



# ANNUAL REPORT



2022/2023  
Odawa Native  
Friendship Centre



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# THANK YOU!

## Funders:



**OFIFC**

Ontario Federation of  
Indigenous Friendship Centres



National Association  
of Friendship Centres



Public Health  
Agency of Canada



Ontario  
**MINISTRY OF THE  
ATTORNEY GENERAL**



Ottawa Aboriginal  
Coalition



Employment and  
Social Development Canada

Ontario  
Trillium  
Foundation



The Odawa Native Friendship Centre would like to thank our funders, contributors, donors and to everyone who has supported us over the last year. This could not be possible without your valued commitment to offer and support services to our Indigenous community.

## **Sponsors/Donors**

We would like to express our sincerest thank you to all of those who gave so generously which assists Odawa to further give back to our community members in need. With your generosity, Odawa has put back \$156,492 into our community.

### **Thank you to our corporate/non-profit donors, who donated \$94,492:**

All Saints' Anglican Church  
Barrhaven United Church  
Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA)  
Canadian Online Giving  
Canadian Union of Postal Workers  
Child and Nature Alliance of Canada  
Craft Fair and Donations  
Glebe St. James United Church  
Hobin Architecture Inc.  
Holy Redeemer Parish  
Indigenous Services Canada - NIHB  
Kanata United Church  
Knox Edwards Pastoral Charge  
La Cite Collegiale  
Masterbuilt Hotels Ltd.  
Ottawa Food Bank  
Ottawa Mennonite Church  
Parkdale United Church  
Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC-NCR)  
St. Basil's Church  
St. Gabriel Catholic School  
Tato Recruiting  
The Children's Place  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ottawa  
Walmart Canada Corp

We also want to express a big thank you to our 291 individual donors who donated \$61,000. While too many to list, we do recognize and acknowledge each of your contributions.

### **You can DONATE NOW to Odawa at:**

You can visit [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) website and do a search for the "Odawa Native Friendship Centre". Or visit our website at [www.odawa.on.ca](http://www.odawa.on.ca).

# Odawa Native Friendship Centre Board of Directors

Vanessa McGregor  
President

Amy Nahwegahbow  
Vice-President

Jacques Dalton  
Treasurer

Marie-Celine Charron  
Secretary

Nelson Alisappi  
Director

Liane Chiblow  
Director

Michael Lacka  
Director

Ember Sarazon  
Director

# Program Staff

As of March 31, 2023, the Odawa Native Friendship Centre would like to extend a big thanks to our dedicated staff who provide the utmost care and services to our community.

## **EarlyOn**

Colleen Sauve, Director, Early Years  
Obah Abib, ECE  
Andrew Griffith-Jones, Driver  
Damon Jacko, Program Assistant  
Deborah Odjick, Cook  
Krystal Snowboy, ECE

## **Family Support**

Jennifer Deschenes-Jerome

## **Reaching Home**

Carrie Diabo, Manager  
Sherilyn Duff, Admin Assistant  
Curtis Meskino, Maintenance  
Anthony Toulouse, Cook

## **OFIFC Program Coordinators**

Sheridon Baptiste, Healthy Living  
Denise Anne Boissoneau, Mental Health Peer Support  
Simone Charette, Life Long Care  
Terri-Lynn Charlebois, Akwe:go  
Kimble Chartrand, Kizhaay  
Mary Gunner, Healthy Babies Healthy Children  
Donna Hester, International Trauma Program  
Robert Jerome, Alternative Secondary School  
Jennifer Kohoko, Healing & Wellness  
Mark Marsolais-Nahwegahbow, Community Justice  
Greg Meekis, Cultural Resource  
Rochelle Meekis, Bail Supervisor  
Tina Ohlman, Life Long Care  
Billy Parrell, Wasa-Nabin  
Jennifer Valiquette, Courtworker

## **Administration**

Randy Mayes, Executive Director  
Gabriel Pangowish, Executive Coordinator  
Elizabeth MacDonald, Director of Operations  
Anita Armstrong, A/Director of Operations  
Antoinette Mak, Director of Finance  
Emeka Ndukwe, Finance Clerk

# President's Report

Aanii, Hello,

On behalf of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre (ONFC) Board of Directors, we would like to thank you all for joining us for the 48th Annual General Meeting.

I would like to start by giving thanks:

- to the ONFC Community, a very special thank you to you! 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.
- 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.

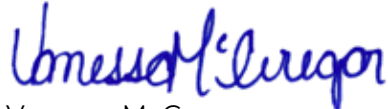
With service to the community in mind, we began various renovations to both 510 Rideau and the main office at 815 St. Laurant, the biggest being to Shawenjeagamik (510 Rideau). With support from the Reaching Home: Canada's Homeless Strategy program and Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (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 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 23rd 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



# Executive Director's Report

Aanii, Hello,

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.

Miigwetch,



Randy Mayes, CAFM, CAPA  
Executive Director

# 47th Annual General **MEETING MINUTES**





39 Wayne Spear asks the Directors to introduce themselves before Vanessa McGregor  
40 welcomes all participants.

41 Vanessa McGregor, ONFC President, gave a brief introduction of herself and welcomed  
42 participants to the 47<sup>th</sup> ONFC AGM and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The  
43 President introduced the Facilitator, Wayne Spear, who will act as Chair.

44

45 Wayne Spear gave a brief introduction of himself. Wayne Spear announces that there will be  
46 a small addition to the agenda.

47

48 The Chair reported that quorum was reached with 12 voting members present.

49

### 50 **3. AGENDA**

51 The draft agenda was presented to the members.

52

#### 53 **It was MOVED Maureen Donnelly by and SECONDED by Leanne Hunter**

54 That the members of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre approve the agenda for the 46<sup>th</sup>  
55 Annual General Meeting with the addition.

56

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGM2022-08-01)**

57

### 58 **4. MINUTES OF THE 45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

59 The Chair presented the draft minutes from the 46<sup>th</sup> ONFC AGM held on September 23, 2021,  
60 to the members. One minor revision to add Leanne Hunter's name to the members in  
61 attendance.

62

#### 63 **It was MOVED Marc Forgette by and SECONDED by Helen Cayer**

64 That the members of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre approve the 46<sup>th</sup> Annual General  
65 Meeting minutes held on September 23, 2021, as presented, with one minor revision.

66

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGM2022-08-02)**

67

### 68 **5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

69 The President presented her report.

70

#### 71 **It was MOVED by Marc Forgette and SECONDED by Leanne Hunter**

72 That the members of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre accept the President's report as  
73 presented.

74

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGM2022-08-03)**

75

### 76 **6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

77 The Executive Director presented his report, but also wanted to point out some important  
78 topics:

79

- Odawa has received significant infrastructure funding from OFIFC.

80

- 510 Rideau will be undergoing some major renovation beginning In September 2022 and  
81 it expected to be completed in June 2023. 510 has been temporarily relocated and will  
82 continue to provide services.

- Additional renovations will be underway as well and is expected to be completed by March of 2023. The reception area, kitchen, cedar room and another room will be revamped.
- The ONFC has also received funding for two new projects, which are the Creating Safe Spaces Project geared towards 2SLGBTQQA+/MMIWG community, the Mental Health Peer Support Project for assisting those involved in the justice system, as well as the Intergenerational Trauma project. The project funding for these are running up until March of 2023.

**It was MOVED by Helene Findlay and SECONDED by Tito Hernandez**

That the members of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre accept the Executive Director's report as presented.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGM2022-08-04)**

**7. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2022**

Brendan Johnson from Welch LLP, presented the audited financial statements for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022.

The auditors commented that the ONFC is on the proper path, financially, and is in a much better financial position than in previous years and trending in a positive way

The auditor stated that in his opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the "*Basis for Qualified Opinion*" section in the report, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as of March 31, 2022.

**It was MOVED by Helene Findlay and SECONDED by Marc Forgette**

That the members of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre accept the auditor's report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022, as presented by Welch, LLP.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGM2022-08-05)**

**8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

The auditors left the meeting, and then a motion was made to appoint the auditors for the 22/23 fiscal year.

**It was MOVED by Helene Cayer and SECONDED by Leanna Hunter**

That the members of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre appoint Welch LLP to conduct the audit for the next fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGM2022-08-06)**

**9. ONFC BYLAW NO. 9 REVISIONS**

The members were presented with the revisions to By-Law#9 at the last Annual General Meeting held on September 23, 2022. The ONFC also held two information sessions for members to participate in, if they had any questions or comments on the revisions.



126 There were additional friendly amendments which were presented by the members, as  
127 follows:  
128

31.3. The Board of Directors shall have one seat reserved for Youth. ~~However, if the position cannot be filled, it will be opened for another eligible member.~~ This shall be from the existing numbers of the Board. The Youth shall be elected for a term of one year. The individual holding the youth seat must be between the ages of 18 – 24 inclusive. The Youth shall be ~~elected~~ nominated by ~~all the~~ Members attending the AGM. Any Youth who will become 25 years of age during the year of office shall be ineligible to run for election as the youth Board member.

129  
130

56.0 The Board of Directors shall develop, ~~and update as necessary,~~ a ~~clear~~-job description for the Executive Director.

57.0 The Executive Director shall be dismissed only by ~~full agreement~~ the resolution of the ~~complete~~ Board of Directors, ~~at a duly convened meeting.~~

58.0 The Board of Directors shall determine, by resolution, the remuneration of ~~all staff and agents of the~~ Executive Director Friendship-Centre.

131  
132

**It was MOVED by Sandra Hernandez and SECONDED by Daisy Nagle**

That the members of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre approve the revisions to By-Law# 9, as well as the friendly amendments brought forward.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGM2022-08-07)**

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137

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair opened the floor to new business.

### a) Recommendation to go paperless

A member recommended that the ONFC plays an important role in reducing plastics which are harmful to the environment.

Upon fulsome discussion with the members, it was recommended that the ONFC reduce the use plastics, when possible.

**It was MOVED by Helene Cayer and SECONDED by Sandra Hernandez**

That the members of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre recommend that the ONFC strives to reduce and avoid using unnecessary plastics in its' programming.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGM2022-08-08)**

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150

### b) Pow Wow

The Pow Wow committee will hold its first meeting in September to begin to plan the Odawa Pow Wow.

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157 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

158 The President thanked the members for their participation and feedback.

159

160 **It was MOVED by Maureen Donnelly and SECONDED by Marc Forgette**

161 That the members of the Odawa Native Friendship Centre close the 47<sup>th</sup> ONFC Annual  
162 General Meeting at 8:35 p.m.

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**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGM2022-08-09)**

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165

166 Greg Meekis closed the meeting with a prayer.

167

168

\* \* \* \* \*

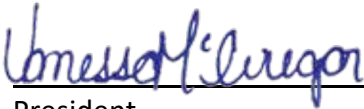
169 This is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Odawa  
170 Native Friendship Centre held on August 18, 2022, and incorporates any and all corrections made  
171 at the time of adoption.

172

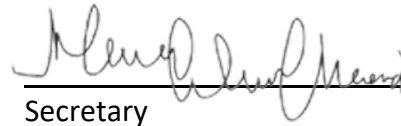
173

174

175



President



Secretary

## Program Description:

The Akwe:go program is to provide urban Indigenous children aged 7-12 years with support, tools and healthy activities which will build upon and foster their inherent ability to make healthy choices. The objectives of delivery in Akwe:go are as follows: Provision of Social supports; Children in Care; Health; Physical and Mental Development; Institutional Interventions; and support for children with FASD or other learning disabilities.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

The use of masks, hand sanitizer and sanitizing toys, games, art supplies, or other activities that the youth use in between youth is strongly encouraged continuously. The youth were very excited and anxious to be back into normal programming. Initially, we began with separating the youth into smaller group program nights (10-12 youth on Monday evening programming, and a different 10-12 youth on Wednesday evening programming) to keep the groups limited.

However, with restrictions removed, we have all become one large group on both nights of the week again which was strongly welcomed by the youth as they strongly suggested they missed being all together! Being all back together has been amazing and tremendous for the youth's social and mental health.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

Kids up Front Foundation Ottawa: The foundation continues to provide free tickets to events, shows, museum passes, camps, and activities for youth and their families.

The Caring and Sharing Exchange: This agency provides the youth of Odawa with brand new school bags and school supplies each year.

Ingenium Steam: Ingenium comes in twice monthly to the Akwe:go Program to teach different science experiments to the youth such as: coding, robot building, water rockets and more.

## Success Story:

- Children from two families that were involved with CAS this year had supervised visits or Circle of Care meetings with the Akwe:Go Coordinator. The Akwe:go Coordinator helped advocate on behalf of the family, encouraged programming support and reconnecting with the community. Both of these families have received reunification and have had their CAS files closed.
- One youth was struggling in school with their grades and behavior which resulted in receiving multiple suspensions. With the Akwe:go Coordinators support and advocacy, that child was able to avoid any further suspensions for the last five months of schooling, along with significantly improving their grades. The Akwe:go Coordinator goes into the school two to three times a week to work with this student and the teacher to provide modified work for the student and a quiet workspace to work on it. The Coordinator has also been able to advocate for the student who now finally has an IEP (Individual Education Plan) at their school.

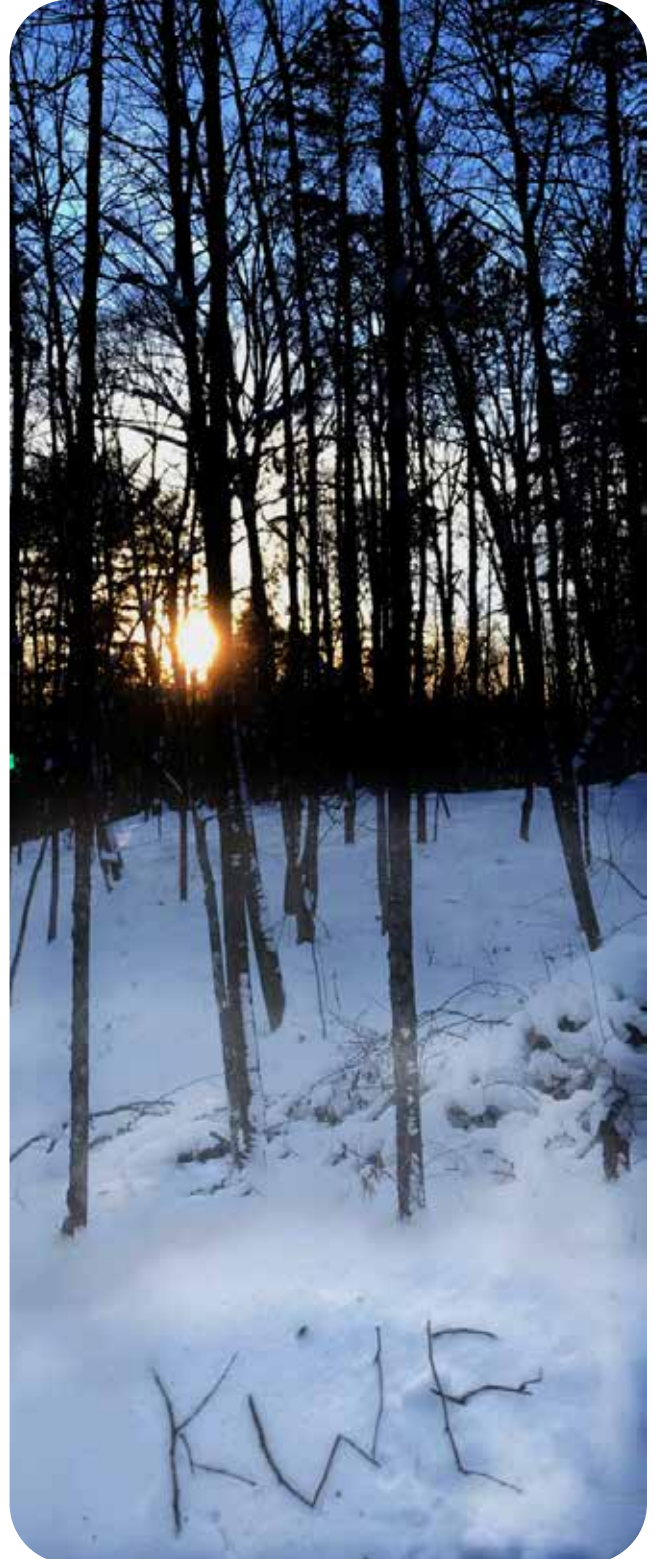


### Key Highlights of Program:

- Successful afterschool programming twice weekly that includes homework/tutoring support.
- Successful March break camp hosted by Akwe:go.
- One-on-one support with clients in or out of school.
- Akwe:go Coordinator helps with the school breakfast program in two schools. (Food security).
- Culture Nights – Learning how to Pow Wow Dance, Beading, Medicine Bag Making
- Many outings such as: Trampoline Park, Movie Theatre, Bowling, Swimming, Mini Golf, Arcade, Canoeing, Kayaking, and more!
- Family Nights – Mothers Day Tea and Treats Hosted by Akwe:go youth for their moms/ grandmas!
- Over 100+ School bags with supplies and a gift card was given to Odawa Youth in the Community for back-to-school amenities.

### Statistics:

- 40 Registered Youth
- 20 participants
- 5 on the waitlist



# Alternative Secondary School Program

Robert Jerome, ASSP Coordinator

## Program Description:

The ASSP offers standard Ontario secondary school curriculum, cultural programming (cultural credits), promotes Indigenous student success, and provides an alternative learning environment for Indigenous learners wishing to obtain their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

Students within the program had some difficulty with in-person learning. Slowly students became comfortable with coming back and were soon sharing experiences of their time away. We made sure all safety protocols were kept in place.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

- Ontario Works South Services (OW) meets students at the school and ensure that students in need of financial assistance were met.
- Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families where program workers would share Inuit knowledge and teachings.
- Odawa Native Friendship Centre with Life Long Care and students were brought together to spend time with one another.

## Success Story:

Completed a Skateboard project in which students designed and created personal skateboards which culminated in an Open house in which the public were allowed to visit and see their creations.

## Key Highlights of Program:

- 5 graduates
- Roughly 85 credits completed
- 1 student completed a college credit at Algonquin College
- New Indigenous Principal

## Statistics:

25 students enrolled

### Peoples

18 First Nations

7 Inuit

### Gender

2 Non- Binary

10 Female

13 Male



# Community Justice Program

Mark Marsolais-Nahwegahbow, Community Justice Coordinator, and  
Alura Swinwood, University of Victoria Child and Youth Care Bachelor of Arts Student

## Program Description:

The Community Justice Program (CJ) was developed based on traditional Indigenous concepts of justice. The program seeks to provide meaningful alternatives to the mainstream Criminal Justice System for both youth and adult Indigenous offenders and will address the needs of victims (where applicable). The CJ serves Indigenous people in the greater Ottawa area charged with criminal offenses regardless of previous involvement in the Criminal Justice System

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

Post pandemic, the program is slowly getting back to normal. Virtual services for many of the diversion clients is not something they are able to participate in given the housing challenges, lack of technology, and so on. Community justice healing circles can now be held in person again and we are working on getting community members involved in this. Additionally, there are now more options to get the clients connected to the community with other organizations getting back to offering in-person services.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

Ottawa Police (OPS) – Pre-Charge Diversion Protocol in progress  
Elizabeth Fry - Post-Charge Diversion  
City of Ottawa

## Success Story:

A client had been referred to the diversion program after being caught for stealing. Upon completing intake, it became apparent that they were having significant struggles with their mental health but had dreams of one day working with children and helping people. The healing plan prioritized goals of getting the client connected to the mental health support they needed, while simultaneously getting them connected with the Indigenous community. The client spoke about the positive experience this was and was able to share in a circle format how this experience allowed them to shift from feeling shame to feeling empowered.

## Key Highlights of Program:

- We had our first student placement from the University of Victoria.
- Holistic approach to community justice.
- Official announcement of new protocol between Odawa & OPS in the fall.
- Renewed collaboration with the City of Ottawa
- Working on a new protocol with regard to the clients involved with the Provincial Offences Act.
- Collaboration with the Metis Nation of Ontario.
- We processed 4 Pre-Charge Diversion clients with Ottawa Police Services.
- Flexibility in plans that provide clients with an equitable approach to healing.

## Statistics:

Non-Status 0 | First Nations 13 | Metis 4 | Inuit 22

# Indigenous Courtwork Program

Jennifer Valiquette, Justice Coordinator

## Program Description

Indigenous Criminal Courtworkers support self-identifying Indigenous accused (youth and adults) to navigate the criminal justice systems throughout all phases. Information and support is provided to ensure all Indigenous persons are aware of their rights and responsibilities, and understand all processes. Courtworkers advocate for individuals in various ways (i.e. in court). Individuals are also referred to wholistic supports and services to address underlying challenges.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19

While many courts remain virtual in Ottawa and in Ontario as a whole, the Indigenous Peoples' Court (IPC) reopened in February 2022 to in-person services. The court runs twice weekly. In-person client work is ideal for building connections, and making referrals, so we were very happy to return to it.

## Partnerships you've maintained:

- Ongoing: Indigenous Peoples' Court
  - Ottawa Police Services
  - Probation & Parole; Native Inmate Liaison Officer
  - Other countless other community services
- Odawa frequent program partnerships:
  - Traditional Helper
  - Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin
  - Community Justice
  - Cultural Resource
  - Healing & Wellness
  - Healthy Living
  - Wasa-Nabin

## Success Stories:

- Supporting those who turn a terrible situation (being criminally charged, conditions removing them from their homes and sometimes families) to propel themselves forward via programs, healing, employment, etc.
- Matters that result in withdrawals.
- Someone (re)connecting with the community and observing the positive changes that inspires.
- Someone who was once a regular client, years prior, calls for pardon information.

## Key Highlights of Program:

- Ongoing successes with supporting positive resolutions in criminal matters.
- Ongoing efforts in further developments with Indigenous Peoples' Court.
- Was consulted by Department of Justice International Development for expertise-sharing in Indigenous Justice for program development in Mexico.

## Statistics:

Approximate client total of open files: 135 individuals (58% First Nations; 39% Inuit; 3% Métis)





# Cultural Resource Program

Greg Meekis, Cultural Resource Coordinator

## Program Description:

To provide sensitive cultural training for families, men and youth using safe content and providing a safe environment. Work with clients and liaise with community Elders/ Traditional Helpers, Children's Aide Society of Ottawa, Odawa programs and the Ottawa Police Services on behalf of clients.

## How we adjusted our Program to deal with COVID-19:

Virtual meetings and telephone calls ended. Coordinator continued to assist clients who experienced challenges with COVID-19 and encouraged each to use a mask and hand sanitizer throughout programming. Continued to work with referrals and provide support from outside agencies such as Children's Aid Society, Wabano Aboriginal Health, Minwaashin Lodge, and Métis Nation of Ontario.

## Partnerships:

- Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin – I Am a Kind Man
- Moose hide Campaign Development Society
- Canadian Indigenous Nurses Association
- Canadian Aboriginal Nurses Association
- Assembly of the Seventh Generations
- Indigenous Services Canada
- Centre for Christian Studies with the United Church
- Ottawa Police Race Relations and Diversity
- Childrens Aid Society of Ottawa (Circle of Care)
- Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
- Crown- Indigenous Relations and Northern Canada
- Circle of Support and Accountability
- Indigenous Peoples Justice Circle
- Ottawa-O.C. Transpo Facilities Maintenance
- Multicultural Association of Wood Buffalo
- Rideau Valley Conservation Authority
- University of Ottawa
- The Canadian Association for Graduate Studies
- Pro Bono Students of Canada
- Canadian Association of Social Workers
- Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (Provincial CRC program workers).
- 2 Local Drum Groups (Ottawa River and Spirit Wolf). Requests for openings and drum ceremonies continue to come in from various events, I take the time to include Openings, Land Acknowledgments and cultural teachings with these drum groups as Cultural Resource Coordinator for the Odawa Native Friendship Centre.

### Success Story:

A previous client to Odawa's various programs within its Justice and cultural departments has had great and positive strides in terms of his healing journey. Having been in and out of judicial system, experiencing incarceration, unemployed and an estranged relationship with his son. It has been 6 years that this individual has embarked on his healing journey. Having succeeded in receiving treatment, having successfully returned and graduated in a post-secondary program, having secured employment prior to graduating and having rebuilt a strong and healthy relationship with his son, this individual now is a positive role-model who is heavily engaged in the traditional First Nations culture as a Drummer, Dancer and speaker. Recently, this writer had approached this individual in the hopes that he would agree to accept invitation a traditional opening of the Indigenous Peoples Court proceedings in the near future. This is a story that came full circle on a positive and healing note.

### Key Highlights of Program:

Building a successful referral system of Elder/traditional helpers for Indigenous Organizations, Municipal, Provincial and Federal Government Department requests.

### Statistics:

The program is at its maximum of 15 clients per year. The Coordinator provides one-on-one mentoring, traditional support using traditional knowledge.

We provided services to 56 community members:

### STATISTICS:

Men	40	First Nation Status	42
Women	16	First Nation non-Status	8
Total	56	Métis	1
		Inuit	3
		Non-Indigenous	2
		Total	56



# Creating Safe Spaces

Billy Parrell, Wasa-Nabin Coordinator

## Program Description:

The Creating Safe Spaces program addresses a gap in programming available for and tailored to the needs of young Indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals, young women and girls in schools and/or in community who have experienced violence and trauma. The program objectives are to provide the space for individuals to voice interests and needs, support building resiliency in a culturally appropriate way, promote healing from their own and their family histories of trauma, and increase overall well-being. In addition, the program promotes engagement or reengagement with school to help support attendance and credit accumulation, and fostering partnerships with school boards, post-secondary institutions, and education partners.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

Gathering for program meant that young people were able to socialize and participate in cultural activities again. One outcome of this was the ability to create a collaborative mural for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Each person was able to add a drawing or phrase. This type of collaboration was challenging to organize during COVID-19.

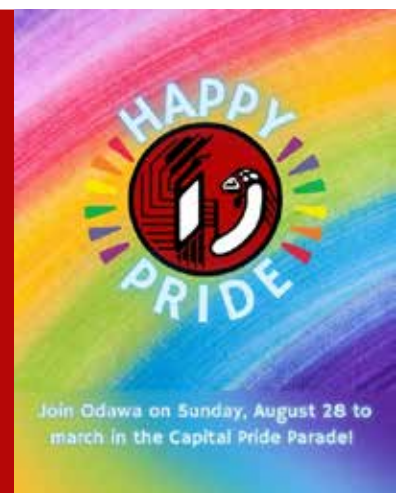
## Partnerships you've fostered:

Minwaashin LodgeZ  
Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth  
Youth Services Bureau (YSB)  
Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB)



## Success Story:

We were able to attend Ottawa Pride together with clients and staff as a group. That was a huge success to celebrate together with the community in the spirit of unity and acceptance.







**Key Highlights of Program:**

- Sharing circles for 2SLGBTQQIA+ individuals
- Provide gift cards for gender affirming clothing
- Donate dresses for gala
- Created installation for the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People

**Statistics:**

Number of youth reached through events/activities: 29

Number of Indigenous girls supported: 15

Number of Two-Spirit or Indigenous LGTBQQIA+ youth supported: 3

Colleen Sauve, Director of Early Years and  
Anita Armstrong, Director of Operations.

## Program Description:

A cultural program for families with children 0-6 years of age.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

Staff working with children and families needed to be aware that many of the children we were welcoming into programming have little or no experience with a group of children, due to the last two years of isolation. They found it necessary to adjust their approaches and be aware that it may take longer than usual for this group to warm up to activities and new faces.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

EarlyOn has continued to work successfully with their partners and rekindle relationships that lagged during the Pandemic. Public Health is a regular visitor to programming. We have maintained and developed the following partnerships:

- The Ottawa Story Tellers Society
- Children's Aid Society
- City of Ottawa
- Indigenous Early Years Circle
- Monkey Rock Music
- Ottawa Public Health
- Maple Hill Farm
- Mādahòkì Farm
- Odawa's Cultural Resource
- Program
- Odawa's Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program
- Rideau-Rockcliffe Incubator

## Success Story:

EarlyOn hosted and partnered with the Ottawa Story Telling Society to host this event in our beautiful space this year. Three of our staff were mentored and trained as storytellers as a result of this partnership and continue to use their new skills to enhance programming.

## Key Highlights of Program:

- Open-ended playgroups
- Music and movement
- EarlyOn and Sweetgrass Playgroup
- Collaboration with LLC Program
- Collaboration with Inuuqatigiit Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families
- Support for Sweetgrass caregivers
- Mobile playgroup bus for outreach and isolated families
- Rights of passage cultural ceremonies
- Children & Youth Pow Wow

## Field Trips

- Strawberry Picking
- Millennium Park
- 67's Hockey Game
- Nature Walk at Gatineau Park
- Redblacks Game
- Apple Picking
- Outreach Bus "Overbrook Park" & "West End Outing"
- Picnic and BBQ at Inverness Park
- Canadian Museum of Nature
- Canadian Museum of History
- Flying Squirrel
- Science and Technology Museum
- Mooney's Bay
- Lac Leamy Beach
- Mont Cascades
- Sledding at Gloucester Hill
- Vanier Splash Pad



## Statistics:

Twenty (20) families were registered with the EarlyOn program,

# Family Support Program

Jennifer Déschenes-Jerome, Program Coordinator

## Program Description:

The program provides support to children and their families through culturally appropriate holistic, healing and preventative services. These services address child development, from the pre-conception stage, and offer support and parental skills training for parents and youth in urban aboriginal communities.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

Post COVID-19 we had an influx of new families register and attend regular programming on site. Transportation options have opened up to assist our participants in attending programming and combating isolation.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

- Ottawa Story Tellers
- Ottawa Public Health
- Healing and Wellness
- Indigenous Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- Early Years
- Life Long Care
- Aunties on the Road

## Success Story:

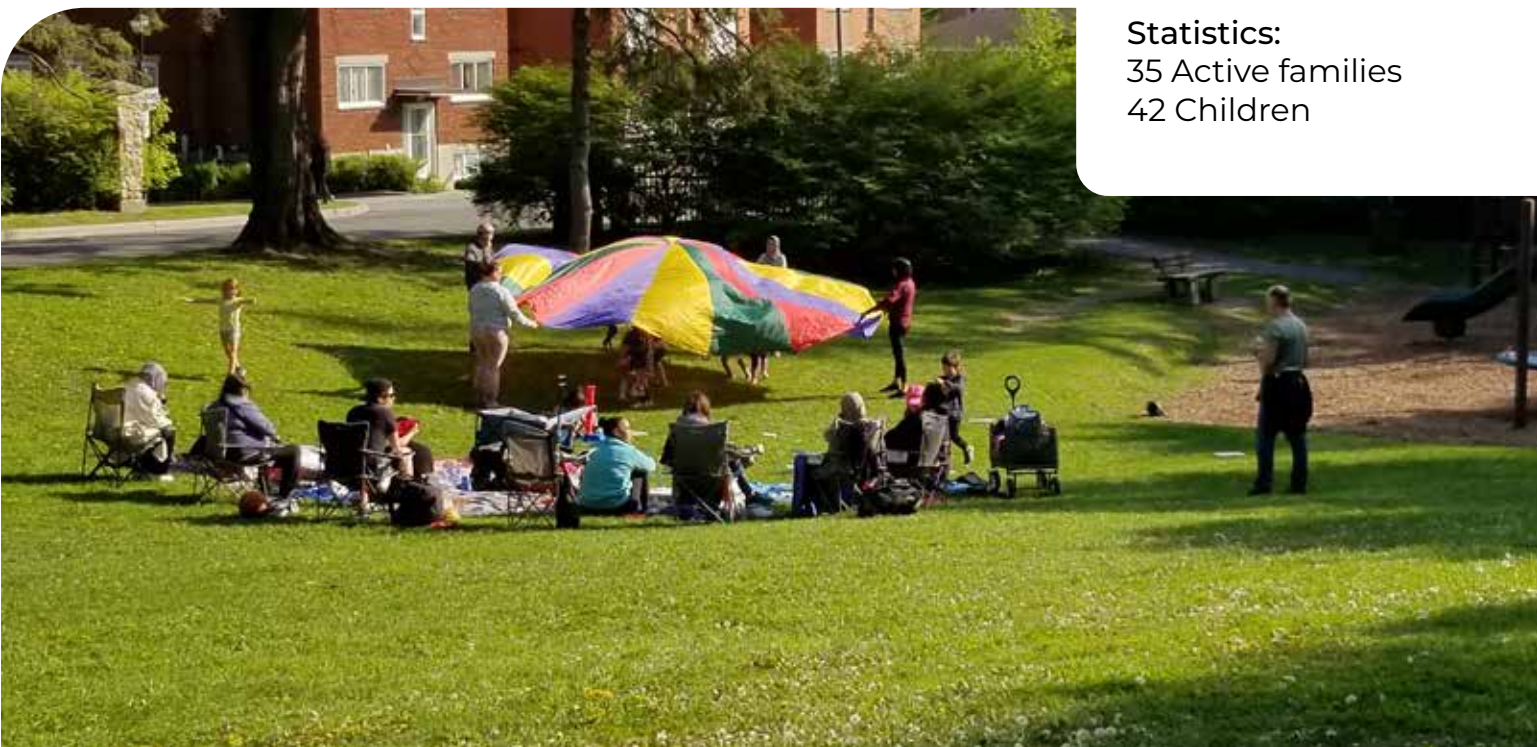
One family attending access visits during Family Support Programming has been reunited and out of care.

## Key Highlights of Program:

- Monthly parenting workshops with a public health nurse
- Father's group programming partnership
- Odawa Children's Program '23 Baby welcoming
- Children's regalia making
- Culture Night
- Valentine's day round dance
- Mother's day brunch

## Statistics:

35 Active families  
42 Children





# Healing and Wellness

Jennifer Kohoko, Healing and Wellness Coordinator

## Program Description:

The Healing and Wellness Coordinator Program focuses on the improving Indigenous health and reduction of family violence which is achieved through the provision of services for those most at risk, notably women and children. The delivery of programs and services are culturally appropriate and address the prevention, aftercare and concurrent impacts of family violence on health. Services include but are not limited to: healing circles, peer counselling, crisis intervention, education, and training.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

There was a focus on mental health, family support, education and food security. We were able to provide exactly what the community wanted, which was to be in a space together in a social setting. We were able to do this during our weekly Odawa Inòdewiziwin (Family) Culture Drop-In Program. Not only were we providing much needed face to face contact after lockdown but we also offered a chance to learn about drumming, beading and sewing. Land-based healing was also in demand as we took a six-month break.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

- Children's Aid Society of Ottawa
- University of Victoria
- Sheatre
- First Nations Technical Institute
- Anishinabek Educational Institute in North Bay
- Akwesasne Community Justice Program
- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
- The Quartier Vanier Business Improvement Area (QVBIA)
- Carleton University
- Dragonfly Visions
- Cornerstone Housing for Women
- Roberts/Smarts Centre
- Windrose Supportive Housing
- Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth
- Ontario Native Women's Association
- The Circle of Turtle Lodge
- Tungasuwingat Inuit
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Minwaashin Lodge
- John Howard Society
- Wabano
- ACTION (Anti-Violence and Coercion Taskforce for Indigenous Organizations and Networks)
- Davalon Healing Centre

## Success Story:

Odawa has become a key organization that the EDII-Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Indigenization Worker of the Children's Aid Society of Ottawa refers to regarding the complex cases in which families need support from the Indigenous community. Although, it is sometimes difficult to provide the services with limited resources, Odawa has always been able to do so while going above and beyond while developing partnerships along the way while providing services on its own terms that are most beneficial to our Indigenous families.

**Key Highlights of Program:**

- Empowerment of Women
- Men’s Circles
- Reduction of Family Violence
- Family Reunification
- Culture and Ceremony
- Community Gatherings
- Land Based Healing
- Emotional/Mental/Spiritual/Physical Balance
- Appropriate Referrals

**Statistics:**

Service Description

YTD Total

Number of clients	144
Number of one-time services	159
Number of clients who received Peer Counselling	184
Number of peer counselling sessions	219
Number of clients who received crisis intervention supports	66
Number of crisis intervention supports provided	111
Number of clients who received advocacy supports and/or referrals (In/Out).	134
Number of advocacy supports/referrals conducted (In/Out)	177
Number of Participant-based activities	78
Number of Participants attending Participant-based Activities	990
Number of clients assisted in accessing services related to reducing Family Violence	103
Number of Community Relationships (Partnerships, Engagements, and Networking)	165



# Indigenous Healthy Babies' Healthy Children

Mary Gunner, IHBHC Coordinator

## Program Description:

The IHBHC program helps all Indigenous children in Ottawa have the best start in life. The program is designed to ensure that all Indigenous families and their children (prenatal to age six) who need assistance with physical, mental, emotional and social issues have access to effective, consistent early intervention services. To provide the best opportunities for healthy child development through home visiting, service coordination, parenting groups, cultural teachings and traditions and referrals. As well as to address the children at risk, to ensure that they have access to services and support that will address their needs. IHBHC program is voluntary and open to any Indigenous family that requests the service.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

Now that everything is open we have had an increase in families registering for our program. Also, there is an increase in families needing support either with food, baby supplies, mental health and housing etc.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

- Life Long Care
- Healing and Wellness
- Ottawa Story Tellers
- Ottawa Public Health
- Akwe:go
- Wasa-nabin
- Children's Aid Society (CAS)

## Success Story:

A father, whom we supported, was in the process of regaining sole custody of his child. We worked closely with the CAS Indigenous pod to provide support and the father now has full custody and has his own apartment. He continues to access services and enjoys coming to all the programs and activities we provide.



### Key Highlights of Program:

- Fall Feast.
- A new mother had her baby in a teepee and I was her birthing doula, and it was an amazing experience.
- Annual Children & Youth Pow Wow, after 3 years of COVID-19 restrictions.
- In partnership with our Family Support Program, we collaborated to host a baby welcoming ceremony for the Children & Youth Pow Wow. There was an overwhelming response and it was greatly appreciated by the parents, and well received by the community.

### Statistics:

Families:	35
Single parent families:	22
New births:	4
Children 0-6yrs old:	47
Active families:	20
New families:	14
Food/baby supplies:	171
Cultural activities/crafts:	24
Phone/email/home visit supports:	183





# Intergenerational Trauma

Donna Hester, Intergenerational Trauma Manager

## Program Description:

The Intergenerational Trauma Program was developed by the OFIFC with funding from the Ministry of Indigenous Affairs Ontario to meet the mental health and wellness needs of urban Indigenous community members.

The Program provides culture-based mental health services to all self-identifying urban Indigenous community members of all ages, in recognition of the ongoing and intergenerational traumas carried by Indigenous communities as a result of the attempted genocide of the Indian Residential School system. The Program supports individuals and families to recognize and address traumas and associated mental health and/or substance abuse concerns towards the achievement of a Good Mind.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

In-person programming was done safely following COVID-19 procedures. Virtual work made it possible to deliver some programming such as Educational activities. Incorporating the Ministry of Education's pedagogy 'How Learning Happens'.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

- Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est (CECCE)
- Ottawa French Public School Board
- 215 I Wanna Come Home
- First Nations Child & Caring Society
- Children's Aid Society of Ottawa
- RCMP Indigenous Relations and Diversity
- City of Ottawa
- Ottawa-Carlton Detention Centre
- Ottawa Public Health
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Mādahòki Farm – Indigenous Experiences
- CHEO
- Safeguards Training, Christine Rego – Fleming College,
- Waabishka Miigwan Consulting
- Life Long Care
- Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition
- Algonquin College

## Success Story:

Through community engagement and educational activities, we have developed key partnerships and invested allies in working collaboratively towards supporting the mental health and well-being of Indigenous people in the Ottawa community. This program has created safe spaces for Indigenous people to open up dialogue on trauma and subsequently support healing.

## Key Highlights of Program:

- Professional Development: Creating opportunities for learning and understanding the impacts of Intergenerational Trauma for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

## Statistics:

Public Education Activities:	17
Public Education Participants:	744
Traditional or Land-Based Activities:	11



# Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin

Kimble Chartrand, Kizhaay Coordinator

## Program Description:

Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin is a culturally relevant program that supports and promotes healthy relationships, healthy Indigenous identities through one-to-one supports, group-based activities, public awareness, networking and partnership building.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

We still held virtual programming for a bit to help ease the men back into in-person, this was done by some attending in-person and some virtual, but we also held some one-on-one in-person sessions.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

- Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
- Wasa-Nabin
- William E. Hayes Centre
- Children's Aid Society

## Success Story:

A man who had completed the Kizhaay program was able to attain housing and a job which eventually led to him to be reunited with his kids and is able to have them on a weekly basis. He still receives supports from Kizhaay with weekly check-ins.

## Key Highlights of Program:

- One-to-one supports
- Completed four 12-week sessions
- Held one Rite of Passage ceremony (virtually)
- Got men involved in community events (Pow Wow, fire keeping)

## Statistics:

Completed 20 new intakes, supporting past participants.



# Life Long Care

Tina Ohlman, LLC Administrator and  
Simone Charette, LLC Coordinator

## Program Description:

The Life Long Care Program (LLC) is a culture-based wholistic program that services urban Indigenous community members, living with chronic illness (mental/physical), disabilities, cognitive impairments, and/or are frail/Elderly. Program workers engage and support participants one-on-one and within a group setting to promote and foster independence, healthy living, Indigenous spirituality, way of life, and healing.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

Mental Health and Addiction Services Ottawa (MHASO)– Series of workshops to improve seniors' mental health on topics such as emotional CPR, social isolation and addictions.

Council on Aging (COA)– Although already a partner over the years, Council on Aging via a grant from New Horizons, had laid out two (2) series of workshops, totaling 16, for clientele, covering several months, on important topics such as mental health, finances, frauds and scams, emergency preparedness, all topics to increase awareness and prepare clients for health crises.

Healthy Babies Healthy Children, Family Support - We will be joining programs monthly so our seniors have the opportunity to interact with young parents as well as little ones under 6. We meet around 10am for snacks and a craft followed by lunch.

Rideau Rockcliffe Community Centre (Seniors Program) – We are currently partnering with them on Fridays offering a fitness program. They provide a Tai Chi instructor one week and Odawa provides our Healthy Living Coordinator the alternate week to do a seniors group fitness workout.

Healthy Living Program – They are currently running a senior's exercise program every other Friday from 10 - 10:45 am.

## Success Story:

One of our new young participants found it hard to get out of the house due to her mobility issues and low self-esteem. After attending a workshop, she met new people and decided to join our fitness group then our Congregate Dining. She is now feeling better and enjoys coming out to both fitness classes and congregate dining.



## Key Highlights of Program:

- Weekly Congregate Dining - group gets opportunities to socialize, gain cultural knowledge through sharing, presentations and crafts, share a healthy meal and enjoy Bingo.
- Information Workshops – 3 series of workshops provided by partners MHASO and COA.
- Nutrition Support – help people with food bank and top up with special dietary needs  
i.e. Ensure.
- Transportation – help support people to get to medical appointments, treatments, social services and congregate dining.
- Medical supplies – provided people with toilet seat risers, hand rails, walkers, wheelchairs, canes.
- Friendly Visits – in-person, going out in public, in-office visits.
- Visit to Mādahòkì Farm – Indigenous Experiences hosted a campfire, Indigenous meal and workshops.
- Sugar Shack Visit – 25 participants out to a pancake brunch.
- Fitness Class – we offered a weekly fitness class for Seniors or those with mobility issues.
- Quarterly Lunch with Alternative Secondary School Program students – Our LLC group enjoyed being around the youth to share their knowledge as well as learn from the youth.
- Birch Bark Basket Making workshop
- Christmas Feast



## Statistics:

As of March 31, 2023, we had 26 active clients and 6 new intakes were complete.

Congregate Dining: 600 yearly to 40 different clients.

Transportation: 500 yearly, mostly via bus and Uber.

Friendly visiting: 500 yearly.

Indigenous support: 100 hours towards purchasing supplies, form-filling with clients, giving out information.



# Reaching Home

Carrie Diabo, Reaching Home Manager

## Program Description:

Reaching Home provides non-Housing First Support Services to the Indigenous homeless or at risk of homelessness.

## How you adjusted to POST COVID-19 in-person programming:

Reaching Home Program services are limited during the construction phase at 510 Rideau Street. The Bannock Bus Outreach continues to check in with vulnerable clients, provide services to ensure food security, are staying healthy, advocacy, housing support, referrals to services, clothing, Respite Centres information and resources, and support in times of crisis.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

- Carleton University
- Algonquin College
- Ottawa Public Library
- Ottawa Sexual Health Centre
- Alliance to End Homelessness
- Barrhaven United Church
- Ukrainian Orthodox Church
- Agilec Ottawa Employment Services
- Tommy Hilfiger Stores
- Ilinniapii Skills Development
- City of Ottawa
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit
- Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
- City of Ottawa Outreach Coalition
- Shoebox Project
- Ottawa Community Legal Clinics
- University of Ottawa Legal Clinic
- Starbucks
- Ticket Defense Program
- Globe and Mail; and many more

## Success Story:

- Work contract extended: 1
- Worker hired through SSRF obtains permanent employment: 1
- Student placement through Agilec Employment Services: 1
- 2 clients enroll in College program, 1 completes program
- 4 clients complete treatment program, 1 actively seeking employment

## Key Highlights of Program:

- Funding received from Employment and Social Development through OFIFC, to complete major renovations on 510 Rideau Street building, and purchase a new outreach vehicle.
- Construction contract awarded to Ottawa General Contractors.
- September 2022 Reaching Home Program temporarily relocated until renovations are completed.
- 510 Rideau construction completion date estimated June 2023.

**Statistics:** 526 individuals received at least 1 service

Meals served	10,940
Clothing/hygiene	505
1 on 1/peer support/Follow Ups	2290
Mail	92
Food Cards/Snacks	222
Smudge Kits	13
Housing Support	289
Backpacks	19
Pet Food/Supplies	38
Income Support	63
Rotel/Motel Meal delivery	20
Advocacy	577
Laundry	53
Shower	49
I.D. Assistance	36
PPE	5255
Flu/Vaccine	6
Phone/charge	175
Crisis	26
Food referrals	2084
Housing supplies	71
Food Bank delivered	223
Harm Reduction (bags of 5 cigarettes)	3653
Washroom	527
Bus Vouchers	168
Sleeping Bags	4
Referrals to different services	333
Emergency computer access	13
Hospitalized	11
Positive Change	59
Missing persons	12
Calls/texts for food	2941

Special acknowledgement for the 21 clients who have passed on from 2022 - 2023



# Sweetgrass Childcare Agency

Rhonda Hoskins, Sweetgrass Manager and Tracy Scharf, Sweetgrass Administrator

## Program Description:

Sweetgrass contracts individual Childcare Providers to provide care in their own homes for children ages 4 months to 12 years old. Children are provided with food, play, and developmentally appropriate learning activities.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

Working virtually made it possible to communicate with caregivers to address their questions or concerns and maintain relationships with parents and providers. Initially, children were noticeably hesitant to be social with other children who were not in the same Home Daycare Program, for example, EarlyOn Playgroup. The children adapted quickly, and are thriving.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

- Indigenous Early Years Circle: A monthly meeting of all agencies to support Ottawa's 0-6 Indigenous children.
- Indigenous EarlyOn: Twice weekly, Sweetgrass Caregivers attend a playgroup with the children in their care facilitated by EarlyOn Educators.
- Sweetgrass Home Childcare is a member in good standing of the Home Childcare Association of Ontario.
- Sweetgrass attends and contributes to monthly managers' meetings with all City Funded Home Childcare programs

## Success Story:

While members of the Indigenous Early Years Circle have many goals, one of our post-COVID-19 wishes was to meet in-person. Despite a heavy focus on navigating through the new Canada-Wide Early Learning Child Care System (CWELCC) in our virtual meetings, we were able to get together as a group to attend land-based training at Mādahòkì Farm, such as gathering together to learn more about Inuit, First Nations, and Métis culture and pedagogies was an amazing experience. We plan to have additional events in the future. However, in the meantime, we will continue to network and share resources and curriculum strategies.

## Key Highlights of Program:

Support for Sweetgrass caregivers

- Open-ended playgroups
- Professional Development grounded in Early Learning Frameworks



# Wasa-Nabin

Billy Parrell, Wasa-Nabin Coordinator

## Program Description:

Wasa-Nabin is a program for at-risk youth ages 13-18 that provides support and tools within a cultural framework to foster the ability to make healthy choices, as well as to provide healthy activities for clients and participants. The program provides individualized goals to enhance the child or youth's area of need; supporting social skills, educational intervention, individuals with disabilities, violence prevention, justice supports, children in care or at risk of being in the care of the Children's Aid Society, 2SLGBTQ+ supports, and positive nutrition and physical activity practices. The Wasa-Nabin program provides a space where urban Indigenous children and youth can feel safe to be themselves and accepted.

## What was the outcome of coming out of COVID-19:

Youth are happy to be able to gather in person. There is still some desire to have optional online programming. Some people enjoyed being able to participate in activities from home when they weren't able to attend in person. Offering both in-person and virtual activities will be considered moving forward.

## Partnerships you've fostered:

Youth 4 Youth Canada  
William E. Hay Centre  
Nepean Sailing Club  
Gloucester Lacrosse Association

Social Harvest  
Incubator13  
Kagita Mikam

## Success Story:

Hosting a youth drop-in has been successful in offering a sober gathering for young people to socialize, participate in an art activity or finish homework, and to share a meal. We have listened to music, learned how to bead, and had sharing circles. They have built rapport with each other and fostered a safer space to be themselves.

Additionally, weekly visits to William E. Hay Centre in partnership with Kizhaay and Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health staff has provided the youth, involved in the justice system, an opportunity to learn about what Indigenous identity means to them and the programs available in the city upon release. We have provided time for vulnerability and healing during sharing circles. Together we have taught the youth how to make dreamcatchers.

## Key Highlights of Program:

- Youth Drop-In Social and Craft Night
- Weekly visits to William E. Hay Centre
- Sharing circle with students in the public school board
- Crisis supports and counselling
- Healthy meals and snacks

## Statistics:

Total number of registered clients: 40  
Number of 2SLGBTQ+: 8  
Young men: 10  
Young women: 22





To the directors of

**ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE**

*Qualified Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of Odawa Native Friendship Centre (the Organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2023, and the statements of changes in net assets, operations, and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Organization as at March 31, 2023 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Basis for Qualified Opinion*

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Organization derives revenue from fundraising and donation activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Organization. Therefore, we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to donations or fundraising revenues, net revenue, and cash flows from operations for the years ended March 31, 2023 and 2022, current assets as at March 31, 2023 and 2022, and net assets as at April 1 and March 31 for both the 2023 and 2022 fiscal years. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2022 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation in scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

*Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization's financial reporting process.



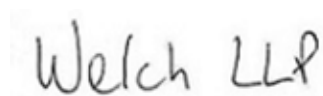
### *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

Ottawa, Ontario  
September 12, 2023.

**ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
MARCH 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b><u>ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 1,157,615	\$ 786,064
Accounts receivable	905,817	576,728
Government rebates receivable	203,107	59,258
Prepaid expenses	<u>52,820</u>	<u>33,163</u>
	2,319,359	1,455,213
<b>CAPITAL ASSETS - note 3</b>	3,247,806	2,167,128
<b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND - note 4</b>	<u>734</u>	<u>734</u>
	<u>\$ 5,567,899</u>	<u>\$ 3,623,075</u>
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u></b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 1,514,956	\$ 791,797
Deferred revenue - note 6	<u>488,493</u>	<u>585,706</u>
	2,003,449	1,377,503
<b>DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS - note 7</b>	3,168,245	1,981,061
<b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND - DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS - note 4</b>	<u>734</u>	<u>734</u>
	<u>5,172,428</u>	<u>3,359,298</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in capital assets - note 8	79,561	186,067
Unrestricted	<u>315,910</u>	<u>77,710</u>
	<u>395,471</u>	<u>263,777</u>
	<u>\$ 5,567,899</u>	<u>\$ 3,623,075</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board of Directors:

 ..... Director

 ..... Director

**ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023**

	Invested in capital assets	<u>Unrestricted</u>	Total <u>2023</u>	Total <u>2022</u>
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 186,067	\$ 77,710	\$ 263,777	\$ 204,713
Net revenue (expense)	<u>(106,506)</u>	<u>238,200</u>	<u>131,694</u>	<u>59,064</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>\$ 79,561</u>	<u>\$ 315,910</u>	<u>\$ 395,471</u>	<u>\$ 263,777</u>

**ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE**  
**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres	\$ 1,982,743	\$ 1,295,677
City of Ottawa	1,322,710	1,297,603
Ontario Trillium Foundation	144,125	-
Donations	122,471	218,506
Ottawa Aboriginal Council	104,533	68,450
Public Health Agency of Canada	86,319	68,905
Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario	71,406	81,152
Rental	70,323	32,385
Employment and Social Development Canada	50,405	-
Fundraising	44,652	2,790
Interest	25,760	4,624
Wage subsidies	25,019	33,993
Fees	24,606	33,115
National Indian Brotherhood	19,981	52,567
Other	4,218	13,917
Public Safety Canada	-	121,858
	<u>4,099,271</u>	<u>3,325,542</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and benefits	2,111,710	1,953,989
Program supplies	719,749	501,875
Rent	353,472	173,383
Childcare providers	284,433	285,596
Office and administration	90,331	30,658
Contracted services	98,282	88,440
Insurance	57,021	35,543
Transportation	46,665	32,092
Professional fees	46,634	48,874
Telephone and internet	20,697	26,721
Honorariums	12,300	18,447
Utilities	11,402	4,642
Repairs and maintenance	8,375	4,838
	<u>3,861,071</u>	<u>3,205,098</u>
<b>NET REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS</b>	238,200	120,444
Amortization of capital assets	(418,568)	(417,260)
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	<u>312,062</u>	<u>355,880</u>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<u>\$ 131,694</u>	<u>\$ 59,064</u>

**ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE**  
**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023**

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM (USED IN):</b>		
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net revenue	\$ 131,694	\$ 59,064
Adjustments for:		
Amortization of capital assets	418,568	417,260
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	<u>(312,062)</u>	<u>(355,880)</u>
	238,200	120,444
Changes in non-cash operating working capital balances:		
Accounts receivable	(329,089)	(60,859)
Government rebates receivable	(143,849)	4,526
Prepaid expenses	(19,657)	(15,628)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	723,159	(86,154)
Deferred revenue	<u>(97,213)</u>	<u>256,167</u>
	<u>371,551</u>	<u>218,496</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Additions to capital assets	(1,499,246)	(495,427)
Contributions related to capital assets	<u>1,499,246</u>	<u>495,427</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>INCREASE IN CASH</b>	371,551	218,496
<b>CASH AT BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<u>786,064</u>	<u>567,568</u>
<b>CASH AT END OF YEAR</b>	<u>\$ 1,157,615</u>	<u>\$ 786,064</u>



## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2023

### 1. NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

Odawa Native Friendship Centre is incorporated, without share capital by Letters Patent, under the *Corporations Act of Ontario* as a not-for-profit organization. The Organization is a registered charity under the *Income Tax Act (Canada)* and is exempt from income taxes.

The purpose of the Organization is to act as a cultural and resource centre, serving the Aboriginal community in the Ottawa-Carleton Region of Eastern Ontario and surrounding communities.

The Organization is a member of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC), a provincial Aboriginal organization representing the collective interests of member Friendship Centres located in towns and cities across the province. A significant portion of the Organization's funding is received from OFIFC.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### *Basis of accounting*

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

#### *Use of estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates. These estimates are reviewed periodically and as adjustments become necessary, they are recognized in the financial statements in the period they become known.

Management makes accounting estimates in determining collectability of accounts receivable, in establishing the useful lives and related amortization of capital assets as well as the related amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets, in estimating provisions for accrued liabilities, and in estimating the portion of government grants and subsidies earned. By their nature, these estimates are subject to uncertainty and the impact on the financial statements in the current and future periods could be material.

#### *Financial instruments*

The Organization initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value. Subsequently the Organization measures its cash at fair value and all other financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost at the date of the Statement of Financial Position.

#### *Capital assets*

Capital asset purchases are recorded at cost. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution. Amortization is provided over the assets' estimated useful lives at the following methods and annual rates:

	<u>Method</u>	<u>Rates</u>
Building	Declining balance	4%
Vehicle	Declining balance	30%
Furniture and equipment	Declining balance	20%
Computer equipment	Declining balance	30%
Leasehold improvements	Straight-line	5 years

Additions in the year are amortized at one-half of the annual rates.

## 2. **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES** - Cont'd.

### *Contributed goods and services*

Volunteers contribute a significant amount of time each year to assist the Organization in carrying out its service delivery activities. Contributed goods and services which are used in the normal course of the Organization's operations and would otherwise have been purchased are recorded at their fair value at the date of contribution if fair value can be reasonably estimated.

### *Revenue recognition*

The Organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when they are received or receivable if the amount receivable can be reasonably estimated and its collection is reasonably assured.

Certain program contributions are subject to agreed terms and conditions regarding their expenditure, and are also subject to funding agency, or department, audit examination. Accordingly, adjustments may be made to amounts originally received, with consequent effect on net revenues, or expenses, in a year in which such examination is completed.

Fees for services are recognized in operations as revenue when the related service is provided to the extent that collection is reasonably assured.

Rental revenues are recognized in accordance with the dates and terms of the respective agreements.

Sponsorship and fundraising for specific events are recognized as revenue when the event takes place. Other sponsorships and fundraising which are unrestricted are recognized as revenue on the same basis as previously described for unrestricted contributions.

### *Deferred contributions related to capital assets*

Contributed capital assets and restricted contributions for the purchase of capital assets that are amortized, are deferred and recognized as revenue on the same basis as the amortization expense related to the acquired capital assets. Contributed capital assets and restricted contributions for the purchase of capital assets that are not amortized, such as land, are recognized as direct increases in net assets.

### *Net assets invested in capital assets*

Net assets invested in capital assets represents amounts internally restricted by the Organization and comprises the net book value of the Organization's capital assets less the unamortized balance, if any, of capital grants used to acquire capital assets, being the balance of deferred contributions related to capital assets that are subject to amortization.

### 3. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets consist of the following:

	2023		2022	
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated amortization</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated amortization</u>
Land	\$ 70,392	\$ -	\$ 70,392	\$ -
Building	1,612,722	262,665	804,161	243,977
Vehicle	349,369	258,155	349,369	219,064
Furniture and equipment	380,824	238,306	380,824	202,676
Computer equipment	157,282	110,416	157,282	90,331
Leasehold improvements	<u>2,286,911</u>	<u>740,152</u>	<u>1,596,226</u>	<u>435,078</u>
	4,857,500	\$ 1,609,694	3,358,254	\$ 1,191,126
Less: accumulated amortization	<u>(1,609,694)</u>		<u>(1,191,126)</u>	
	<u>\$ 3,247,806</u>		<u>\$ 2,167,128</u>	

Included in building and leasehold improvements are \$901,535 and \$761,540 respectively of additions for construction projects that were in progress but were not completed during the fiscal year. These additions will be amortized in accordance with the amortization policy of the underlying assets once construction is completed and the assets are put into use.

### 4. SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Scholarship Fund is an externally restricted fund to be used for scholarships. During the year there were scholarships awarded of \$nil (2022 - \$nil). There were no additional restricted funds received for the purpose of scholarships.

### 5. BANK CREDIT FACILITIES

The Organization has a line of credit with a Canadian chartered bank in the amount of \$125,000. This line of credit bears an interest rate of bank prime + 1.9%. It is due on demand and is secured by a general security agreement. At March 31, 2023, no amount was drawn on this credit facility (2022 - \$nil).

The Organization has four corporate credit cards with a total maximum combined credit limit of \$100,000 (and an interest rate of 19.99%). At year-end, there was a balance payable of \$19,734 (2022 - balance refundable of \$16,362) which is included on the Statement of Financial Position within accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The Organization pays off its credit card balances prior to the due date each month.

### 6. DEFERRED REVENUE

Deferred revenue is comprised of the following amounts related to the funding received for designated programs:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 585,706	\$ 329,539
Contributions received in the year	3,364,951	3,718,914
Less amounts recognized as revenue, transferred to deferred contributions or repayable to funders	<u>(3,462,164)</u>	<u>(3,462,747)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>\$ 488,493</u>	<u>\$ 585,706</u>

## 7. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS

Deferred contributions related to capital assets represents contributed capital assets and contributions that were used to acquire capital assets which are or have been amortized. The changes in the deferred contributions related to capital assets are as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 1,981,061	\$ 1,841,514
Plus: contributions received during the year	1,499,246	495,427
Less: amounts amortized to operations for the year	<u>(312,062)</u>	<u>(355,880)</u>
Balance at end of year	<u>\$ 3,168,245</u>	<u>\$ 1,981,061</u>

The balance of these contributions are related to the following capital assets:

Leasehold improvements	\$ 1,656,379	\$ 1,189,402
Building	1,304,776	513,017
Furniture and equipment	96,333	120,417
Vehicle	74,733	106,762
Computer equipment	<u>36,024</u>	<u>51,463</u>
	<u>\$ 3,168,245</u>	<u>\$ 1,981,061</u>

## 8. NET ASSETS INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS

Net assets invested in capital assets represent amounts internally restricted by the Organization and comprises the net book value of the Organization's capital assets less the unamortized balance of contributions used to acquire capital assets that are subject to amortization.

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Capital assets - net book value - note 3	\$ 3,247,806	\$ 2,167,128
Less: Deferred contributions related to capital assets - subject to amortization - note 7	<u>(3,168,245)</u>	<u>(1,981,061)</u>
	<u>\$ 79,561</u>	<u>\$ 186,067</u>

## 9. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Organization is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments. The following analysis provides a measure of the Organization's risk exposure and concentrations as at March 31, 2023.

### *Credit risk*

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Organization's maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the sum of the carrying value of its cash and accounts receivable.

The Organization's cash is on deposit with a Canadian chartered bank and therefore management believes the risk of loss is remote.

The Organization's exposure to credit risk on its accounts receivable is reduced by the fact that most of its accounts receivable are supported by signed agreements. Management believes that all accounts receivable at year-end will be collected and has not deemed it necessary to establish an allowance for doubtful accounts.

## 9. **FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS** - Cont'd.

### *Liquidity risk*

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Organization will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Organization is exposed to this risk mainly in respect of the timing of receipt of the accounts receivable and the required timing of payment of accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The Organization is exposed to liquidity risk and it manages this risk by preparing and monitoring forecasts of cash flow from operations.

### *Market risk*

Market risk is the risk that the fair or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk is comprised of currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk.

#### i) *Currency risk*

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate relative to the Canadian dollar due to changes in foreign exchange rates.

Substantially all of the Organization's transactions are in Canadian dollars and as a result the Organization is not subject to significant currency risk.

#### ii) *Interest rate risk*

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with the instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates.

The Organization has an operating line of credit, as set out in note 5 to these financial statements. Consequently, the Organization is exposed to interest rate fluctuations on this financial instrument.

#### iii) *Other price risk*

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market.

The Organization is not exposed to other price risk.

### *Changes in risk*

There have been no significant changes in the Organization's risk exposures from the prior year.

## 10. **COMMITMENTS**

The Organization has a single year lease agreement for its office and program facilities, with an initial term that ends in September 2023. The agreement also includes two single year renewal options, granting the Organization the ability to extend the term up until September 2025. Upon completion of this agreement, the Organization intends to enter into negotiations with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to sign a long-term extension of the lease agreement at its current premises.

In addition to the construction costs incurred and capitalized prior to the organization's year-end as disclosed in note 3, the Organization has further committed to the completion of the construction at both 815 St. Laurent Boulevard and at 510 Rideau Street to expand service offerings and building accessibility.

## 11. **ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE**

The Organization receives 48% (2022 - 39%) of its revenues from the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres and 32% (2022 - 39%) of its revenues from the City of Ottawa. The Organization's ability to continue to offer services at its current levels is dependent upon these funding arrangements remaining in effect.





# Odawa Native Friendship Centre



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