



ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

22/23 Executive Director's Report June 30, 2023

Ahnii, Boozhoo!

Welcome to the Odawa Native Friendship Centre's Annual Report for 2022/23. We invite you to embark on a journey of transformation and renewal—a journey that mirrors the growth and evolution of our organization.

We have set out on a path of innovation, progress, and community enrichment. Our commitment to our mission, values, and the community we serve has never been stronger. This year was marked by many milestones that have redefined our identity and deepened our impact.

The cornerstone of our journey was the commencement of a transformative renovation project that will not only change the physical landscape of our organization at our main office and at our 510 Rideau location, but also enhance the services we provide. Our renovated spaces will reflect our commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and sustainability, ensuring that they serve as hubs of inspiration and empowerment.

Innovation also extended beyond our physical spaces. Thanks to the generous support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation, we made significant strides in harnessing the power of technology to expand our reach and impact. These technological advances have enabled us to connect with our community in new and dynamic ways, ensuring that our programs and services are more accessible and effective than ever before.

We remained steadfast in our dedication to delivering services that uplift, educate, and empower individuals and our community. One of the most heartwarming and pivotal events of the year was the return of the annual Children and Youth Pow Wow. After enduring a prolonged period of separation due to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our community came together with renewed vigor and spirit. This gathering served as a beacon of hope, rekindling bonds that had been temporarily placed on hold and reviving our cultural connections.

This celebration of Indigenous culture and heritage brought together generations, fostering a deep sense of community and pride. It showcased the incredible talents and traditions of our young members while providing a platform for cultural preservation and intergenerational learning.

As you peruse this report, you will discover the stories, data, and insights that showcase the profound difference we are making together. We celebrate our achievements, recognize our challenges, and recommit ourselves to the vital work that lies ahead.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Together, we are building a brighter future, one brick at a time, and nurturing the potential that resides within each person we touch.

Join us as we reflect on the past, embrace the present, and envision the boundless possibilities of our future. Together, we stand on the threshold of greatness, poised to make a lasting impact in our community.

Chi-miigwetch,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Mayes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randy" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Mayes".

Randy Mayes, CAFM, CAPA
Executive Director