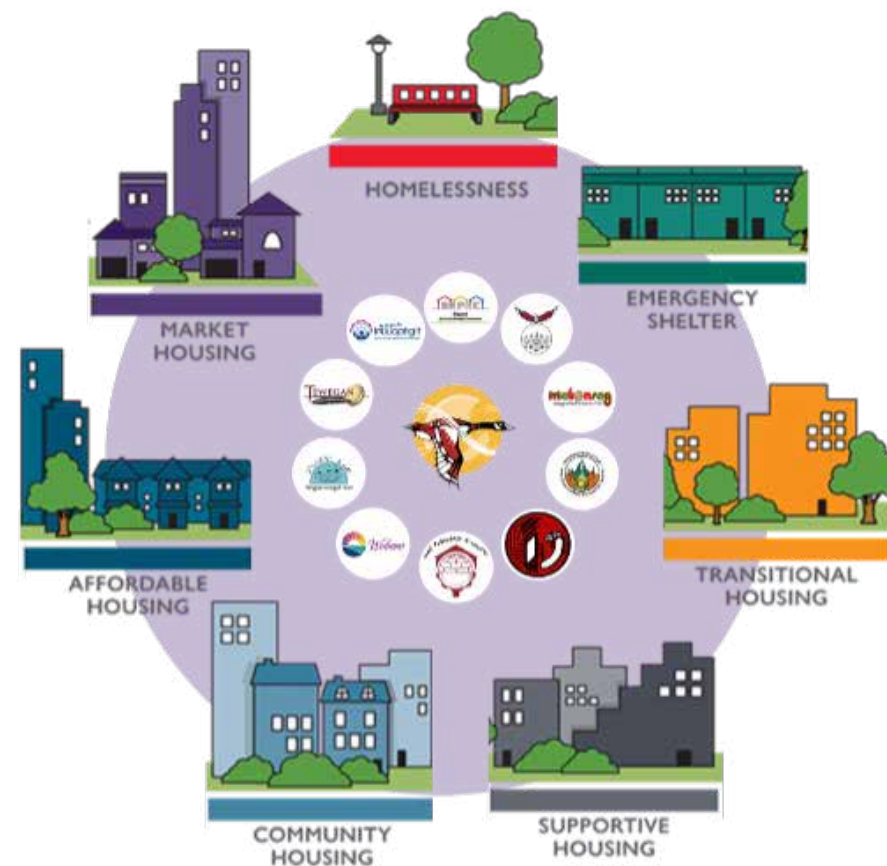
Updates

Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Strategy

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition working with many partners has made a commitment to realize the dream of 1000 new homes for Indigenous community members in Ottawa. And these homes will come in different ways: affordable housing, cooperative housing, supportive housing, market rent and buying. Working with Louise Aitken, she provided us with a comprehensive picture of opportunities and partners we can pursue. Some of the partners we are currently working with include:

- [Sandy Hill Cooperative](#) (Cooperative Housing)
- [Parkdale United Church](#) (Affordable Housing)
- [SALUS](#) (Supportive Housing)
- [Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services](#)

An [Indigenous Housing Hub](#) is our biggest dream. To create an Indigenous village in the City of Ottawa with mixed housing and services including some Indigenous service organizations and businesses in a space that is green and surrounded by trees and water. We are working very closely with the City of Ottawa and the federal government to make this a reality for the Indigenous community in Ottawa.



Updates

Employment Hub

OAC Career Fair in November

In November of 2023, the OAC had our second Career Fair with over 40 booths and 300 participants. It was an opportunity to not only provide opportunities for community members to find out about job opportunities but increased networks and connections. We have had many requests to sign up for the next one which will be in the Fall of 2024.



United Way Youth Employment Table

The OAC has co-chaired the United Way Youth Employment Table since its inception in 2020. It is a table of diverse employers committed to supporting Indigenous people to succeed in their organizations and areas of work.

Job Board

The website for the OAC continues to be a place where jobs can be found for Indigenous community members and it is a place that we are growing every year.

Updates

Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

Tables that the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Participates in

If Ottawa is to be a place of belonging for Indigenous community members then Indigenous people need to be part of many discussions at many tables to support systemic and organizational change. It was not that long ago that systems and governments designed to eliminate Indigenous people were imposed on Indigenous people to navigate. The OAC believes that it is only through collaboration that real change will happen. The tables that the OAC are currently part of include:

- Housing and Homelessness Leadership Team
- Community Safety and Wellbeing Advisory Board, City of Ottawa
- Aboriginal Community Advisory Board (ACAB)
- Homelessness Community Advisory Board – Governance Committee
- Inuit Synergy
- City of Ottawa Ambassadors Working Group
- Poverty Reduction Roundtable
- Ottawa Community Benefits Roundtable
- The Ottawa Hospital Indigenous Leadership Table
- Downtown Revitalization Committee
- CHEO Indigenous Circle
- Ottawa U Indigenous Circle
- Guiding Council on Mental Health and Substance Use Evaluation Committee
- National Urban Indigenous Coalitions Council
- Ontario Coalitions

The OAC is also involved in engagements with the OAC Executive Directors on many issues including ongoing meetings with Ottawa Public Health, the One Door For Care engagements.



Organization Updates

Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition



Gignul

Non-Profit Housing Corporation



About Our Organization

Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation is committed to a holistic and comprehensive approach to housing that includes both those Indigenous people at risk of losing their housing, or those who are currently homeless.

Gignul, working in partnership with other Indigenous organizations, focuses on long term solutions, affordable and independent living.

What do we do?

At Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation, we are dedicated to addressing the pressing housing needs within the Indigenous communities. Through our sustainable housing solutions, we aim to prevent homelessness and provide affordable housing options that respect cultural traditions and values. By partnering with Indigenous leaders and organizations, we strive to empower Indigenous peoples to build a future where housing security is a reality for all.

- Provide **affordable housing solutions** to Indigenous individuals and families.
- Promote **Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination** in housing initiatives.
- Collaborate with Indigenous leaders, organizations, and government agencies to **address systemic housing challenges**.



"Let's harness the strength of community, the power of compassion, and the wisdom of our ancestors to create a world where every Indigenous person has a roof over their head and the chance to thrive."

Inuit Non-Profit Housing



About Our Organization

Inuit Non-Profit Housing Corporation was founded in 1975 with the objective and mission to construct, hold, manage, facilitate, and maintain residential accommodation for Inuit and other Indigenous individuals and families of low income, as defined by the National Housing Act.

Since 1985 the Inuit Non-Profit Housing Corporation has been acquiring buildings in the Ottawa region and currently has 63 units with 1, 2, and 3 bedrooms. We strive together to work towards our goals around housing, with this in mind for our people, Angirragirajagtara : A place to call my Home. We house singles, families, and seniors in our homes, and our buildings are low-rise apartment buildings, semi-attached units and a few single homes.

As part of the Indigenous community in Ottawa, the Inuit Non-Profit Housing Corporation works in conjunction with other organizations that provide services to our clientele so that we may collectively help to build up our lives. Our community partners are numerous and include but are not limited to Inuit childrens centre, Wabano, Tungasuvvingatinuit, St. Margaret's Church, and Akausivikinit Family Health team.



Inuuqatigiit Centre



About Our Organization

In partnership with parents and the community, Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families fosters strong and proud Inuit children, youth and families. Inuuqatigiit Centre supports Inuit children and youth in Ottawa, to be strong, healthy and proud community members with knowledge of their culture, connection to the local Inuit community, equitable access to services and supported by their families. We do this through culturally strength-based programs and individualized services for the children, youth and their families that improve their ability to live a good life. All of our programs and advocacy work are rooted in the components of head start and guided by the Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles. We are committed to building strength and resiliency within families and within the Inuit community. We believe that families who are healthy and strong are able to raise healthy and strong children.

Inuuqatigiit Centre is Ottawas largest Indigenous Service Provider operating out of seven locations in the Vanier Area of Ottawa.

What do we do?

Provide holistic wraparound supports for Inuit families such as:

- Early Years Programming
- Youth Programming
- Family Well-Being Programming
- Education and Mental Health programs and supports



“Tapping into the strengths of families from a place of resiliency and capability is a philosophy that permeates all of Inuuqatigiit programs. The staff of the Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families supports the belief that it is a parent’s right and responsibility to be involved in all aspects of the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of their child’s programming.

The philosophy of the Inuuqatigiit is holistic, child-centred and community driven. We recognize that serving a child means serving a family. On a daily basis, we provide a multitude of family support services that includes but is not limited to one on one support, court accompaniment, Children’s Aid Society access visits, individual advocacy and referrals. Our approach is to support a family on their journey to physical, spiritual and emotional well-being by providing a caring, supportive and culturally based hub of services that meets their individual needs.”

Kagita Mikam



What do we do?

Kagita Mikam (in Algonquin means “pathway to wisdom”) is committed to ensuring that pro-active measures are taken to improve the recruitment, training and employment of Aboriginal people.

We help registered clients who seek employment and training to meet their career goals by matching their needs with qualified employers and training organizations.

Kagita Mikam has one urban office in Ottawa and two satellite offices in Kingston and Peterborough.

Member Communities

We serve the status members of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation and Wahta Mohawks. Registered clients may receive services from one of our satellite offices or at an urban office close to their place of residence.

Our Programs

There are a number of different employment and training programs available for both employers and registered clients (certain eligibility criteria may apply). A few of the programs are:

- Purchase of Training
- Mobility Assistance
- Targeted Wage Subsidy
- Labour Market Partnership
- Job Creation
- Self Employment Assistance
- On-the-Job Training
- Summer Youth Initiative
- Youth Work Experience

“Our students, clients, and community. You did all the hard work. You knew what you wanted to become or where you wanted to be. We just helped along the way. You woke up early every day. Rain or shine, you attended classes, training, apprenticeships, and new positions. Job well done!

For some, it was smooth sailing. Others were a little bumpier along the way, but you worked out the barriers and overcame tough situations.

Congratulations to all graduating students in 2023-2024! We look forward to meeting new students and continuing their education. Have a safe and happy summer with your friends and family.”



Makonsag

Head Start Program



About Our Organization

Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start originally opened its doors to First Nations, Inuit and Metis preschool children in 1997 as the Ottawa Aboriginal Head Start program. Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start is licensed as a child care center by the Ministry of Education through the Child Care and Early Years Act (CCEYA).

Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start provides a culturally-enriched educational environment that fosters early learning and enhances pride through education to ensure that Indigenous children have positive lifelong experiences and satisfaction as members of families and Indigenous communities.

In other words, our educators and staff offer children love, acceptance and understanding while fostering the growth and development of each individual.

What do we do?

Makonsag provides an enriched early learning environment that provides culturally relevant programming in an urban setting. A significant amount of our programming takes place on the land with a commitment to culture and language, play-based, emergent, and inquiry-driven learning.

- **Aboriginal Head Start Program:** Based on a holistic approach to education which emphasizes the needs of the child within family, school and community through six Head Start principles of education, culture, language, caregivers involvement, social support, health promotion and nutrition.
- **Courtwood Indigenous-Led Child Care Program:** Indigenous Led-child care at Makonsag is an enriched early learning environment that provides licensed child care and culturally relevant programming in an urban setting. Our Courtwood location serves the needs of families with spaces for children in infant, toddler, and preschool years.
- **Nitawigin Early On Program:** Mobile programming for families to engage in culturally-enriched play groups and early years programming while facilitating connection with other families, parent and caregiver support and referrals to community resources.

“Every child is a precious gift from the Creator, and it is our honor to assist in their growth and development. As educators, we take pride in providing a secure and caring space for children to flourish, fostering their cultural identity and resilience.”



Minwaashin Lodge

Indigenous Women's Support Centre



About Our Organization

Minwaashin Lodge provides a range of programs and services to First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and children (regardless of status) who are survivors of domestic and other forms of violence, and who may also be suffering the effects of the residential school system. All programs and services are provided in the context of cultural beliefs and values to ensure a holistic approach is used as part of the healing journey.

The mission of Minwaashin Lodge is to provide prevention and intervention services and programs for grandmothers, women, children and youth who are survivors of family violence and the residential school system, including those impacted by intergenerational effects. A full range of violence prevention and intervention programs and services is provided in the context of reclaiming the wisdom of First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultural teachings.

What do we do?

Minwaashin Lodge provides services based on the Life-Cycle Service Model, meaning we provide support for infants and children through to seniors and elders. In addition to our programming at 2323 St. Laurent Blvd, Minwaashin also has a VAW emergency shelter (Oshki Kizis) for Indigenous women and their children who are fleeing violence.

- Culture programs
- Sacred Child Program
- Employment Programs
- Housing First
- Counselling
- Outreach
- Anti-Human Trafficking



"We envision a world where all of creation, the earth, the air, the waters, animals and people are safe, honoured and respected; where children and elders are valued; where culture and diversity are celebrated."



Odawa Native Friendship Centre



About Our Organization

The Odawa Native Friendship Centre has been a beacon of support for Indigenous People in Ottawa since its establishment in 1975. What began as a simple gathering spot for coffee and card games has blossomed into a dynamic, comprehensive organization dedicated to serving and empowering our *thriving, resilient community*.

Odawa's mission is to enhance the quality of life for Indigenous people in the Capital Region. To maintain a tradition of community, an ethic of self-help and development as well as to provide traditional teachings from our elders. These are important values we will continue to reinforce and promote in the coming years.

What do we do?

One of Ottawa's longest running Urban Indigenous Organizations, Odawa offers programs that span the entire life cycle; from prenatal education to end of life supports.

In addition to day to day services, we've been privileged to celebrate several significant events and achievements:

- **Treat Annuity Day in Partnership with Indigenous Services Canada:** Through our collaboration with Indigenous Services Canada, we successfully hosted Treat Annuity Day, offering vital services and assistance to our community members.
- **Veterans Feast:** On November 8th, we honored our veterans with a heartfelt feast, expressing our profound appreciation for their service and sacrifices.
- **Children's Aid Society Ottawa - Indigenous Team Reconciliation Day:** Odawa facilitated a day of reconciliation and healing for the newly formed Indigenous Team at CASO, nurturing solidarity and cooperation for the betterment of our families and communities.
- **Winter Gathering:** Our winter gathering welcomed over 200 community members, providing a space for connection and celebration.

Driven by a deep commitment to our clients, we are actively addressing gaps in services and continuously seeking opportunities for growth and development. Currently, our fundraising areas include:

- **2SLGBTQIA+ Supports, Powwow Protocols and Regalia Making, Revitalizing our Cedar Room, Addressing Food Security and Refreshing our Food Bank.**

We express profound gratitude to our donors, partners, and community members whose support makes these endeavors possible.



"Our dedicated programs and staff continue to expand and excel in providing top-tier services to our community. We remain steadfast in our pursuit of improvement, community engagement, and empowerment. As we continue to evolve and enhance our services, we extend an invitation to visit our center and witness the transformative impact of our community initiatives firsthand."

Tewegan Housing



Acting like a Relative

As a community that welcomes Residents and Mentors from across Turtle Island, we are both newcomers and guests on this land with a responsibility to the original peoples of this land, the Anishinaabeg Algonquin Nations.

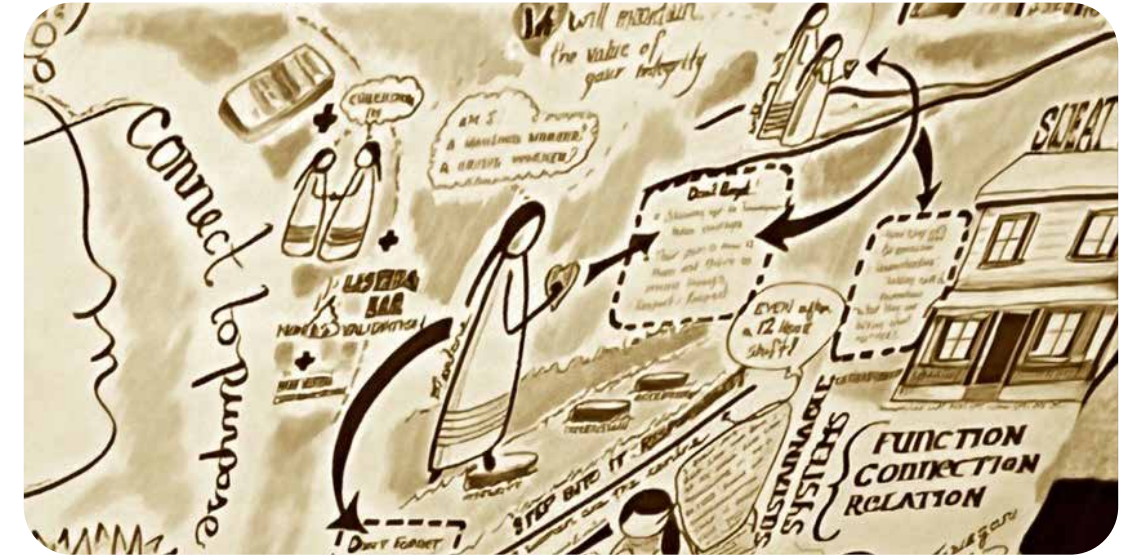
For those of us who are not born of this land, we can strive to begin, as a newcomer and with a good mind and heart, to learn how to be a guest, and how to Act Like A Relative in relation to this land.

Our Purpose

Tewegan's mission is to offer a culturally safer, resilient, and relational place of welcome with Indigenous young women ages 16 to 29 years of age who are living Indigenous homelessness in urban Indigenous Ottawa.

We exist to walk with Indigenous young women and to support tethering to connection & to experiences of meaning, purpose, belonging, and hope. This is culturally rooted Life Promotion.

Tewegan aims to amplify access to Indigenous Well-Being in the lives of residents, alumni, and community by restoring and increasing relational connection and interrupting the risks of 'Right Now' harms of colonization in the daily lives of Indigenous young women. Our 'tool' of choice to interrupt these harms, including Indigenous Homelessness, is 'Home' – not only the physical site, but the connection and relationship to All Our Relations. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Our Creation Story

A humble guest, 'Tewegan' is located on the unceded and unsundered lands of the Anishinaabeg Algonquin nation. Tewegan is the outcome of the place-based wisdom of Indigenous young people and the intergenerational self-organizing of the local urban Indigenous community.

In the spring and summer of 1997 & 1998 several gatherings with Indigenous young people took place. In 1997 a few community helpers working with young people had begun to do outreach at Joliet Park to support Indigenous young folks who were actively fleeing diminishing spaces and, as a result, who were also encountering additional risk of harm.

The Indigenous young people present were folks that had fled or stepped away from inadequate spaces and spaces that did not reflect their value or purpose. Many did not have control over who had access to them and, as such, frequently accepted 'good enough' opportunities to sustain basic needs. Frequently, these experiences involved the underground economy including sex work, trade, or other subsistence strategies that further isolated and increased exposure to harms.

These young people spoke at length to the need for a culturally rooted housing alternative. Based on their voice, the urban Indigenous community self-organized and, in 2002, incorporated a housing entity called the Aboriginal Non-Profit Youth Housing Corporation also known as 'Tewegan' was born.

Founded with place-based knowledge by and for Indigenous young people of all distinctions, Tewegan (Algonquin for 'drum') stands today as a culturally rooted housing alternative for Indigenous young women ages 16 to 29 who are living Indigenous Homelessness.

More than 740 Indigenous young women have called Tewegan home, each sharing their wisdom, bravery, and leadership with our community.

Tungasuvvingat Inuit



About Our Organization

Like the traditional Inuit Blanket-Toss Game, Tungasuvvingat Inuit's programs and services will "catch" anyone in the Inuit community who needs our support. When Inuit access our services, you are made aware of some of the other important supports that may be accessible. Our mandate is to assist Inuit adjust to southern urban culture and provide support every step of the way.

Tungasuvvingat Inuit is an Inuit-specific registered not-for-profit Ontario service provider offering social support, cultural activities, employment and education assistance, youth programs, counselling, crisis intervention and more. In total, we offer nearly 30 integrated, front-line services! The goal is to be a one-stop resource and support centre to meet the rapidly growing, complex and evolving needs of Inuit in Ontario.

Our core values are anchored in the traditional principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ), the Inuit way of "knowing." These resilience-building principles invoke: respecting others, relationships and caring for people; fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming and inclusive; and serving and providing for family and community. IQ also calls for decision-making through discussion and consensus; development of skills through mentoring, practice and effort; working together for a common cause; being innovative and resourceful; and having respect and care for the land, animals and the environment. TI is the only Inuit-specific service organization of its kind in urban Canada offering support through a person's entire life cycle.

As the population of Inuit living outside of Inuit Nunangat now exceeds 40%, Tungasuvvingat Inuit is recognized as a leading advocate for urban Inuit and is prominent within the framework of national Inuit organizations. Our comprehensive agency is a respected leader and the primary model for Inuit-specific service delivery, working in both urban and non-urban settings.

Our agency has received mainstream recognition as a centre of excellence in several of our programs. Tungasuvvingat Inuit is supported by more than a dozen public and private funders, including all levels of government. We are governed by an elected, volunteer Board of Directors, consisting broadly of community leaders from across the province committed to fulfilling our vision.

Our Programs:

- Allurianiq Program
- Employment and Education
- Culture
- Family Wellbeing
- Kamatsiarnig
- Social Navigator Program
- Mamisarvik Healing Centre
- Research Cancer Program
- Pisiksik Justice Department
- Effective Programming Youth Initiative
- Gladue
- Restorative Justice



Recent News:

- Tungasuvvingat Inuit hosted its first Inuit Pride Conference on August 15, 2023
- CAA North & East Ontario and Ottawa Redblacks join forces to support Tungasuvvingat Inuit's food security program in September 2023
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit held its second candlelight vigil for MMIWG2S on May 3rd, 2024

Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health



About Our Organization

The Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health is a leader in community-based holistic care. Each year, the Centre serves more than 15,000 people through its health, cultural and social support services.

Our Mission:

- Provide **quality holistic, culturally-relevant health services** to First Nations, Métis and Inuit in Ottawa
- Engage in **clinical, social, economic and cultural initiatives** that promote the health of Aboriginal people
- Promote **community-building through education and advocacy**
- Serve as a centre of excellence for **urban Aboriginal health**

Overview of 2022–2023

What an incredible year it has been—a time for both reflection and anticipation. On November 6, 2023, Wabano marked its 25th anniversary, prompting us to look back on our journey and ahead to the future. In 1998, Wabano opened its doors in what was once a music store and became a medical clinic, and a family advocate's office the humble beginnings of our story. That inaugural year saw 605 clients welcomed to Wabano. Gradually, we expanded our programs, introducing initiatives such as FASD support, Child and Family Art Therapy, and HIV Prevention.

By 2002, our Mental Health Program was established with three staff members. Over the years 2003 to 2005, our services continued to grow, encompassing diabetes education, aging at home programs, and further expansion of mental health services. In 2006, we held our inaugural Igniting the Spirit Gala, a tradition we've continued with our 16th Gala in 2023. The following year, we hosted our first Culture is Treatment Symposium, titled "Honouring our Families," while the Women of Wabano group earned recognition as the best debut group at the Native American Music Awards.

In 2008, another period of growth saw the addition of health promotion, youth diversion, expanded mental health services, a tween program, and housing support. We also acquired properties at 274 and 272 Bradley for new programming. From 2009 to 2012, we embarked on a phase of visioning of expanding and starting the construction of the new section of Wabano. Staff were temporarily relocated to ensure continuous service provision during construction. On May 9, 2013, we celebrated the grand opening of the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, featuring a maternal and child wellness center, expanded mental health services, and more. Our redesigned cultural gathering space became a hub for reconnecting, learning from Elders, and fostering community cohesion. Our logo was updated to symbolize the power of a sunrise, inspired by the Ojibwe word "Wabano," meaning the morning twilight and the promise of new beginnings.



In 2014, we unveiled our Residential School exhibit, inviting students and the community to learn about this crucial aspect of history. Further growth ensued from 2015 to 2017, with the establishment of our Housing First department, a partnership with Ottawa Public Health to open a dental clinic, and the introduction of cultural speakers such as Brian Charles, Lee Maracle, and Joe Pitawanakwat. Additionally, we launched an Indigenous Cultural Safety program to address anti-racism from an Indigenous perspective.

In 2018, we inaugurated our rooftop healing garden alongside the residential school exhibit, developed the Wabano-win Indigenous training program for service providers, expanded our Mental Wellness team, and released the "Now, Now, Now" report to commemorate our 20th anniversary. In 2019, the medical clinic lobby underwent a beautiful renovation, designed to foster a sense of belonging with its canoe-inspired cedar front desk and river-like tile pattern.

Wabano continued to adapt in 2020 amidst the challenges of a global pandemic, partnering once again with Ottawa Public Health to administer over 45,000 vaccines to Indigenous community members. In 2021, despite ongoing pandemic restrictions, we acquired new spaces and released the "Share Your Story" report, shedding light on anti-Indigenous racism in the Champlain region.

In 2022 & 2023, we acquired land for community-based programming, expanded our day camps, and witnessed a return to pre-pandemic community event attendance, including our anniversary celebration and various symposiums. Notable guests such as Alanis Obomsawin and David General graced our events, while discussions with Dr. Kim Tallbear explored the concept of self-indigenization. We realized a longstanding dream with the acquisition and renovation of 295 Montreal Road, providing additional spaces for community engagement.

The theme of our 2023 gala, "Our Stories Come from the Stones," honored Canada's distinctive landscape and Indigenous reverence for the Canadian Shield. As we pause to reflect on our journey, we are filled with gratitude for how far we've come as an organization and a community. With excitement and anticipation, we look forward to the rewarding adventures that lie ahead and the stories we will continue to create as a community.

Recognizing Community

Grandfather Thomas Louttit



Thomas Louttit is a Cree man from Moose Factory and has lived in Ottawa for many years.

His involvement with the Ottawa Indigenous community includes being part of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Council of Elders and supporting so many community members in so many organizations and places. Thomas offers the community his lodge where we can all continue our healing journey. He doesn't put a price on anything he says, rather he accepts offerings of tobacco.

Thomas's wisdom, guidance, and love have shaped the lives of many men who have participated in Wabano's men's sharing circles. Led by Thomas, these sharing circles provide a space for Indigenous men in community to come together and learn from one another. Thomas shared that there was once a time when he was a participant himself in the men's circle himself and now works as a facilitator to return. His kindness, quick wit and humour has brought people closer.

We love how he role models what it means to be a kind Indigenous Man through his actions and words and in witnessing his relationship with his wife Pennie. He has taught us what it means to carry yourself in a good way as an Indigenous man.

His actions showcase the value of responsibility in our community, inspiring others to embrace their heritage, seek healing and walk a path of wellness together. His dedication to community is truly inspiring and his contributions serve as a warm guiding light.

Recognizing Community

Grandmother Irene Compton



Grandmother Irene Compton can best be described as the heart of our community. She is everywhere when we need her and her presence exists as a guiding light, a source of strength, and a beacon of hope. A Saulteaux woman from Saskatchewan and a member of Bear Clan, her presence resonates deeply within women of our community through her 35 years dedication, hope, and hard work at Minwaashin Lodge. As a founding member of Minwaashin Lodge, her journey is one marked by dedication, love and support for Indigenous women in the City of Ottawa.

In addition to her work at Minwaashin, she is a key member of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition's Council of Elders, opening and closing many events, she is a member of the Ottawa Police Services Community Equity Council and is quick to support and guide all community members on how to walk in a good way in their lives. With her drum and her songs, she participates in providing support, teachings, and space for the Ottawa community to come together and have hard conversations. Her greatest magic is fostering an environment of understanding and patience. She radiates a quiet strength and humility.

For three decades, Grandmother Irene has been a cherished pillar of wisdom and kindness in our community. It is with a profound sense of gratitude that we honour her today.

Recognizing Community

Grandmother Irene Lindsey



Grandmother Irene is Cree/Sioux from One Arrow First Nation. Grandmother Irene Lindsey arrived in Ottawa/Gatineau at 14 years old, coming directly from St. Michael's Residential School in Duck Lake Saskatchewan. Grandmother Irene raised her family in Ottawa and then made her way to Minwaashin Lodge and Elder Lillian Pitawanakwat.

Grandmother Irene working with Lillian Pitawanakwat, the founding Elder of Minwaashin Lodge, supported her as she restored her strength as an Indigenous woman and as Irene moved into her work as a Grandmother. Irene established a group called, The Wisdom Keepers, a Grandmothers Circle through the Minwaashin Lodge. She also served on the Women's Council for the Lodge for four years and was a board member for an Aboriginal Men's Healing Lodge.

With Jim Albert, Irene did sweat lodges and spring and fall fasts for 21 years out on the land in Lanark. Lillian gifted the two of them with the canvas for the first lodge on Jim's land. And that gift and their two spirits walked with many people in our community on their healing journey.

Throughout her life Grandmother Irene has worked with many organizations in Ottawa and throughout the country including sitting on the board of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. For years she has been part of Indigenous Services Canada's Indigenous Community Development training where she has gifted many with her stories and teachings and her beautiful gentle spirit.

Grandmother Irene has supported so many people in the community with her ability to love and listen and heal us. She has loved many of us into restoring and honouring our own spirits and journeys and today we honour her for all she has given us.

Recognizing Community

Elder Aigah Attagutsiak



In our community there exists a gentle soul, a source of wisdom and a pillar of strength: Elder Aigah Attagutsiak was born and raised in Arctic Bay. Aigah moved to Ottawa about 20 years ago to be with her children. Her presence radiates warmth, kindness, and a love for those around her. Whether it be through her work on the Ottawa Police Services Community Equity Council, or leading the OAC's 2024 Inuit VAW workshop or Aigah's work as the only Inuit Anglican Minister, at St. Margaret's Anglican Church in Vanier in the City of Ottawa, keeps her extremely busy - her journey is one marked by resilience, compassion, and a commitment to uplifting others.

In acknowledging and honouring Elder Aigah, we not only celebrate her countless acts of kindness and generosity but also acknowledge the profound impact she has had on the lives within our community. She sits on the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition's Elder Council and is an elder with Innugatigiit Centre for Children, Youth and Families and Minwaashin Lodge where she guides community to traditions through teachings, story-telling and empathy. Elder Aigah has touched countless lives with her gentle guidance and understanding and is a testament to the power of loving ourselves and others.

Recognizing Community

Senator Reta Gordon



Elder Reta Gordon is a proud Métis Senator of the Métis Nation of Ontario. A strong speaker, Elder Reta's storytelling is nothing short of magical. Her stories reinforce a sense of profound authenticity, with a pinch of humour all throughout, that reminds those sharing the same circle with her, to embrace your culture and to be proud of who you are.

As a Métis, Reta's stories highlight the evolving story of the Métis journey of discovery in Canada. Reta has been a leader in that evolving story. She always reminds us that she started as an unpaid volunteer with a Métis organization – and offered her skills, her beautiful smile, humour and impeccable style. We are lucky to have her sit on the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Council of Elders. She still remains the best-dressed Elder that we know!

Her contributions to our community are marked by grace and inspire pride and empowerment in the hearts of future generations, not just for the Métis but for First Nations and Inuit as well. As we reflect on her impact to our urban community, we are filled with deep gratitude and love.

Recognizing Community

Clara Freire, City of Ottawa



Clara has walked with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition for many years. She began her career in the community working with community non-profit organizations. The OAC quickly connected with her energy, good thinking and humour in our work together – starting with her support to Indigenous community members who were homeless or at risk of homelessness, and serving adults facing significant social, economic and emotional barriers to social services.

Through her 25 year career at the City, Clara has worked in Housing Services, on corporate programs and most recently in CSSD, leading client service initiatives and strategic plans as the Manager, Partner and Stakeholder Initiatives. In all of her roles, Clara has worked closely with the OAC including being a lead, with Marc Maracle for the City of Ottawa Aboriginal Working Committee. On so many priorities for the Indigenous community, Clara has been there with us. Clara took on the temporary role as Lead of the City's COVID-19 Emergency Response Human Needs Task Force in 2020 and was instrumental in ensuring that the OAC member organizations had what we needed throughout the COVID pandemic.

Most recently, Clara has been a key partner helping the OAC navigate around the transfer of land for the VAW Inuit Shelter and moving forward on other priorities like the Indigenous Mental Well Being Strategy and the Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

Clara is a friend and an ally. She brings intelligence, empathy, humility and kindness to her relationship with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition. We are honouring her today for all that she has done with us in the City of Ottawa and especially for being an advocate at City Hall. She is truly a gift to the Indigenous community in Ottawa.

Cultural Performers

Ottawa River Singers



The Ottawa River Singers is a drum group of First Nations men and women singers.

The singers of the group live in Ottawa, but their families are from Northern Ontario and Manitoulin Island. They have been singing together in the Capital Region for over three years. The songs they sing have many different meanings often including uplifting words of encouragement to those who are listening.

The drum is the heartbeat of mother earth and is the center of our culture. The beat of the drum combined with the collective sounds of our voices is a medicine that can uplift and carry others in a positive way.

Cultural Performers

Inuit Throat Singers: Janice Oolayou and Angeline Ivalu



Janice Oolayou is originally from Iqaluit, Nunavut and has been residing in Ottawa for 19 years. Janice has been throat singing since the age of 12 and has since performed across Canada.

“Throat singing is a friendly competition between two Inuit women (or girls). It was used to pass time when the hunters were out for days at a time. The songs are imitations of our environment, animals and even have lullaby songs. There is a leader and a follower, the leader sets the rhythm, pace and tone of the song. The follower follows half a second, or more. Many of the songs have the same sounds to make the song but there are also other songs where both leader and follower make different sounds to make a song, such as the mosquito.”

Cultural Performers

Sara Kae



Ojibwe/Cree singer-songwriter Sara Kae often takes any opportunity she can to tell a story. From a young age, she quickly realized that music was her vehicle in doing so. With family hailing from Lake Helen First Nation, her Indigenous roots have always been a prominent point of inspiration in both life and her creative endeavours. She carries that with her in all that she does. Her father works as a drug and alcohol and wellness counsellor; he frequently brought Sara along to speak and sing in schools and communities in the region from the age of 12. Sara's family life was far from conventional, with her parents taking in youth who needed a home. This lit a flame in Sara to aim to be an Indigenous role model in her community.

In 2019, Sara Kae received the "Founder's Award" for her time at Metalworks in the Music Performance and Technology: Vocal Major program. She was also awarded the "Outstanding Graduate of the Year Award" from the Career Colleges of Ontario. In addition to her music, Sara found herself working in radio and journalism at a Toronto-based radio station owned by APTN and CBC Thunder Bay/Indigenous where she gained valuable experience within the industry.

Sara's music is best described as pop and indie, with lyricism and themes influenced by the surroundings of her hometown, Thunder Bay, and her Indigeniety. In the last while, Sara has released two singles, "Rise" and "Constellations." Kae continues to spend time within her community while working on a new EP to release in the near future.

Cultural Performers

Alicia Kayley



Alicia Kayley is an Indigenous Classical and Pop/R&B vocalist who has been performing various styles of music throughout her life at numerous venues ranging from the Grey Cup Conference, the NACCA Indigenous Prosperity Forum, and The Canada day 150th at parliament hill singing a trilingual national anthem. She has most recently won a grant to release her first album alongside Crystal Shawanda's label New Sun Music. As a young Indigenous musician, she thrives at the opportunity to contribute to the world in giving our Anishinabe women a voice in mainstream music.

Master of Ceremony

Kahnekahnekahtahk Stan Wesley



Stan Wesley is from Moose Factory and currently living in Six Nations Territory with his wife Mandy and two daughters Maya and Tenona.

With his high-energy and sincere professional approach, he's considered by many to be one of the most high-energy speakers around.

For over 30 years, Stan has engaged and entertained audiences with his unique style of presentations, keynotes, emcee and facilitation services. Working at the local, regional, provincial and national levels, he speaks on a variety of issues with a focus on celebrating success and advancing good, healthy relations among Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. With his high-energy, sincere, professional approach, he is considered by many to be one of the top speakers in the country today. Stan currently lives in Six Nations Territory with his beautiful wife, Mandy, and their incredible daughters Maya and Tenona.



Member Organizations

Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

<p>Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation 396 MacLaren Street Ottawa, Ontario Tel: (613) 232-0016 Fax: (613) 232-1977 E-mail: d.peltier@bellnet.ca Website: http://www.gignulhousing.org</p>	<p>Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation is committed to a holistic and comprehensive approach to housing for Indigenous people at risk of losing their housing, and for those who are currently homeless. To support these objectives, Gignul works in partnership with other Indigenous organizations to focus on both short and long term housing solutions, including supportive shelters to affordable, independent living.</p>
<p>Inuit Non-Profit Housing 102-311 McArthur Avenue Ottawa, Ontario Tel: (613) 741-1449 Website: www.facebook.com/people/Inuit-Non-Profit-Housing/100064348947033/</p>	<p>Inuit Non-Profit Housing Corporation provides housing services to the Inuit community members in Ottawa. They operate 63 rent-g geared to income housing for Inuit families and singles living in the Ottawa area.</p>
<p>Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families Head Office and Early Years' Centre: 224 and 230 McArthur Ave. Ottawa, ON K1L 6P5 Tel: (343) 553-3027 Email: adminassistant@inuqatigiit.ca Website: https://inuqatigiit.ca/</p>	<p>Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth, and Families provides cultural, educational, recreational and social support services to children, youth, and families in Ottawa's Inuit community. Inuuqatigiit provides a holistic wrap-around service and is a major hub for Inuit families in Ottawa seeking programs and services.</p>
<p>Kagita Mikam 5602 Old Highway 2, Shannonville, Ontario K0K 3A0 Tel: (613) 962-3103 Email: info@kagitamikam.ca Website: https://kagitamikam.com/ Kagita Mikam has 7 satellite offices.</p>	<p>Kagita Mikam provides training and employment support services to Indigenous clients, including resume writing, employment counseling, labour market information, referral to employment and training opportunities.</p>
<p>Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start 297 Olmstead Avenue Ottawa, Ontario Tel: (613) 724-5844 Email: info@makonsag.ca Website: https://www.makonsag.ca/</p>	<p>Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start provides a culturally-enriched preschool environment that fosters early learning and enhances pride through education to ensure that Indigenous children and their families have positive lifelong experiences as members of Indigenous communities.</p>
<p>Minwaashin Lodge 2323 St. Laurent Blvd</p>	<p>Minwaashin Lodge provides violence prevention and intervention services for Indigenous women, youth, children,</p>

<p>Ottawa, Ontario K1G 4J8 Tel: (613) 741-5590 ext. 221 Crisis line: 613-789-1141 Toll Free: 1-855-789-9433 Email: info@minlodge.com Website: https://www.minlodge.com/</p>	<p>and elders, including traditional healing, employment, counseling, shelter, youth, and cultural programs, community development initiatives, and social support.</p>
<p>Odawa Native Friendship Centre 815 St. Laurent Blvd. Ottawa, Ontario K1K 3A7 Tel: (613) 722-3811 Email: reception@odawa.on.ca Website: http://www.odawa.on.ca</p>	<p>Odawa Native Friendship Centre (ONFC) provides programs and services for all age groups and needs, as well as cultural events and social and recreational activities.</p>
<p>Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth 65 Harvey Street Ottawa, Ontario K1S 0A8 Tel: (613) 233-0672 Email: welcome@teweganhousing.ca Website: https://www.teweganhousing.ca/</p>	<p>Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth operates a 12-bed home for young First Nations, Inuit, and Metis women between 16 - 29 years who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.</p>
<p>Tungasuvvingat Inuit 1071 Richmond Road Ottawa, Ontario Tel: (613) 565-5885 Email: info@tiontario.ca Website: https://tiontario.ca/</p>	<p>Tungasuvvingat Inuit is an Inuit-specific, provincial service provider that provides social support, cultural activities, counseling and crisis intervention as a one-stop resource centre to meet the rapidly growing, complex and evolving needs of Inuit in Ontario.</p>
<p>Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health 299 Montreal Road Ottawa, Ontario K1L 6B8 Tel: (613) 748-0657 Email: info@wabano.com Website: https://wabano.com/</p>	<p>Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health provides a combination of traditional healing, primary health care, cultural programs, health promotion, community development initiatives, and social support services to more than 10,000 First Nations, Inuit and Metis people each year.</p>

Community Photo Gallery



Thank You

Thank you to the following for making this community gathering a success!

- All OAC Member Organizations
- Advantage Audio Visual Rentals
- Beaded Dreams
- Brown Bear
- City of Ottawa
- Elm Printing
- Extremeline Productions Inc.
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Katari Imaging
- Lou Lou Lounge
- Ottawa Event and Convention Centre
- Ottawa Public Health
- Plenty of Pretty
- Tabahon
- Tipi Set up by Raymond Soosay and Frank Leaney
- Tracey Lynne Photography
- Turtle Lodge Trading Post

We thank **Stan Wesley** for being the amazing MC for the event.

We are honoured to have our Elders, **Thomas Louttit**, **Aigah Attagutsiak** and **Parm Burgie**, open and close with ceremony. We are also honoured to have **Grandmother Irene Compton**, **Verna McGregor** and other community Elders and Knowledge Keepers who came to be with us.

A very special thanks to the **Big Drum - Ottawa River Singers**, and the Inuit Throat Singers, **Janice Oolayou** and **Angeline Ivalu**; and **Alicia Kayley** and **Sara Kae**, for bringing such passion and energy.

We would also like to thank our volunteers, and the Indigenous Community members and partners who came out to be with us this evening.

With respect from the OAC team:

Joan Riggs, Karen Green, Irene Goodwin, Julie Aziz, Kate Carroll, Kyra Hagerty, Jennifer San, Stacey Johnstone, Whitney Knott, Rachelle Metatawabin, Rayjean Palluq, Antonio Strizzi and Austin Courchene (with United Way).



