



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

November, 2024

**Re: OAC Christmas Drive**

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Dear Friends, Partner's, Allies and Community,

Ottawa is home to over 44,000 Indigenous people. During the Christmas season many Indigenous households turn to the OAC member organizations to augment their needs for food and gifts for children. These safe spaces are often Indigenous organizations they are familiar with and where they may be a client or where they may access cultural activities.

The OAC member Organizations work diligently with Indigenous families who require additional support during the Christmas season by providing gift cards, Christmas food hampers, gifts for children, gifts for women in the shelter and on the street and seasonal activities and gatherings to support community well-being. Unfortunately, no specific funding or dollars are allocated for this yearly expense and organizations often utilize resources from other programs and existing food banks to ensure that Indigenous families have their needs met during the holidays. While the OAC organizations work to support and alleviate stress from Indigenous families, they take on added challenges and pressure to resources, both financial and human. We need your assistance with this issue.

This year, the OAC is working directly to support its member organizations to meet the needs of Indigenous households during the Christmas season. This can only be accomplished with your help and generosity. Please see the attached promotional piece for ways to directly support Indigenous families in Ottawa during the Christmas season, while combating food insecurity and spreading Christmas cheer.

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) is an alliance of (9) Indigenous delivery organizations that provide front-line programs and services within Ottawa. These organizations are Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Inuit Non-Profit Housing, Inuuqatigiit Centre, Kagita Mikam, Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start, Minwaashin Lodge, Odawa Native Friendship Centre, Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth, and Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health.

Since 2001, the OAC has presented a unified voice at the community, municipal, provincial, and federal levels. We raise awareness on a wide and diverse range of issues currently facing our Indigenous

community in Ottawa, and work to increase the positive and healthy choices available to our community members and their families.

Thank you for taking the time to consider supporting the Ottawa urban Indigenous community this season.

For inquiries and questions, contact Julie Aziz via email at [admincoordinator@ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca](mailto:admincoordinator@ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca)

Respectfully,

*Mary Daoust*

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