



# **OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION**

Indigenous Community Gathering  
May 29, 2023

# Table of Contents

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

- Welcome, OAC Co-Chairs. . . . . 4
- Welcome, Mayor . . . . . 6
- Welcome, Ottawa Public Health . . . . . 7
- OAC Elders. . . . . 8
- Community Gathering Agenda . . . . . 10
- OAC - Vision, Mission & Guiding Principles . . . . . 12
- OAC - The Last Three Years. . . . . 13
- OAC Member Organization Updates. . . . . 23
  - Gignul . . . . . 24
  - Inuit Non-Profit Housing . . . . . 26
  - Inuuqatigiit Centre . . . . . 28
  - Kagita Mikam . . . . . 30
  - Makonsag. . . . . 32
  - Minwaashin Lodge . . . . . 35
  - Odawa Native Friendship Centre . . . . . 38
  - Tewegan . . . . . 40
  - Tungasuvvingat Inuit. . . . . 42
  - Wabano Centre . . . . . 44
- Recognizing Community
  - Dr. Vera Etches. . . . . 46
  - Donna Gray. . . . . 47
  - Cora Lee McGuire . . . . . 48
  - Our OAC Community Organization Leadership . . . . . 49
  - Emma Morrison, Miss World Canada . . . . . 50
- Acknowledging the Ones We Have Lost . . . . . 51
- Cultural Performers
  - Ottawa River Singers. . . . . 52
  - Alicia Kayley . . . . . 53
  - Twin Flames . . . . . 54
- Menu: The Birch Bite . . . . . 55
- OAC Member Organizations. . . . . 56
- Community Photo Gallery . . . . . 58
- Thank You . . . . . 60

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, OAC Co-Chairs



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

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

## Co-Chairs Message

May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Community,

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition is excited to share the OAC story of the last three years. It is a story about not just our organizations but the incredible work of individual community members. All of us together stepped up to take care of ourselves, families and other community members. As Indigenous service organizations in Ottawa we witnessed the resiliency and strength of our community and the 500 (five hundred) staff that work in our ten organizations. We have also had the honour of collaborating as OAC organizations, with partners, governments and with community members to keep each other and the community safe.

We faced a lot in the last three years, and we know for some of us we lost families and friends. All of us lost time to enjoy life. For the OAC, we were reminded that issues we were facing before COVID did not go away. As a community, we must find innovative solutions to recurring issues like homelessness, affordable housing, food security, mental health, and addictions. COVID refocused our work to ensure that we are clear about the changes we need to support Ottawa Indigenous community members.

An incredibly special acknowledgement to two key City partners that got us through this time. Dr Vera Etches, who did so many things to ensure that the Ottawa Indigenous community, the Elders and our organizations and staff were safe and that we could respond to the issues that we were facing. And to Donna Gray, our key contact in the City of Ottawa, who was always willing to think outside of the box, look at new solutions and be brave in advocating for Indigenous specific approaches that we were proposing.

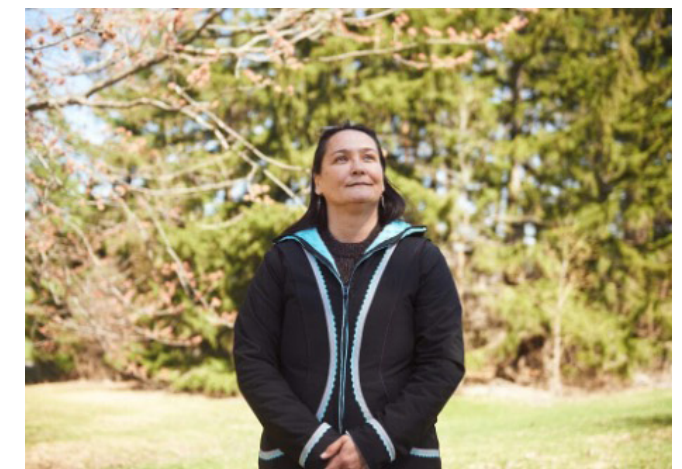
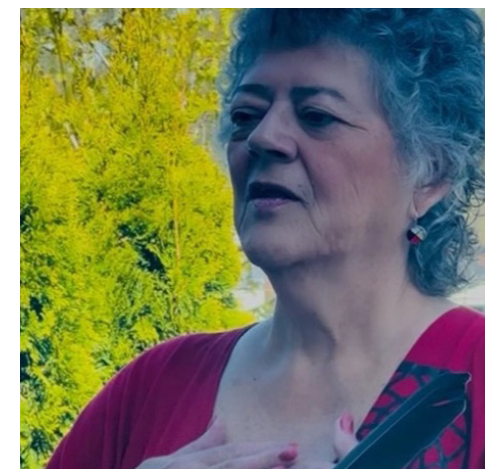
While we are the current co-chairs of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, when we started this journey in 2020 there were two other extraordinary people that was part of OAC leadership and that we want to acknowledge. Marc Maracle was the original chair of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, since our inception in 2005. He stepped down in December of 2020 when it was clear that Gignul Housing would need his undivided attention to navigate the challenges of COVID. Allison Fisher, Executive Director of Wabano, used her extraordinary leadership skills to create Indigenous community to respond to the crisis and led us until just recently when she stepped down as co-chair in February of 2023.

To the community members – you will hear about yours and our extraordinary efforts in the last three years. We are honoured to be Indigenous service providers supporting you on your life journeys in Ottawa.

With respect

*Mary Daoust*  
Mary Daoust  
Co-Chair  
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

*Stephanie Mikki Adams*  
Stephanie Mikki Adams, CAFM  
Co-Chair  
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition



## Welcome, Mayor Mark Sutcliffe



**Mark Sutcliffe**  
Mayor | Maire

### Office of the Mayor City of Ottawa

110 Laurier Avenue West  
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  
Tél.: 613-580-2496  
Télééc.: 613-580-2509  
Courriel : Mark.Sutcliffe@ottawa.ca

May 29<sup>th</sup> 2023

On behalf of my colleagues on Ottawa City Council, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to all those participating in the **Community Gathering**, hosted by the **Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition**, and taking place on unceded Anishinabe Algonquin territory.

The City of Ottawa greatly values the relationships that it has forged with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, and its member organizations, and how they help us co-develop approaches to meeting Indigenous community needs. We take pride in being able to contribute to Indigenous-led initiatives like the Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

This year, our new Council's inaugural Budget approved an additional 500,000 dollars for Indigenous service providers to ensure Indigenous communities can self-determine how funding can support community identified needs and the capacity of Indigenous-led organizations to participate in and partner with City of Ottawa processes.

Since 2022, the City's new Indigenous Relations team has been working towards co-developing with Indigenous communities a coordinated interdepartmental approach and framework for Indigenous engagement. The City recognizes that it is essential that this work be based on collaborative principles of mutual respect, trust, and reciprocity, and be grounded in Indigenous Rights, including the Indigenous right to self-determination.

Our City looks forward to exploring opportunities to continue growing with Urban Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) communities and partners, including the Anishinabe Algonquin Host Nation.

Allow me to offer my best wishes to the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition for a productive and rewarding Community Gathering.

Sincerely,

Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor/Maire

Le 29 mai 2023

Je suis ravi de souhaiter une cordiale bienvenue, au nom de mes collègues du Conseil municipal d'Ottawa, à tous les participants du **rassemblement communautaire** organisé par la **Coalition autochtone d'Ottawa**, qui aura lieu sur le territoire non cédé de la Nation Anishinabe Algonquienne.

La Ville d'Ottawa accorde beaucoup d'importance aux relations qu'elle a tissées avec la Coalition autochtone d'Ottawa et ses organismes affiliés, ainsi qu'à la manière dont ils nous aident à développer conjointement des approches visant à répondre aux besoins de la communauté autochtone. Nous sommes fiers de pouvoir contribuer à des initiatives dirigées par les Autochtones comme la Stratégie autochtone sur le logement et l'itinérance.

Cette année, le premier budget de notre nouveau Conseil a approuvé un montant supplémentaire de 500 000 \$ pour les fournisseurs de services autochtones afin de veiller à ce que les communautés autochtones puissent décider elles-mêmes comment le financement peut appuyer des besoins communautaires définis et la capacité des organismes dirigés par des Autochtones de participer aux processus de la Ville d'Ottawa, et d'être partenaires.

Depuis 2022, la nouvelle équipe des Relations avec les Autochtones œuvre en vue de développer en collaboration avec les communautés autochtones une approche interservices coordonnée et un cadre de consultation des Autochtones. La Ville reconnaît qu'il est essentiel que ce travail soit fondé sur des principes concertés de respect mutuel, de confiance et de réciprocité, et soit ancré dans les droits des Autochtones, notamment le droit des Autochtones à l'autodétermination.

Notre Ville est impatiente d'explorer des possibilités de continuer de grandir avec les communautés et partenaires autochtones vivant en milieu urbain (Premières Nations, Inuits et Métis), y compris la Nation hôte Anishinabe Algonquienne.

Permettez-moi de souhaiter à la Coalition autochtone d'Ottawa un rassemblement communautaire des plus productifs et enrichissants.

Cordialement,

## Welcome, Ottawa Public Health Dr. Vera Etches



*"Our goal is to become a culturally safe and humble organization"*

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

It is an honour to share a few words with you on behalf of Ottawa Public Health (OPH). I am grateful for the opportunity to work and live on unceded Algonquin Anishnabe territory. I am thankful for the chance to continue learning from and working with the diverse urban Indigenous population in this area. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank the OAC and all of you for your efforts to keep the community safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to recognize your patience, persistence, and all the actions that you have taken to protect and support each other, including caring for Elders, children and community members needing assistance. Your kindness and compassion are greatly appreciated.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us many things. It highlighted the health and social injustices in our community, including the ongoing impact of racism and unfair and unhealthy economic systems. It also showed us that we can grow culturally appropriate services when we work in partnership with OAC members. The OAC ensured that the voices and needs of urban Indigenous community members were heard and considered. It is clear to me that continuing to build, strengthen and work *in relationship* with our partners is the only way forward. The pandemic showed us we need to stay connected for our health.

These lessons learned have informed the creation of OPH's new Strategy for 2023-2027. Our vision is that all people and places in Ottawa are healthy and thriving. We see that all things are related, people and environments need to be considered for wellbeing. We will get there by focusing on equity, prevention, and maximizing our impact on issues such as racism, climate change, mental health and substance use health. Guided by the principles of respect, relationship, reciprocity, and reflection, OPH will continue to work in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, communities, and organizations, to promote social justice and advance Indigenous rights and self-determination. As part of this commitment, we will continue to support the many OAC initiatives that have been designed to address the priorities identified by urban Indigenous community members in Ottawa.

OPH aims to become a culturally safe and humble organization. We will listen, learn, acknowledge, and share the truth about our collective history, and the current experience of First Nations, Inuit and Métis community members. Among other actions, we will continue to support OPH employees on their learning journeys, work with health system partners to address Indigenous-specific racism, reflect on our policies and practices, and provide updates on our progress in our annual report to the Ottawa Board of Health, including feedback from the OAC on how we are doing. I welcome your thoughts and creative ideas on additional actions that we can take to build our capacity to better serve First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Ottawa.



Chi meegwetch, nia:wen kowa, qujannamiik, marsee, merci and thanks again for your support and understanding.

Respectfully,

Vera Etches  
Medical Officer of Health

## OAC Elders



### Parmailia Burgie

Métis Senator Parm Burgie was originally born in Toronto, a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario. When her father from the Penetanguishene community had passed, she spent years searching Archives, determined to find answers to the unknown. She now has a beautiful family tree dating back to the 15th century, acknowledgment of historical upbringing and teachings.

Parm has been Métis Senator for the Ottawa Regional Métis Council for several years. In her role as Senator, she helps foster bonds between community members at events and meetings, as well as ensuring to keep Métis culture alive and present. Parm acts as a guide and mentor for the community, proactively encouraging those to learn about their culture and identity. Parm also sits as an Elder with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition and volunteers actively throughout the land. She is a beautiful advocate, educator, and speaker- reaffirming all of their capabilities and historical strength. What an honour it is to share this journey with Parmailia Burgie.



### Sally Webster

Sally Kate Webster was born in a land near Baker Lake, Nunavut. In 1956, the federal government started a school in Baker Lake and it was then, at the age of 11 that Sally started school. When Sally was 16, she started her career as a classroom assistant in Baker Lake. She would later work as the ladies' group coordinator for Arctic College, Baker Lake campus and at Pauktuutit Inuit Women's Association in Ottawa.

Sally is an amazing entrepreneur, having operated the Baker Lake Fine Arts and Crafts where she coordinated and promoted the women of Baker Lake's fine arts. As an elder, she is often consulted for her expertise in Inuit art and culture. We are incredibly grateful for all that Sally has done and continues to do, holding powerful spaces filled with love for all those around. Nakurmiik Sally.



### Irene Compton

Irene Compton holds many titles. First- Irene is a First Nations Saulteaux woman, from the Keeseekoose band in Saskatchewan. She is Bear Clan, a first-generation survivor of the Residential School System. Irene Compton is co-founder of Minwaashin Lodge, where she is celebrating 30 years of advocacy, courage, leadership, and community care- only a few words to describe the passion and work that she displays.

Irene's work at the lodge supports women survivors of lethal violence, assisting them with safety plans, stabilization, healing, and employment & education achievement. Irene is the Keeper of the stories at Minwaashin's Sacred Lodge, which connects Indigenous women to their culture, identity, and ways of being and empowerment. Irene also manages the Employment Readiness Program, where she utilizes a holistic and inclusive approach- in the words of Irene Compton, 'with kid gloves.' Irene sits with the Elders of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, where she holds space for various communities, continuing conversations of growth. It is truly an honour to share this little bit of what this wonderful kwe/ woman does for Ottawa and our land.



# Community Gathering Agenda

## MEETING AGENDA

**Monday**      **5:00 PM - 8:30 PM**  
**May 29, 2023**      **110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa- City Hall**

- 4:30 - 5:00**      **Community Slide Show**
- 5:00 - 5:15**      **Call to Order**      **Joan Riggs- OAC Facilitator, Heidi Metcalfe**  
**Opening Song**      **Ottawa River Singers**  
**Acknowledge the Algonquin Nation**
- 5:15 - 5:25**      **Opening Prayers**      **First Nations Grandmother Irene Compton**  
**Inuit Elder Sally Webster**  
**Métis Elder Parm Burgie**
- 5:25 - 5:35**      **Welcoming Remarks**      **OAC Co-Chairs: Mary Daoust and Mikki Adams**  
**Ottawa Medical Officer: Dr. Vera Etches**
- 5:35**      **Dinner is Served**
- 5:45 - 6:05**      **The OAC in the Last Three Years**      **Joan Riggs and Karen Green**

- 6:05 - 6:30**      **Recognizing Community**      **Marc Maracle, Allison Fisher and Cora McGuire-Cyrette**
- 6:30 - 6:45**      **Seeing Ottawa from a Bigger Perspective**      **Miss World Canada: Emma Morrison**
- 6:45 - 7:00**      **OAC's COVID-19 Research- Lessons Learned**      **Members of the OAC Research Committee**
- 7:00 - 7:15**      **What is Important to do Now?**      **Table Exercise**
- 7:15 - 7:45**      **Honouring Those We Have Lost; Songs and Ceremony**      **Alicia Kayley, Sacred Firekeeper Peter Decontie, Fred McGregor, Elder Repa Ević-Carleton**
- 7:45 - 8:00**      **Entertainment**      **Twin Flames**
- 8:00 - 8:10**      **Community Circle**      **Twin Flames**
- 8:10 - 8:30**      **Closing**      **Door Prizes**  
**Closing Prayer**      **First Nations Grandmother Irene Compton**  
**Inuit Elder Sally Webster**  
**Métis Elder Parm Burgie**  
**Closing Song**      **Ottawa River Singers**
- 8:30**      **End**

## OAC - Vision, Mission & 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.



## OAC - The Last Three Years

### Building Community and Making Ottawa a Place of Belonging

Between 2020 and May 2023, the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) grew and changed as the OAC organizations responded to COVID-19, which exacerbated the homelessness crisis, the mental health crisis, and the substance use crisis in our community. From the first day of the COVID response in March 2020, the Executive Directors of the Indigenous service organizations came together, collaboratively, and as a community within a community to support one another. It was an extraordinary effort by the OAC member organizations and the partners who stepped up to support the Ottawa Indigenous community.

### March 2020: The Immediate COVID Response

In the first two weeks of COVID, the OAC had four meetings to coordinate PPEs, share health and safety and HR policies and worked with Ottawa Public Health on how to keep staff and community members safe. The OAC had representation at both the City Human Needs Task Force and on the United Way Community Response Table.

**The OAC identified key priorities in these first few weeks, and these remained some of the key priorities throughout the pandemic, and included:**

- Elder support including food security, wellness checks and getting their phone and computers to communicate with family and friends;
- Food Security;
- Support for community members who were experiencing homelessness;
- Respite care;
- Ensuring that children and youth had computers (and internet) for education;
- Keeping staff and community members safe and mentally well to do the work;

The federal government provided its first funding round and urban Indigenous were not included in any funding announcements. In these first few weeks, the OAC worked with provincial and national Indigenous organizations to get urban specific funding. The City responded to meet our immediate needs.

**At the same time, the OAC member organizations were completely reconfiguring their organizations including:**

- Changing physical spaces to ensure that staff and community members were safe;
- Redesigning programs and services to do on-line delivery where possible while ensuring that staff providing in-person services had the necessary PPE ;
- Supporting staff and community members around their mental health and wellness needs;

Wabano's clinic stayed open; Minwaashin's shelter for Indigenous women stayed open; Tewegan's home for Indigenous young women stayed open and Gignul and Inuit non-profit housing kept responding to maintenance needs of tenants.

## The COVID-19 Research Project

At the beginning of COVID, the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition was approached by a number of organizations to participate in research studies around urban Indigenous people and COVID. Although, the OAC does not normally do research, we knew that we could rely on OAC members that had significant capacity to do research, were academically recognized and had previously done community-based, multi-methodological, and Indigenous based research. We made the decision to go ahead because we wanted to ensure that Indigenous community members in Ottawa would be able to directly tell their stories of what happened during the first year of COVID-19.

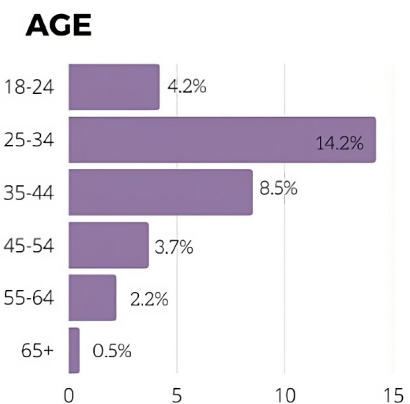
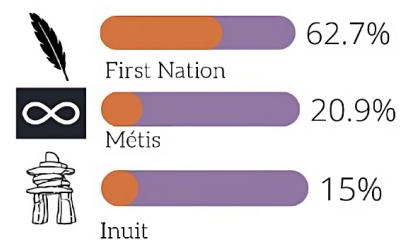
We built our work on the Ownership, Control, Access, and Participation (OCAP) principles and Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles. Some of the steps we went through to do our research included: finding funding, establishing partnerships, doing a research ethics process, establishing a community-based research committee, and hiring Indigenous researchers.

By the end of that process, we developed a survey that 1077 community members completed. The survey was divided into 15 sections and had 68 questions (combination of quantitative and qualitative questions). Ottawa community members not only answered the questions but collectively provided 340 pages of their thoughts and experiences. Who answered the survey?

**1077** Community Members

### Indigenous Identity

*\*\*Indigenous identity was self identified*



## Getting Vaccines

By the Fall of 2020, with Wabano and Akusivik leading, the OAC worked with Ottawa Public Health (OPH) and Elders on how to encourage community members to get a vaccine. The work that OPH did to support the OAC to promote community-based and culturally-based messaging around being safe and staying safe was amazing.

## Responding to Community Issues Using Indigenous Knowledge

By late 2020 the OAC started to organize monthly lunches with the Elders to support their wellness and to continue to seek their counsel on working through the issues emerging out of COVID-19. This continued until late 2022.

In late 2021 after reviewing what the community said in the research and listening to what was being asked for through Indigenous service organizations, the OAC developed priorities that continue to be the focus for some of our ongoing work.



### Recognition of Urban Indigenous People:

Over 80% of Indigenous people now live in urban areas. All of the priorities start with the need to recognize that urban Indigenous people are unique in the Canadian context. While First Nation, Inuit and Métis people may not be living in their home community, they remain the original people of Turtle Island and continue to have rights in the Constitution and under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to be consulted and recognized as Indigenous people. Thus, our ongoing relationship with the City of Ottawa is very important.

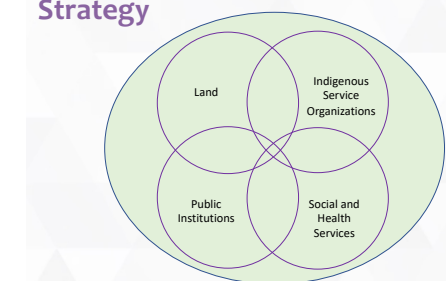
**Land:** We heard almost immediately that we needed to have land in the city of Ottawa for restoring our balance and maintaining our mental wellness; for ceremony, especially when we have lost loved ones; and for programming and

connection so that we can come together as a community. We have been working with the City to find that land and have also connected with Beechwood Cemetery to create a permanent place to commemorate Ottawa Indigenous community members who are unable to be returned to their home community.

### Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy:

We developed a strategy that reflects our cultural values, our reliance on community, culture, and family; and the need for our partners to provide culturally safe services. We are currently working, through Minwaashin Lodge on a Family Healing Lodge for women who have addictions who will be able to do their healing work while having their children with them. We have been working closely with the Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre to establish better pathways for service.

### Indigenous Mental Well Being Strategy







**Indigenous Housing and Homelessness Strategy:** This issue only became more acute, particularly for community members who could not “Stay at Home” as they did not have a home. The response to the homelessness community was particularly challenging as the OAC organizations worked to respond to needs and advocate for portable potties, respite care and permanent housing. The OAC is working on a new approach that supports each community member to get not only

### All of the Other Work Continued

While we were responding to the needs of the community around COVID, life continued around us.

**The Salvation Army:** In 2021, we agreed to be part of a City-wide committee intended to work with the Salvation Army to address some of the concerns raised around building a residence for up to 500 men that would be close to many of our services. We advocated for something better for Indigenous men who are homeless - smaller, more homelike environments and shelters that did not require them to leave each morning. The OAC requested that the Salvation Army do an updated safety audit that included their new building and the impact on the surrounding community and, in particular, on the safety needs of Indigenous women and children on Montreal Road. Although our work did not achieve our goals of ensuring that Indigenous homeless men are provided with the services and housing

housing but the other supports they might need to stay in housing.

**Building New Ways of Doing Our Work with Our Partners:** Something we learned through COVID is that the old ways of doing things did not work. Many partners were open to staying focused on responding to the real needs of Indigenous community members – even if it meant moving away from the way things had been done in the past.

**Respecting Indigenous Processes to Tell Indigenous People’s Stories:** Indigenous people need to tell our own stories and not have others interpret what we mean. Out of our research experience, the OAC is working with partners to ensure that the OAC is able to collect and analyze data collected about Ottawa Indigenous community members, including with the Alliance on Homelessness, City of Ottawa, Ottawa Police Services and Ottawa Public Health.

that they require to restore their health and well-being and that the safety of all community members is assured, some changes were made to the design of the building and the service delivery model.

**Indigenous Youth Employment Table:** With the United Way and under the leadership of Kagita Mikam and Tungasuvvingat Inuit, a table of over 25 employers from across Eastern Ontario met every few months to learn and develop strategies for recruiting and retaining Indigenous youth. The table continues to be active.

**Financial Wellness Project:** The United Way and the Aboriginal Financial Officers Association (AFOA Canada) offered us their curriculum. With a Master student from Trent University, the committee led by Makonsag and Inuuqautigiit, reviewed and revised all of the material to make it relevant for urban Indigenous people. The

train the trainers sessions will be held in the Fall of 2023 and workshops for community members will also be offered at that time.

**The Executive Director Circle:** The ED circle is made up of the Executive Directors and the ED of Children’s Aid Ottawa. This group continued to meet to respond to the needs of families that were involved with CAS and continued to advocate for and offer Indigenous specific supports to children, youth and families in Ottawa.

**The Ontario and National Coalition of Urban Indigenous Coalitions:** The OAC continued to work with both the Ontario Coalitions and the National Urban Indigenous Coalition Council, NUICC, (which represents urban Indigenous coalitions across Canada) throughout Covid to share best practices, funding opportunities and to advocate for resources for Indigenous people living in urban areas. These relationships continue with the OAC being an active participant with the Ontario Coalitions while collectively seeking to clarify their relationship with the NUICC.



When the **first burial grounds of the children in Kamloops** were found in May 2021, the OAC organized a sacred fire and sunrise ceremony that brought 300 people together to grieve and honour the children. OAC member organizations staff and community members were impacted

### Indigenous Women’s Safety Table

1. Police Working Group
  - Shared position with OPS
  - App
  - Intervention Ticket
2. Residential Services
  - Larga Baffin
  - Environmental Scan
3. Housing and Homelessness
  - Indigenous Framework
  - Current and new housing builds for Indigenous women
4. Mental Health
  - Family Treatment Centre – Operations and Capital



by that event and when subsequent marked and unmarked burial sites were uncovered.

On June 3rd, 2021 the implementation plan for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls was released. By then the OAC had created the **Indigenous Women’s Safety Table** (IWST) to respond to the 231 calls to Justice. The IWST table received funding through WAGE in the Fall and we have four working groups.

The IWST’s first priority has been supporting Minwaashin Lodge to establish the Family Healing Lodge. It is hoped that with the support of the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services and the City of Ottawa, we will have a place where mothers can go to do their healing and treatment while having their children with them.

The second priority has been to develop continuous learning with the Ottawa Police Services on how to interact with Indigenous women in a respectful and safe way. The first **OAC – OPS education session for platoon members** was done in March Of 2023 with two more to follow.



## History

Days after leaving foster care/group home before becoming homeless...



**2018**  
6% of the survey group became homeless after leaving foster care/group home after 1 day

**2021**  
14% of the survey group became homeless after leaving foster care/group home after 1 day



Work with the City of Ottawa on the **Point in Time Homelessness** count was done in October 2021 and in the Spring of 2022 we were given the opportunity to review the data and analyze it from an Indigenous lens. The results were startling and pushed us in a new direction. We found out that 32% of the homeless community members described themselves as Indigenous. We also found out that 43% of them had been in child welfare at some point in their life and for those who had aged out (from 18-21 years old), 14% were homeless within a day.

In **February 2022** when the **Convoy Occupation** occurred, the OAC worked with the City to find ways to respond to the needs of Indigenous community members. Minwaashin could not bring the Storm van into the market; lunches could not be delivered to Elders Minwaashin, Makonsag and TI had to close their offices

to ensure safety and Wabano had a dramatic reduction in people coming for appointments to get vaccinated. Ottawa did not feel safe. OAC organizations documented their experiences to both the City of Ottawa Auditor General and to the People's Commission of Ottawa.

**Bringing attention to the loss of 800 trees as part of the building of the new Ottawa Hospital.** The OAC met with the hospital a number of times, produced a video and organized two events with Elders on-site to bring attention to this issue. We asked that instead of the trees being cut down, they be left standing, and that the land become a place of healing and reconciliation. We advocated for the City, the hospital and the federal government (NCC) to come together and find a solution to the equally important priorities of protecting: the tree canopy in the city of Ottawa; public green space; and the community around Dow's Lake.



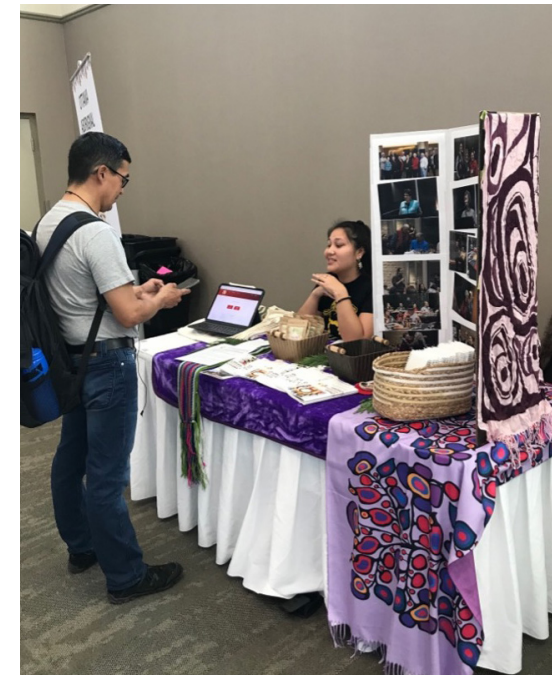
*"Over the next few weeks, they established a presence that they described as peaceful and lawful. They were entitled to rights that we do not have as Indigenous people. They were allowed to set up on public streets, close public streets, have their children in unsafe environments (there are many Indigenous children in much safer environments that have been apprehended by child welfare), make persistent and unexpected noise that is outside of the acceptable noise by-laws for the City (which is a form of psychological torture); have firework displays without a permit, have parties all night (again outside of the by-laws), build and set up apparatuses (hot tub, food canteen, open fires, bouncy castle) without a permit, and without them being dismantled by City officials."*

— Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition  
(Ottawa's People's Commission Part 1, What we Heard, Page 13)

In November of 2022, the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition had our first **Career Fair** to promote the OAC member organizations. By this time, OAC organizations were experiencing what many workplaces around the world also faced – a shortage of workers. Over 120 people attended the fair and in addition to each OAC member organization having a booth, we had an Elder's lunch and hosted a number of workshops. Wabano also provided their van so that people could get their COVID boosters. We plan to do another fair in the Fall of 2023.

**Finding Better Ways to Respond to the Needs of Our Children and Families:** The OAC is working on a new research project with CHEO and Kids Come First to identify specific ways that we can improve access to services and programs for children especially in the areas of mental health, developmental services, and pediatric dental care. A new committee has been established led by Makosag and Inuuqatigiit to oversee this work.

**Responding to the Mental Health and Addictions Crisis:** As in the research, the Elders continue to raise this as a priority for our community. We are losing community members and the research told us what people need to restore and maintain balance. We have been successful in getting funding through the city for mental health workers connected to our Indigenous housing providers and recently there are more investments for outreach work, specifically the Minwaashin Outreach team.

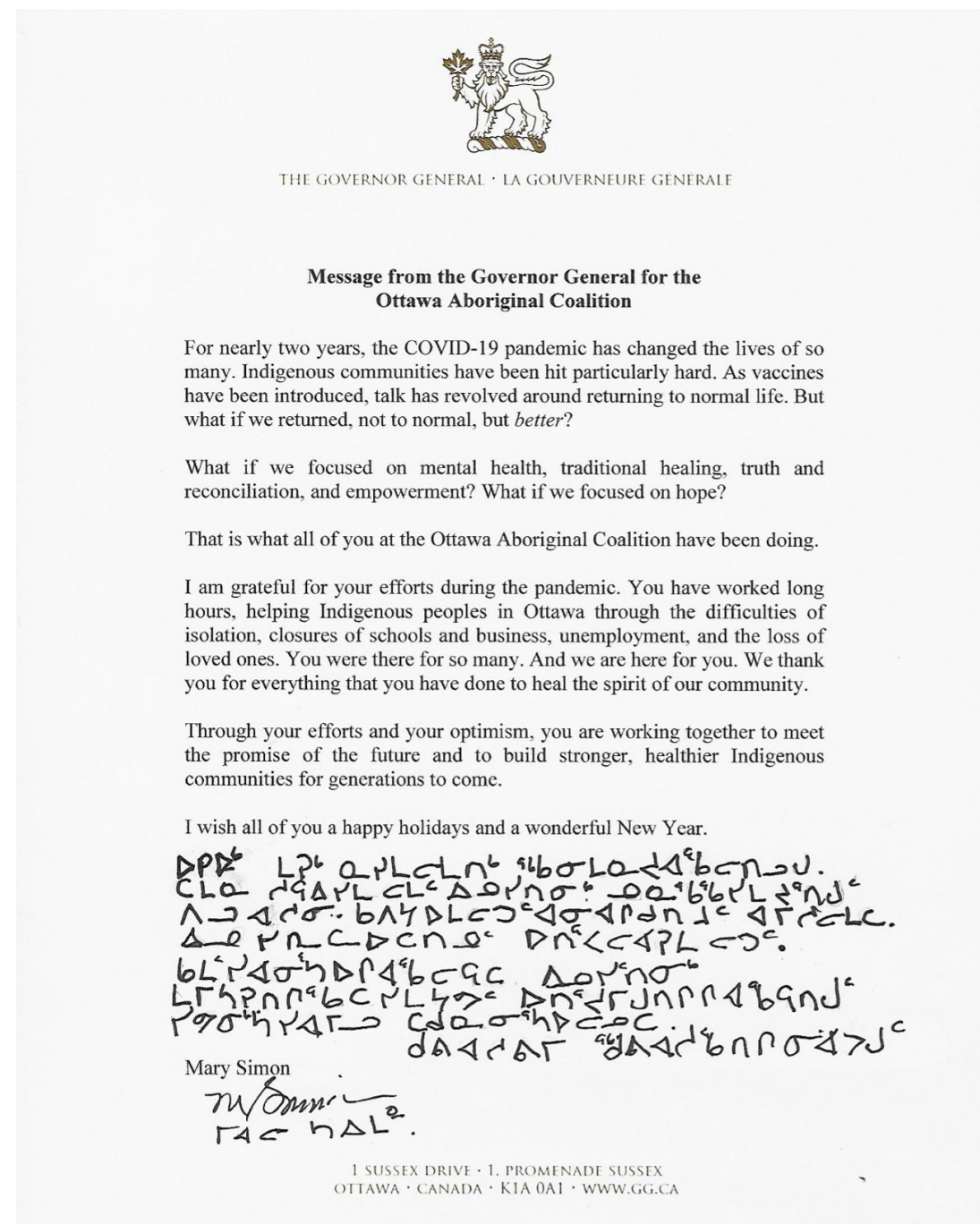


**Addressing the Violence Through All Forms of Media:** Throughout all this work, as leaders the Executive Directors worked to keep their staff together and functioning as cohesive teams operating with unprecedented demands both professionally and personally; offered advice and leadership to the many policy and decision making tables while dealing with some of the negative messaging that was circulating in the community. Lateral violence was part of the COVID experience and at times it targeted OAC organizations and leaders. The OAC responded by supporting each other and working with media outlets to provide context and education.



## Caring for the Staff in the OAC Member Organizations

In December of 2021, the OAC put together a wellness package for all of the 500+ staff and the 20 Elders that made up the OAC member organizations. In the wellness package was a brochure that included a message from the Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency Mary Simon. We include it again to remind everyone of the incredible work that was done by the staff that are part of the ten organizations that make up the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition.



## Building Collaboration and Partnership Relationships

- Access Mental Health
- Alliance to End Homelessness
- Child and Youth Permanency Council of Canada
- Children's Aid Society of Ottawa
- Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO)
- City of Ottawa
- Downtown Revitalization Committee
- Extremeline Productions
- Inner City Health
- National Urban Indigenous Coalition Council
- Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services
- Ontario Native Women's Association
- Ontario Coalition for Urban Indigenous Coalitions
- Ottawa Mission
- Ottawa Police Services
- Ottawa Public Health
- Queensway-Carleton Hospital
- Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre
- United Way
- University of Ottawa

### In the height of COVID and have now been disbanded:

- The City of Ottawa's Human Needs Task Group
- The United Way's Community Response Team

### Thank you to the funders that supported all of this work:

- Canadian Institutes for Health Research
- City of Ottawa
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Indigenous Affairs Ontario
- Kagita Mikam
- Kids Come First
- Ottawa Community Foundation
- Ottawa Police Services – Victim Services
- Ottawa Public Health
- United Way
- Women and Gender Equality – Canada (WAGE)





The community has been strong through all of this. It has supported its members and has welcomed new ones too."

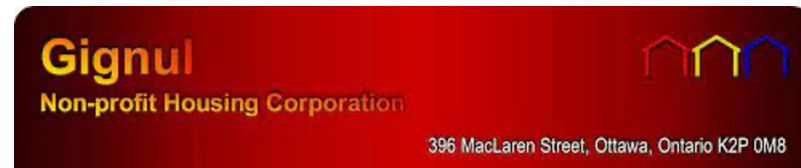


## OAC Member Organization Updates



# Gignul

## Non-Profit Housing Corporation



**COVID-19 PANDEMIC** had certainly impacted us in more ways than one. With the shut down and lock down of offices and stores we continued to run operations each and every day. The office itself remained closed to tenants and to the public and visits to units remained limited with the exception of emergency repairs. Many changes took place on how we operated from rent payment collections to electronic transfer of payments, annual tenant picnics, scheduled maintenance repairs, unit inspections and home visits were put on hold until a plan of action was put into place based on the recommendations of Ottawa Public Health.



Tenants were provided with both cloth masks with hand sanitizers along with disposable masks for everyone's health and safety. Calls were made to Seniors

at the immediate onset of this pandemic to ensure everyone was okay and if they needed anything as we were all on lock down. Through the various service providers food was provided on a weekly basis to our two main buildings- 388 Carmen and 1043 Cummings common rooms. With the assistance of staff/tenants food was made available to those needing it in these buildings.

**HOUSING** has since become a crisis therefore the number of people becoming homeless has increased exponentially which has left them with nowhere to go during the pandemic. Since 2020 on average Gignul Housing receives anywhere between 6-8 housing applications per month. Wait lists for housing continue and with the high cost of rent, tenants are not moving therefore those who are waiting for affordable housing have either remain unhoused or sought housing elsewhere within the city or outside of Ottawa.

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition continues to support Gignul Housing and other Indigenous organizations with the ongoing battle of the Salvation Army for homeless men that is being relocated near Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health and within a 2 km radius of Gignul properties where it houses many single parent families and Seniors.

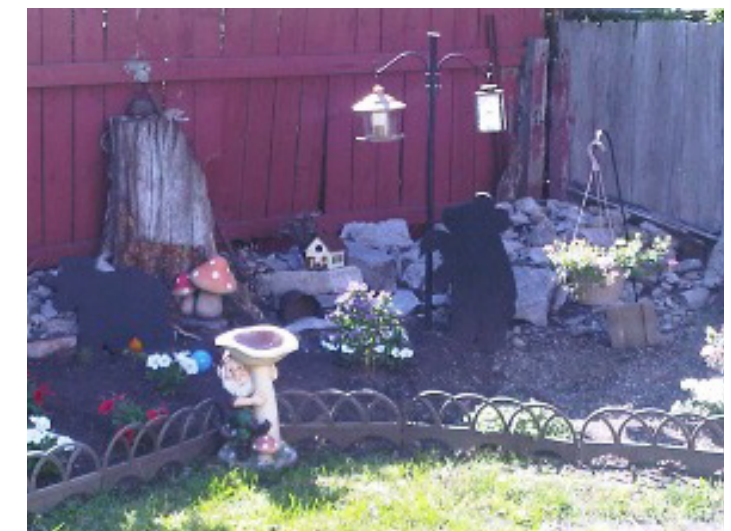
With the loss of jobs during the pandemic many tenants could not afford to pay their rent therefore having to seek assistance through a number of agencies. As a moratorium by the provincial government rent

increases were withheld during the 2021 calendar year. This also saw a huge increase of rent arrears which caused a major delay of 8-10 months at the Landlord Tenant Board to hear matters before the Adjudicator. Not only were there delays for rent arrears but also for matters relating to other tenancy issues such as illegal activity or substantial interference for reasonable enjoyment.

**FOOD** is also getting more expensive and with tenants not fully recovered from the pandemic struggle to continue feeding their families. Food banks are being utilized more frequently by more people who have not had to use it before. It will take some time to find solutions to this economic crisis we are in.

**MENTAL HEALTH** continues to be on the rise and now more-so family, friends and tenants who suffer from this puts a toll on our own life and how do we cope with it?

We continue to work with all the families, Seniors and individuals throughout all this.



*Gignul property back yard worked on by tenants.*

# Inuit Non-Profit Housing



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, Angirragirajagtarā : 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, Tungasuvvingatinit, St. Margaret's Church, and Akausivikinit Family Health team.



# Inuuqatigiit Centre



## Who We Are

Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families is a multi-service Inuit organization that provides holistic wrap around services to children, youth and families of Ottawa's ever growing Inuit community. The centre serves as a major hub for programs and services for Inuit families in Ottawa.

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

## Philosophy of Supports

Tapping into the strengths of families from a place of resiliency and capability is a philosophy that permeates all of Inuuqatigiit Centre programs. It is the role of staff at the Inuuqatigiit Centre to support 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-centered and community driven. We recognize that serving a child means serving a family. On a daily basis, we provide a multitude of individual supports

their families that improve their ability to live a good life. All our programs and advocacy work are rooted in the components of head start and guided by the Inuit Qaujimatatuqangit principles.

Our Centre delivers programs and services to meet Inuit needs which includes licensed child care(s), head-start, Kindergarten, Early On Centre, afterschool programs, student support, youth programs, healing circles, individual support and counselling, court accompaniment, advocacy with child welfare, police, education, systems navigation, youth/adult justice, referrals, mental health programming, cultural community events, on the land culture camps.

that serve the wellbeing of the person, their family, and the community. 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.

Today, Inuuqatigiit Centre is the largest Indigenous Service provider in Ottawa with just over 140 staff. Just over 2 years ago, we were half of that size which shows the tremendous growth our organization has experienced, as well as the need from our community.

## Education Hubs/ Post Secondary Hub

Education Hubs pandemic, has now flourished into a space where Inuit students can come and have meaningful engagement with school, while learning and sharing Inuit culture on a daily basis. The Hubs is not only focused on keeping kids engaged in school work, but in culture, social and health needs. Using a combination of virtual and brick and mortar methods, we are committed to supporting them by meeting them where they are at. Guided by Inuit Qaujimatatuqangit principles, and focused on collaborative style learning, the hubs continues to support Inuit students who have struggled to be represented in the present education system.

Our Post Secondary Hub, similar to our Education Hubs, provided in-person and on-the-floor supports for Inuit youth 17+ who are either planning or attending post-secondary education. Youth are able to access our space on a daily basis for student support, cultural programming, and part-time work. The goal is to ensure our students have every opportunity to be successful without any barriers that might come their way. As we know, moving to the urban centre can be quite a shock for families and it's our role to ensure that our youth have a space to connect, build their confidence, and see success through their eyes.

## Mental Health Supports

### Inuutiarnirmut Katujjiqatigiit Mental Health Counselling

Through the Covid-19 pandemic, we've seen an increase in our community for mental health supports. Our team provides mental health counselling services to children, youth and adults to facilitate healing and well-being. Through culturally centered counselling, that includes cognitive behavioural therapy, play therapy, support from Elders, and other approaches, people gain new awareness and ways of coping with issues such as anxiety, depression, behavioural concerns, addictions, trauma, relationships, stress and more. Individual and group sessions are offered.

At Inuuqatigiit Centre, we thrive to support the Inuit community through the many programs and services we offer. We are thankful to our funders and partnerships such as the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition. We cannot do it alone, and look forward to the continuation of offering quality services to the community in partnership with local organizations.



# Kagita Mikam



Kagita Mikam - Employment Services provide Indigenous peoples within Ottawa, the Ottawa Valley and Gatineau with a wide range of services related to employment including counselling for individuals as well as access to computers, a job board and community events board. Other programs include:

- 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

During COVID, Kagita Mikam led on two key initiatives.

## The Employment Equity Pilot Project

### Background

Kagita Mikam delivered an Equity Employment Initiative (EEI) one year pilot project during the year 2021- 2022 in office assistant training. This project was a Skills Advance Ontario (SAO) program funded through the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development (MLTSD) and in partnership many employment resource centers within the City of Ottawa.



### Components

The EEI aimed to provide training and job search support to individuals who face challenges and or barriers to finding work and maintaining work. The final goal was employment for every program graduate by March 31, 2022. 15/20 graduates secured employment.



### Feedback

Participants identified the following gains:

- Knowledge about office administration and workplace culture in a professional context;
- Professional support (resume, cover letter, job seeking, and motivation);
- Skills and abilities to offer value to any organization.
- Formed a strong network among participants, and;
- Great resources and financial support.

## Indigenous Employment Advisory Leadership Table

### Background

Kagita Mikam participated in the United Way East Ontario's Youth Leadership Table. With the financial support of the Ministry of Labour Training and Skills Development, this project aimed to increase the number of Indigenous youth in the workplace in Eastern Ontario. The Indigenous Employment Advisory Leadership Table was established to support the vision for this project. The vision for the project is "As a result of our collective efforts, more Indigenous youth are employed in workplaces that value their cultural identity, their inherent gifts and their worldview."

### Purpose

As an advisory group, members of this Table worked together in partnership, and used their collective resources and assets to:

- Develop tools and strategies to enhance the knowledge and understanding of employers to successfully employ and support Indigenous employees;
- Promote systemic change within workplaces so that they transform into culturally sensitive and diverse places of employment that respect Indigenous worldviews and belief systems;
- Use focus groups, research and the experience from the Table to fulfill this purpose.
- Address employment barriers for Indigenous youth.



## Makonsag Head Start Program



Dear Community Members,

Since March 2020, the world was affected by a global pandemic of Covid-19. This resulted in the province temporarily closing all child care programs and services, including Makonsag's Head Start Program and our Indigenous-Led Child Care program, until more was learned about this disease. We quickly pivoted our services to digital supports and social distancing until public health developed strategies to reopen. Once the province permitted child care programs to reopen in August 2020 our community has been responsive to the ever-changing ebbs and flows of public health measures, as we continue to serve and support our children and families.

In our most recent news, the leasing and renovation of our new Indigenous Led Child Care Centre at 1770 Courtwood Crescent was completed and is another place for Makonsag to call home. Our Courtwood Indigenous Led Child Care Centre builds upon our existing model to provide cultural early learning programming for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children. After the recruitment and intensive onboarding process for our new cohort of staff, we secured our license and opened our doors just one month prior to the pandemic. After the sector faced a temporary closure, our staff quickly and bravely adapted and complied with a variety of public health measures to continue to provide essential support and services to the children and families of Makonsag. In 2022, Makonsag opted in to the new **Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC)** Agreement which is a five-year plan to reduce the cost of child care for families.

At our Olmstead location, we have completed the extensive renovation of the space to establish a permanent home for our licensed Head Start Program with space for at least 24 preschool children, as well as comfortable areas for families to participate in workshops, access resources or just relax and enjoy coffee while connecting with other parents. We look forward to continuing to develop our core programming in this secure and stable space.

We continue to further develop our Nitawigin EarlyOn Program. This mobile program which is a shared partnership between ourselves and Minaawashin Lodge will work to serve families in a variety of settings between in-center and on-the-land activities. Throughout the pandemic, we shifted programming to be hosted virtually on our Nitawigin Facebook page to continue to provide cultural support and education in a digital format. We are now transitioning programming from a virtual context to a return to in-person service delivery.

In collaboration with Ontario Aboriginal Head Start Association (OAHTSA) and the Indigenous Head Starts across Ontario, we have begun work on "Turtle Island Gathering Place" a digital education resource for Indigenous children and families to learn together, focused on language and cultural knowledge. Stay tuned for its launch!

The "Sharing in the Circle" project provides cultural outreach activities to child care centers throughout Ottawa. The intent of this project is to provide Makonsag with the opportunity to provide cultural education and supports to mainstream educators so they can support Indigenous children and families in their care and to provide culturally relevant and age-appropriate awareness to all children attending their center at an early age.

Makonsag continues to take a leading role with Indigenous early learning and connection to service providers. We continue to chair the Indigenous Early Years Circle (IEYC), the body which brings together all of the indigenous-led service providers in early learning and child care. The IEYC plays a significant role in providing guidance to the City of Ottawa which specifically focuses on the needs of Indigenous children and families in the Ottawa area. The IEYC also works directly with the City of Ottawa to help inform and improve their systems planning process by ensuring an Indigenous lens is applied to their work. Makonsag also continues to participate in the important collective work of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition and OAHTSA advocating at the community, municipal, provincial, and federal levels to support the urban Indigenous community.

All activities of the organization throughout these past three years directly reflects and supports the expansion of services to Indigenous children and families, while building on our strengths and cultural connection through the Aboriginal Head Start guidelines principles and Indigenous frameworks surrounding early learning. With these projects in mind, Makonsag continues to work closely with key stakeholders such as the members of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, the City of Ottawa, the Ministry of Education, and local early years partners to continue to see these visions implemented in our region.

Thank you, Nakurmiik, Miigwech, Maarsii, to all community members for your support, to all Board members for your leadership, and the amazing contributions of all of our respective staff!

With love and gratitude,

Melissa Pigeau  
Executive Director



Makonsag: Head Start Program

## Minwaashin Lodge

### Indigenous Women's Support Centre



#### Overview

Minwaashin Lodge provides a range of programs and services primarily for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and children who are or have been impacted by violence and abuse, who are or may become homeless, and who may be suffering the effects of the Residential School system, or the intergenerational effects of the residential school system.

#### Primary Programs Include:

- Sacred Child Program (for 0-6 yrs) with family/parenting/life skills education, advocacy, CAS support and crisis intervention.
- Spirit Movers and Fire Keepers Program (for youth) 7 -12 yrs + 13yrs -18 yrs.
- Counselling Services for women, youth and children including crisis and family counseling, art therapy, play therapy, sexual abuse, addictions, anger management, relationship issues, and anxiety. **New:** Family Art Therapy group on cycle rotation – offered virtual. **New:** Women's Mental Wellness/Youth/Children counselors.
- Strong Women - "Mashkawizig Ikwewag" Support group for all women seeking traditional and life skills support.
- Culture and Reclamation Program (ceremonies, crafts, traditional teachings, Elders' support - for all ages).
- "Children Who Witness" Therapist – children ages 4 – 12 yrs who have witnessed domestic violence receive Sandtray and Play therapy.
- Employment Unit delivers 3 programs: 1) Employment Readiness: preparation for adult women to obtain employment and/or go back to school 2) Courage To Soar: for adult women to obtain Executive Administrative Assistant Diploma, 3) Apatisiwin: to assist women with interventions to go back to school, obtain employment or start businesses.

#### Oshki Kizis VAW Emergency Shelter:

- 25 bed shelter for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and their children fleeing abusive life situations. (21 beds - MCCSS core funding – 4 beds not funded).
- Services delivered out of the shelter residence is; Housing First/General Housing supports; Street Team Outreach Mobile S.T.O.R.M/S.T.O.R.M Human Trafficking (HT); Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking liaison; Court support; Transitional Housing support; Street Outreach; Family Support; and Indigenous Cultural Outreach.
- Isolated women/ families started to receive emergency food support during

the pandemic and Minwaashin continues to address serious food insecurity with program specific clients only.

- STORM/STORM HT Outreach vans have doubled their clientele on the streets, therefore, lunches and supplies have increased greatly.
- The Monday night Drop-In program is in partnership with St Margaret's Inuit

## News/Highlights/Upcoming Events

- Minwaashin Lodge leased a larger, brighter space on April 1, 2022. Our main office is located at 2323 St. Laurent Blvd-Conroy Industrial Park. After a year of retrofits, we are now in a comfortable spacious building of our own.
- Minwaashin became a Chapter member in July 2021 with The Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA). Our sister organization has since offered the lodge (4) new positions and continues to be a wonderful support on many levels. We also sit on their 'She Is Wise' Advisory Committee.
- Minwaashin had partnered with Cornerstone women 'shelter - Princeton site to offer cultural recreational activities to all women prior to Covid. Recently, we are expanding our relationship to include a second site on Booth St. The John Howard Society recently came forward requesting the same services for their newest location.
- Minwaashin will be hosting our first Annual Women's Gathering weekend on June 9-11th, 2023 post Covid. Culture is

Church in Vanier. Community numbers continue to rise dramatically as basic needs and resources continue to escalate.

- Minwaashin joined the Gender Based Violence Committee with Inuugatigiit Centre for Inuit children, youth, and families over the past year.

healing and we are eager to offer a safe spiritual weekend to our women.

- Minwaashin Lodge recently updated the Family Healing Lodge Business Plan in hopes of obtaining adequate funding to address substance use issues among women with or without children. The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition has highlighted this need at numerous high-level meetings in hopes of finding adequate funding in moving this forward as soon as possible. This will continue to be at the forefront as leaders in the community continue to actively support the healing lodge. The demand for moms and children needing a culturally safe environment to focus on historical trauma is beyond just a priority; it is a critical need where lives are being lost/ or affected daily.
- Minwaashin's Annual General Meeting is Thursday, September 21, 2023.  
**Board Executive Committee Members:** Velvet Migwans-President; Jo McCutcheon-Vice President and Christina Hodgins-Stewart - Treasurer.

## Our organization, as a member of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, is working with other organizations in the following areas:

### Education:

- Minwaashin has partnerships with three (3) French School Boards in the Ottawa region; (Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario; Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est and Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien); Ottawa Public School Board and Ottawa Catholic School Board. This collaboration is necessary

to offer counselling services to Indigenous students within these school boards and offer cultural training to teachers and staff members as required.

- **Partnerships:** Algonquin College; Ottawa Board of Education, Carleton, Ottawa and Laurentian University; Kagita Mikam; Herzing College; Everest College; St. Lawrence College; St. Nicholas Adult High School; Ontario Works; Congress of Aboriginal Peoples; Causeway; Job Connect; Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy; Academy of Learning; Minwaashin Lodge's Employment Readiness Program;) – Employment Ontario Service Centre; Adirondack and Maxsys (Aboriginal employment services); Apatisiwin (training & cost sharing); and Accenture Inc. –Management & Consulting. Innugatigit pre school program Makonsag Early ON play group.

### Housing/Homelessness:

- Member of the Alliance to End Homelessness Committee.
- **Partnerships:** Gignul Non-Profit Housing; Inuit Non-Profit Housing; Ottawa Housing; Wiigwamen; Salvation Army; Wabano and OFIFC.

### Youth:

- **Partnerships:** Odawa; Wabano, The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa, Gloucester High School, Youth services Bureau of Ottawa, Ottawa Carleton School Board, Ottawa School of Art Outreach Program, Caring and Sharing Exchange, United Way – Gifts in Kinds program, Métis Nation of Ontario, Canadian Association of Family Resource programs (FRP Canada and Northern Youth Abroad and Put Your Color-UWC youth college (Canada/Atlanta).

### Relationship with the City of Ottawa:

- Member of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Board (ACAB)
- Member of the City - Community Advisory Board (CAB)
- Member of the Alliance to End Homelessness Committee
- Member of Community Equity Council (CEC)
- Member of Indigenous Women's Indigenous Safety Table (IWST)
- Partnerships with City of Ottawa Public Health, Ottawa Public Library, Ottawa Food Bank and EarlyON.



## Odawa Native Friendship Centre

The Odawa Native Friendship Centre (ONFC) is a non-profit organization which has been providing programs and services to Ottawa's Indigenous population since August 1975. For over forty decades, the ONFC has worked diligently to ensure a positive effect on the quality of life for Indigenous people in the Capital region. As a vital component to the urban Indigenous community, the ONFC is composed of community members who are our volunteers, Board of Directors, committee members and staff that know our unique needs and challenges. As our community grows, so does the organization; the ONFC has seen changes to its leadership with a new President, Vanessa McGregor and Executive Director, Randy Mayes and both welcome community members to meet with them.

The ONFC offers a wide range of programs and services for all age groups and needs, as well as cultural events and social/recreational activities. Our experienced and talented team adapted to the global pandemic and are transitioning back to traditional programming while building a solid and positive foundation that the community can be proud of. We are grateful for your kindness and patience. Two new programs to support the 2SLGBTQIA+ community with the Creating Safe Spaces Project and the Inclusion & Diversity Program, as well as additional supports in the justice system with our Mental Health Peer Support program (ended March 31, 2023), and a new Indigenous Human Rights Clinic Program.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed numerous challenges in the last three years that



restricted the delivery of services to the community. However, through all of our resiliency, the ONFC, and other community organizations, persevered and were able to continue providing services to those in need. The ONFC received numerous supports from government agencies (Federal, Provincial and Municipal), corporate and community members, and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, which allowed the ONFC to provide these key services. Many services were delivered virtually, but we maintained outreach and food safety services throughout the pandemic (safely).



As the pandemic subsided, the ONFC focused on welcoming back community members to in-person programming. The ONFC has been engaged in a whirlwind of activities to welcome back community members, such as: the return of the much-anticipated Odawa Annual Art Auction; the Fall Harvest Feast, the Christmas Craft Fair; as well as a Winter Feast. On June 3, 2022, the ONFC also hosted a luncheon for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) on behalf of Indigenous Services Canada. We also hosted the Don Burnstick Comedy Show, the Children & Youth Pow Wow for the community in March 2023, and held our 44th Annual Traditional Pow Wow on May 27 and 28, 2023. We were

also extremely pleased to recognize our Alternative School graduates last year.

To better respond to community needs, Odawa has been undertaking renovations at the ONFC locations at 815 St. Laurent and 510 Rideau which is expected to be completed by July 2023. Keep an eye out for the "Open Houses".

As part of the greater Ottawa community, the ONFC also wants to acknowledge and recognize the support from donors which allowed us to continue delivering the much-needed services to the community during these challenging times. A special thank you to the ONFC funders and sponsors for your continued support.



# Tewegan



## 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.

## 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.

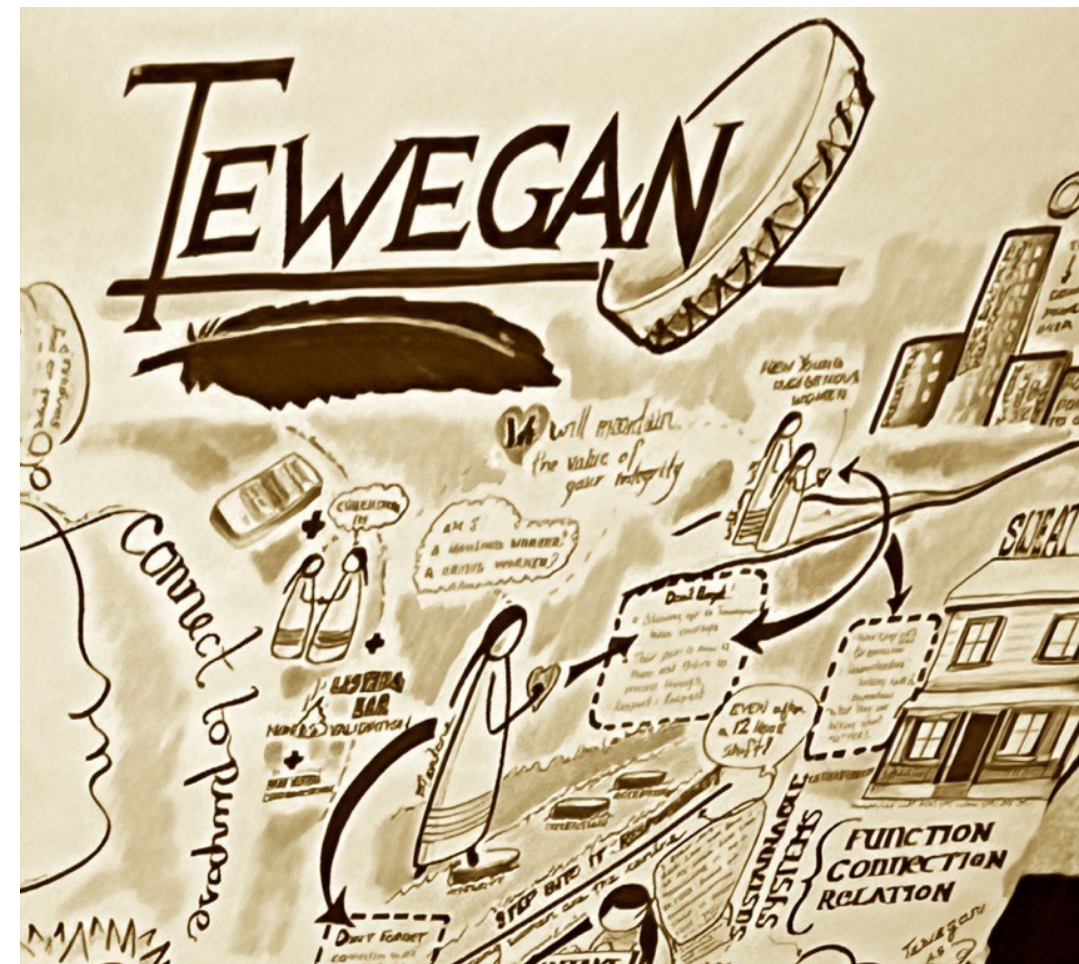
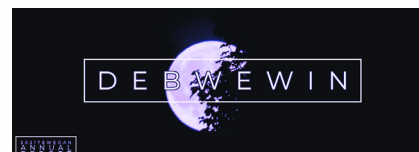
Our 'tool' of choice to interrupt these harms, including Indigenous Homelessness, is 'Home' - not only the physical site, but the connection and relationship to All Our Relations.

24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



## LOOKING FORWARD

'COVID has no boundaries'  
Resident wisdom March 2020



# Tungasuvingat Inuit



Like the traditional Inuit Blanket-Toss Game, Tungasuvingat 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.



Tungasuvingat 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 Qaujimagatuqangit (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%, Tungasuvingat 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. Tungasuvingat 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.

## A few of our offered programs:

- Allurianiq Program (human trafficking)
- 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

On February 17th, 2023; an important milestone was achieved for Tungasuvingat Inuit (TI), who celebrated the grand opening of their new modular building for the Food Security Program at 297 Savard Avenue in Ottawa. Thanks to the \$65,600 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), the Food Security Program can now meet the varied needs of urban Inuit by exploring their current and future food security requirements.

The pandemic has caused significant disruptions to many communities, including the Inuit, who have faced increased food insecurity. The Food Security Program at TI has been in constant flux since

March 2020, and the current model only provides a small section of the community with food support. However, the OTF's grant allows TI to engage with Inuit across Ontario and gain specific knowledge about their food security needs, which will guide future program and infrastructure

development.

The support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) has been crucial to this project's success, and it has made a lasting impact on many communities in Ontario. The OTF invests heavily in community projects and partnerships, and its 40-year history of grant-making has helped shape and develop many communities throughout the province.



# Wabano Centre



## Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health

### OVERVIEW:

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.

### 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 Covid 2020-2022:

In March 2020, Wabano like everyone else had to deal with a new reality of a pandemic. We pivoted our model of services to be: Visit Us, Visit You, Visit Virtual, Visit the Land.

Visit US included Medical Appointments, Mental Health Support and Vaccination Clinics.

Visit YOU included home deliveries and outreach with a focus on our most vulnerable in the community. Our seniors, homeless and families living in poverty.

Visit Virtual was for phone appointments, wellness checks, virtual programs and events.

Visit the Land when restrictions allowed we would arrange activities on the land and in small groups that allowed social distancing.

Since Feb 2021 Wabano and OPH have been working together to roll out Covid vaccinations to our communities. We also partnered with Tungasuvvingat Inuit on two occasions to offer a clinic in west Ottawa. We are honoured and humbled to be a part of such a historic roll out. Together we have done over 40,000 vaccinations for the Ottawa Indigenous community. Chi-miigwetch to everyone who came out and rolled up your sleeves to keep you, your families and community safer.

Wabano advocated with community partners for accessible toilets on the streets of Ottawa to ensure community members who were homeless had access to washrooms. You can read more about this in the 2021 AGM booklet. Throughout the Covid crisis the housing department housed community members, assisted with rent subsidies and supported more than 4,000 households with grocery cards.

Our seniors were supported with door step visits, over 7,164 meals and 1,600 food boxes and over 9,762 wellness checks on our seniors. Of the seniors we were supporting over this time **zero** died of covid.

Our medical clinic offered appointments via phone and in person and never closed. We were one of the few medical clinics that still were seeing patients in person. Our medical team was constant and took pre-emptive measure such as renewing prescriptions when there was concerns of supply. We reached out to help families get their little ones in to have vaccinations up to date as they returned to school.

Please check out the two AGM reports that are related to our Covid years to see how Wabano supported our community through a challenging time. We would like to say chi-miigwetch to our staff during that time for your commitment, dedication and love you showed to our community to ensure people were supported.

For More detailed information please refer to our AGM Covid Reports

Wabano AGM Report 2021



Wabano AGM Report 2022



To learn more about Wabano's programs, services and events, visit [wabano.com](http://wabano.com).

### OUR ORGANIZATION, AS A MEMBER OF THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION, IS WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

**HOUSING FIRST:** Wabano's Housing First and Outreach team continues to support the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) and will work closely with the OAC and other mainstream organizations to assist First Nations, Inuit and Métis in finding affordable, safe and permanent housing. Maintaining these relationships, and providing culturally-specific Indigenous resources and education with the OAC and partner organizations is a vital role for the Housing First team.

**RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA:** Ottawa Public Health keeps our clinic updated on all public health issues such as flu vaccinations, measles outbreaks, etc. It also provides flu vaccines, and participates in Culture Nights to discuss health related themes.

Ottawa Public Health Dental clinic reopened in 2022. The clinic is here to support Indigenous community members with their dental care.

Wabano would like to say chi-miigwetch to OPH for all our work together through the years and especially during Covid. You supported us, listened and allowed us to help ensure our Covid Vaccination clinics would be what we envisioned for our community.



## Recognizing Community

Dr. Vera Etches



Dr. Etches was appointed as Medical Officer (MOH) of Health for Ottawa Public Health (OPH) in April 2018, having served as Deputy MOH from 2014 to 2017.

As Deputy MOH, Dr. Etches supported the organization in delivering quality, client-centered services; contributed to knowledge transfer and applied public health research; and reinforced population health assessment, surveillance, and program evaluation.

In her role as Associate Medical Officer of Health at OPH from 2009 to 2014, Dr. Etches was responsible for the management of teams that provided clinical services to prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne illnesses as well as clinical services to prevent and treat dental health problems. Other teams she directed included those that provide reproductive health counseling, promote breastfeeding, carry out home visits to support positive parenting skills, public health inspection, environmental health and programming related to the control of communicable diseases, and infection prevention and control.

Prior to joining OPH in 2009, Dr. Etches served as an Associate Medical Officer of Health, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Director of Clinical Services at the Sudbury & District Health Unit (SDHU) after completing her specialty training in Public Health and Preventive Medicine in 2005.

Dr. Etches is a native of Hazelton, British Columbia. She started her post-secondary career by completing a Bachelor of Science at Simon Fraser University and went on to complete her Medical Doctorate at the University of British Columbia followed by a Masters of Health Science, and a Fellowship in Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. Dr. Etches has been published in peer-reviewed scientific journals, and has been invited to present at many provincial and national conferences.

Dr. Etches is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Ottawa, where she continues to supervise medical residents in Public Health and Preventive Medicine and Family Medicine.

## Recognizing Community

Donna Gray, Recently Retired General Manager of Community and Social Services, City of Ottawa



Donna moved to Community and Social Services Department on May 1, 2019, and Donna served in a number of leadership roles in emergency and protective services, corporate services and most recently, as the General Manager of the Service Innovation and Performance Department. Donna's transition to Community and Social Services came at a time in her career where she was looking to get back to her community involvement and strengthen relationships and partnerships with the social service sector. Donna's goal as the new General Manager of Community and Social Services was to build on the department's momentum, bring positive change to those who need help and continue to advocate and care for the community's well-being. For the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, she did that and more. Donna was an advocate for urban Indigenous issues in Ottawa. Donna is a native to Ottawa. She is a graduate of Carleton University with Honours in Psychology and has obtained a Masters' Certificate in Municipal Leadership.



## Recognizing Community

Cora Lee McGuire Cyrette, Executive Director of the Ontario Native Women's Association



Cora McGuire-Cyrette has been serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA), the largest and oldest Indigenous women's organization in Canada, since 2015. Ending violence against Indigenous women and their families and ensuring equal access to justice, education, health services, environmental stewardship and economic development, sit at the cornerstone of the organization.

A proud member of the Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek (Sand Point First Nation), she uses her voice to champion the rights of Indigenous women and girls, cultivate healing, create safe spaces, and supporting Indigenous women and youth as they reclaim their role as leaders.

As a role model in Indigenous women's leadership, Cora was integral to the development of the Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Cora serves as Co-Chair of the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council of Ontario, and the Chair of the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, among others.

Cora holds a BA in Indigenous Learning and Sociology from Lakehead University and an MMBA from York University, Schulich School of Business. She lives in Thunder Bay with her husband, three children and grandchildren.

## Recognizing and Honouring Our OAC Community Organization Leadership



Gignul Non-profit Housing Corporation, Mr. Marc Maracle



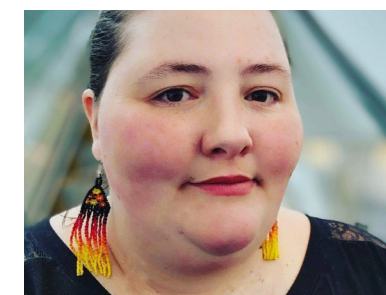
Inuit Non-Profit Housing, Sheila Ruttan



Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families, Stephanie Mikki Adams (OAC, Co-Chair)



Kagita Mikam, Lydia Belanger



Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start, Melissa Pigeau



Minwaashin Lodge, Mary Daoust (OAC, Co-Chair)



Odawa Native Friendship Centre, Randy Mayes



Tewegan, Karina Skov



Tungasuvvingat Inuit, Amanda Kilabuk



Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, Allison Fisher (OAC, Co-Chair)



## Recognizing Community

Miss World Canada, Emma Morrison

Emma Morrison is a proud Mushkegowuk Cree woman from Treaty 9.

She enjoys connecting to her culture through crafting authentic beadwork and designing traditional ribbon skirts. In 2022, Emma began an initiative called "Reconnecting Through Ribbon Skirts" where she designs ribbon skirts for Indigenous women and 2spirit people so they will have a piece of traditional clothing to remind them to be proud of their cultural identity.

One of Emma's biggest passions is pageantry. Emma recently won the title of Miss World Canada 2022, being the first Mushkegowuk Cree Indigenous woman to hold this title. As Emma prepares to move forward to Miss World, she hopes to spread the message that regardless of your surroundings through passion and drive you can accomplish anything.



## Acknowledging the Ones We Have Lost

Sacred Fire & Quiliq

Every month, at the OAC table, the Executive Directors would check in. They would identify community priorities and acknowledge that staff were tired and running out of energy. At times, they would tell the story of a community member that was lost to COVID or medical conditions. They would also tell the story of community members we lost to overdoses and death by suicide. We also lost some of our older family members whose time it was to pass to the spirit world. Today, we want to take the time to acknowledge the community members and our loved ones who we lost in the last three years. The OAC expresses our deep condolences to those that are without a person that they loved, they knew and that they miss.



## Cultural Performers

### The Big Drum, 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 Capitol region for over seven 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.



*Your Big Drum for the evening is the Ottawa River Singers.*

## Cultural Performers

### Alicia [Ah-lee-sha] 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.

## Cultural Performers

### Twin Flames



Jaaji and Chelsey June make up the band Twin Flames. Twin Flames have chosen to let their music speak for itself. Their substantial body of work and widespread recognition make it clear they have something special going on. In just seven years of recording and performing as Twin Flames, the duo has accumulated over 41 music awards and nominations. Twin Flames deliver their music through a mix of English, French and Inuttitut. Their songs have earned them a unique place among contemporary music-makers and songwriters from coast to coast to coast.

Twin Flames met through music, and harmonies are what drew them together. In September 2017, they married in the presence of their six beautiful children, creating an instant blended family full of love.

Twin Flames build bridges across cultures, continents, and styles, and have been celebrated internationally. This, alongside

their substantial body of work, make it clear that they have something special going on. In just seven years of recording and performing as Twin Flames, the duo has accumulated 41 music awards and nominations.

Recipients of 4 Canadian Folk Music Awards, 3 Native American Music Awards, 3 Summer Solstice Indigenous Music Awards and the 2022 Capital Music Award (Group of the year.) Jaaji and Chelsey met on-set during the filming of APTN's TAM in 2014. In 2015 they created the band Twin Flames.

From the beginning, this husband and wife duo has chosen to let their music speak for itself. Jaaji (Inuk from Nunavik and Mohawk from Kahnawake) and Chelsey June (Algonquin, Métis, Cree + Settler) write songs delivered through a mix of English, French and Inuttitut.

## Menu

### The Birch Bites

#### First / Nitam

Spring Harvest Salad drizzled with Dandelion Vinaigrette  
Bannock with Wild Garlic Butter

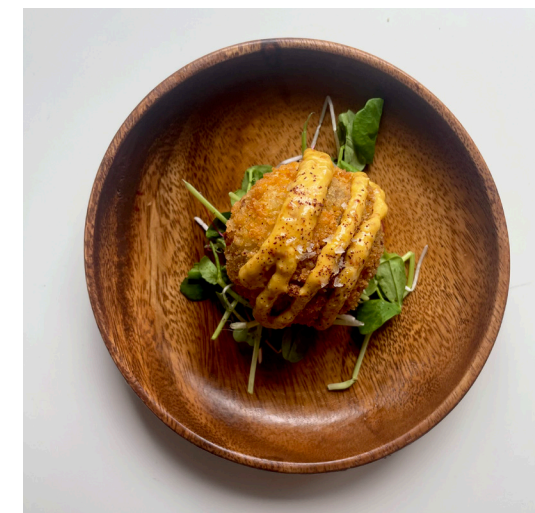
#### Second / Nijin

Wild Rice Squash Risotto with Venison Meatballs

#### Third / Nisin

Sweetgrass Oat Pannacotta with Maple Blueberry Preserve  
Maple sponge toffee

#### Birch Bark coffee, tea



### The Birch Bite

The Birch Bite is a company of believers in our Anishnabeg food systems. We honor that through, providing food that as much as we could is, traditionally hand harvested, locally grown, homemade, healthy and fun! The Birch Bite works with youth to provide land based harvesting and cooking learning opportunities rooted in Anishnabeg knowledge systems.



## OAC Member Organizations

<p><b>Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation</b> 396 MacLaren Street Ottawa, Ontario Tel: (613) 232-0016 Fax: (613) 232-1977 E-mail: <a href="mailto:d.peltier@bellnet.ca">d.peltier@bellnet.ca</a> Website: <a href="http://www.gignulhousing.org">http://www.gignulhousing.org</a></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><b>Inuit Non-Profit Housing</b> 102-311 McArthur Avenue Ottawa, Ontario Tel: (613) 741-1449 Website: <a href="http://www.facebook.com/people/Inuit-Non-Profit-Housing/100064348947033/">www.facebook.com/people/Inuit-Non-Profit-Housing/100064348947033/</a></p>	<p>Inuit Non-Profit Housing Corporation provides housing services to the Inuit community members in Ottawa. They operate 63 rent-geared to income housing for Inuit families and singles living in the Ottawa area.</p>
<p><b>Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families</b> <b>Head Office and Early Years' Centre:</b> 224 and 230 McArthur Ave. Ottawa, ON K1L 6P5 Tel: (343) 553-3027 Email: <a href="mailto:adminassistant@inuuqatigiit.ca">adminassistant@inuuqatigiit.ca</a> Website: <a href="https://inuuqatigiit.ca/">https://inuuqatigiit.ca/</a></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><b>Kagita Mikam</b> 5602 Old Highway 2, Shannonville, Ontario K0K 3A0 Tel: (613) 962-3103 Email: <a href="mailto:info@kagitamikam.ca">info@kagitamikam.ca</a> Website: <a href="https://kagitamikam.com/">https://kagitamikam.com/</a> 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><b>Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start</b> 297 Olmstead Avenue Ottawa, Ontario Tel: (613) 724-5844 Email: <a href="mailto:info@makonsag.ca">info@makonsag.ca</a> Website: <a href="https://www.makonsag.ca/">https://www.makonsag.ca/</a></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><b>Minwaashin Lodge</b> 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: <a href="mailto:info@minlodge.com">info@minlodge.com</a> Website: <a href="https://www.minlodge.com/">https://www.minlodge.com/</a></p>	<p>and elders, including traditional healing, employment, counseling, shelter, youth, and cultural programs, community development initiatives, and social support.</p>
<p><b>Odawa Native Friendship Centre</b> 815 St. Laurent Blvd. Ottawa, Ontario K1K 3A7 Tel: (613) 722-3811 Email: <a href="mailto:reception@odawa.on.ca">reception@odawa.on.ca</a> Website: <a href="http://www.odawa.on.ca">http://www.odawa.on.ca</a></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><b>Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth</b> 65 Harvey Street Ottawa, Ontario K1S 0A8 Tel: (613) 233-0672 Email: <a href="mailto:welcome@teweganhousing.ca">welcome@teweganhousing.ca</a> Website: <a href="https://www.teweganhousing.ca/">https://www.teweganhousing.ca/</a></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><b>Tungasuvvingat Inuit</b> 1071 Richmond Road Ottawa, Ontario Tel: (613) 565-5885 Email: <a href="mailto:info@tiontario.ca">info@tiontario.ca</a> Website: <a href="https://tiontario.ca/">https://tiontario.ca/</a></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><b>Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health</b> 299 Montreal Road Ottawa, Ontario K1L 6B8 Tel: (613) 748-0657 Email: <a href="mailto:info@wabano.com">info@wabano.com</a> Website: <a href="https://wabano.com/">https://wabano.com/</a></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



"Indigenous organizations stepped up to support community members however they could. This speaks to the strength of our community"



# Community Photo Gallery



"We draw strength through our connection to each other"



# Thank You

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

- All OAC Member Organizations
- Baldwin AudioVisual Solutions
- City of Ottawa
- Elm Printing
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Katari Imaging
- Pineneedle Farms
- Ontario Native Women's Association
- Ottawa Public Health
- Stacey Johnstone
- The Birch Bite
- Tracey Towedo Photography

Also a very special thanks to the Big Drum, Ottawa River Singers and to the Sacred Firekeeper Peter Decontie, Fred McGregor

We are honoured to have our Elders, Grandmother Irene Compton, Sally Webster, and Parm Burgie to open and close with ceremony. We are also honoured to have our community Elders attend and be with us. Chi-meegwetch.

We also wish to acknowledge and thank our guest speaker and entertainment who brought such passion and energy, Emma Morrison, Alicia Kayley and Twin Flames.

Special thanks to Stacey Johnstone who created this incredible program for us all to enjoy.

We would also like to thank our volunteers, our Indigenous Community who came out this evening, and all our partners.

### With respect from the OAC team:

Joan Riggs, Karen Green, Irene Goodwin, Rachelle Metatawabin, Julie Aziz, Kate Carroll, Kyra Hagerty and Jennifer Sans



