



## ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

### 22/23 President's Report June 30, 2023

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Ahnii, Boozhoo!

I would like to start by giving a special thank you to the Odawa Native Friendship Centre's (ONFC) Community! I have been very fortunate to serve as President for another year and I would like to acknowledge all those from the community I've had the pleasure of meeting with over the course of the year.

Thank you to my fellow ONFC colleagues on the Board of Directors, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your commitment and contribution to the organization and the community, and to the ONFC staff, thank you for all that you do. You continue to set an exemplary standard with regard to your work ethic and dedication to not only the organization but to the community as well.

I am thrilled to share some of highlights of the past year for our organization. It has been an exciting year, full of opportunities to reconnect following COVID, and to promote the good work of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre.

With service to the community in mind, we began various renovations to both 510 Rideau and the main office at 815 St. Laurent Blvd, the biggest being to Shawenjeagamik (510 Rideau). With support from the Reaching Home: Canada's Homeless Strategy program and Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), the renovations will enhance and better serve our at-risk community in the downtown core.

Over the course of the year, ONFC was able to resume a full slate of in-person programming and events. One of those events was a fundraiser where renowned Indigenous comedian, Don Burnstick, who came and entertained us with an evening of much needed joy and laughter. He brought with him Matthew Ohokannoak who started off the evening.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were many of our celebrations that had to be paused. However, this year we were also able to celebrate the children and youth of the community at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ottawa Indigenous Children and Youth Pow Wow. It was great to see the return of this special gathering to celebrate and honour the children and youth of the future.

The organization has made great strides this year. I would like to thank everyone who has supported the ONFC this past year. It has been a rich and varied year of transition and I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish together.

Miigwetch,

Vanessa McGregor,  
President