



**OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION**  
Urban Aboriginal Strategy  
**STEERING COMMITTEE**

*hosts the*

**ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FORUM**

*Thursday, December 13, 2012*

*Funded by:*

**Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and  
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs**



Urban Aboriginal Strategy  
**STEERING COMMITTEE**

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396 MacLaren Street  
Ottawa, ON K2P 0M8

December 13, 2012

Dear Elders, Community Members, Partners and Friends:

On behalf of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) and the UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee, I am pleased to welcome you to this Aboriginal Community Forum. I hope that you enjoy this evening and participate fully in the discussions that we will have, as we want to get your input as we move forward.

The OAC and UAS in Ottawa continues to be a very positive force for collaboration and relationship building both critical pieces in developing the potential of community and more importantly, in providing positive choice for our children and youth.

The federal budget announcement in March of this year of the renewal of the UAS mandate for another two years was welcomed news and we remain hopeful that the evolution of the Strategy will result in the continuation beyond 2014.

The OAC and UAS have remained very active in the past seven months including:

- Completion of year-end reporting for all 2011-12 UAS activities.
- Completion of 2012-13/2013-14 Capacity Building Application to AANDC.
- Completion of 2012-13 Capacity Building Application to Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (province).
- Completion of work plans associated to both funders and tied to the Community Strategic Plan developed under the UAS.
- Working with the City to coordinate Aboriginal participation in the City's emergency preparedness process, where applicable.
- Establishment and implementation of an Aboriginal Education Committee (AEC) that is working with Ottawa area school boards.
- Coordination and participation in an Aboriginal Awareness Day with the City of Ottawa, that included the renewal of an annual proclamation from Mayor and Council regarding National Aboriginal Day. The day also included cross-cultural activities and discussion workshops on Aboriginal issues with over 200 City staff member and Aboriginal community members.

- Preparation and coordination in the 2012-13 Community Investment Funds – Call for Proposals.
- On-going planning for UAS Steering Committee activities and community forum(s).
- Undertaking an evaluation of the Municipal-Aboriginal relationship.
- Draft paper on Sustainability.
- Actively seeking new relationships and funding opportunities.

We are currently working with our federal partners through the UAS National Caucus to assist in raising the profile of the UAS and build support for ongoing and enhanced resources for the Strategy.

Other areas of interest also include:

- Working out an effective and streamlined administrative process.
- Provincial and municipal roles in the UAS moving forward.
- Role of the Friendship Centres in the UAS.
- Establishing a stronger linkage with HRSDC's ASET holders to support employment-related opportunities.
- Departmental leadership of the UAS at headquarters and at the national level.
- Maintaining national cohesion of UAS lead sites (i.e. role of National Caucus, National Leadership and Learning events, etc.)
- If the mandate of the UAS is to be changed, to work in partnership with all current stakeholders to shape a strategy that best serves the Aboriginal community.

We do appreciate the efforts of AANDC officials to put in place a two year Contribution Agreement for the Capacity Building funding. This will further stabilize our local administration and outreach efforts as we continue to build relationships and seek collaborative opportunities.

On behalf of all the members and partners of the OAC and the UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee, I would like to extend our best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season, and a bright and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully,



Marc Wm. Maracle, Chair  
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition  
UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee





December 2012

**Message from Steve Kanellakos, Deputy City Manager, City Operations, City of Ottawa**

On behalf of the City of Ottawa, I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Aboriginal Community Forum.

The City of Ottawa is committed to working together with our Aboriginal partners as we build and strengthen relationships, improve the delivery of City services, and strive to be more inclusive and responsive to the needs of the Aboriginal Community.

As a result of this commitment, the City's relationship with its Aboriginal partners is considered a best practice in Canada and it is a partnership that is very important to us as an example of what we can accomplish when we listen to the community we serve.

There are many examples of this partnership including the Aboriginal Working Committee, a collaborative partnership model which has led us through a journey of mutual trust building, reflection, information sharing, inclusive decision-making and action. It brings together senior officials from key City Departments and diverse service areas and Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition community leaders to move forward collectively on a responsive and effective action plan to improve service delivery to the Aboriginal Community.

The City of Ottawa's Aboriginal Awareness Day raises awareness about the contributions and issues facing the Aboriginal Community and showcases the significant accomplishments of the relationship with our Aboriginal partners. As well, we honour the Aboriginal community with the Mayor's Proclamation of National Aboriginal Day which is presented to our Aboriginal partners of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition.

We recognize the importance of the UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee which has been instrumental in forging new partnerships and strengthening existing ones between Aboriginal communities, three levels of government and the private sector.

The City of Ottawa continues to review our goals in relation to the priorities of the Aboriginal Community and we are constantly adapting to make our relationships sustainable over the long term.

I wish you an enjoyable and successful forum and would like to extend best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Steve Kanellakos'.

Steve Kanellakos  
Deputy City Manager

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City Operations  
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## **OAC/UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FORUM**

*Thursday, December 13, 2012*

# **AGENDA**

5:30 p.m.

Blessing of the Feast

Christmas Feast

6:00 p.m.

Opening Song: Elaine and Theland Kicknosway

Opening Prayer: Elders – Jim Albert, Sally Webster,  
Jo MacQuarrie

Welcoming Remarks:  
Marc Maracle, Chair, Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition  
UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee

6:30 p.m.

What do we want for our Children?  
(Breakout Groups and Plenary)

7:30 p.m.

Christmas Celebration

8:00 p.m.

Closing Song: Elaine and Theland Kicknosway

Closing Prayer: Elders



## OTTAWA ABORIGINAL OVERVIEW

### OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC)

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) was formed in 2001 as a means of presenting a unified voice on behalf of the Aboriginal community. The Coalition is an alliance of Aboriginal delivery organizations that provide front-line programs and services to Aboriginal people living in the National Capital Region (NRC). The current membership of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition includes, Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Odawa Native Friendship Centre, Tewegan Transition House, Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre and the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health as well as a representative of the Ottawa Métis community.

The OAC advocates at the community, municipal, provincial and federal levels and seeks to educate and raise awareness on Aboriginal issues and the unique circumstances of Aboriginal people and their interests in Ottawa. Ultimately we seek to increase the positive and healthy choices available to Aboriginal 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.

In 2007, Ottawa was added as one of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy's Priority Urban Centres. Since that time, the OAC has been mobilizing the Ottawa Aboriginal community around UAS priorities. In December 2008, the UAS - Ottawa Steering Committee was established and is responsible for overseeing the Urban Aboriginal Strategy in Ottawa.

### Vision Statement of the UAS - Ottawa Steering Committee

- To support a self-reliant<sup>1</sup>, culturally engaged, healthy urban Aboriginal community in Ottawa.

<sup>1</sup> Self-reliant refers to Aboriginal people accepting responsibility for their actions, identifying opportunities and addressing challenges.



### **Mission Statement of the UAS - Ottawa Steering Committee**

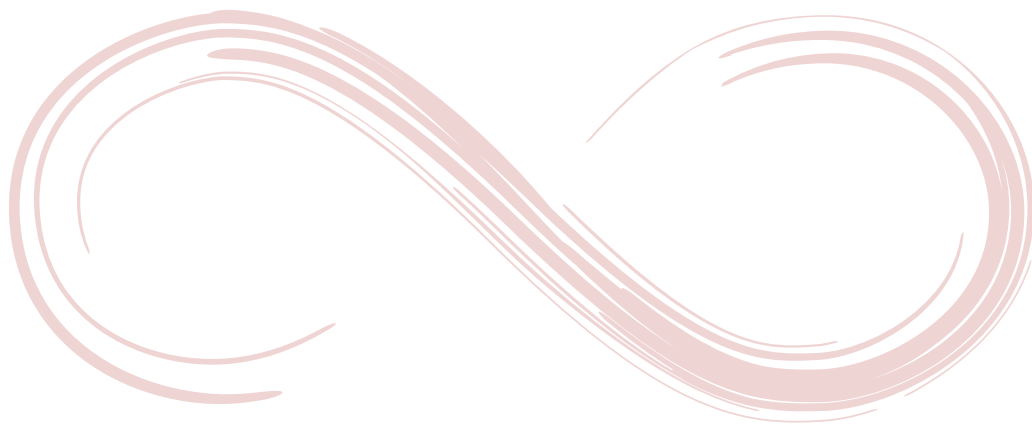
- To provide a community based process for ongoing discussion through collaboration and coordinated, informed action on urban Aboriginal issues in the City of Ottawa.

### **Guiding Principles of the UAS - Ottawa Steering Committee**

- To utilize a holistic framework that acknowledges the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of all stages of the life cycle.
- To respect and acknowledge Aboriginal cultural values and practices.
- To recognize the value of capacity building at all levels and amongst all participants.
- To ensure transparency and accountability in our consultation and engagement.
- To foster and maintain respectful relationships and partnerships.

### **Current Membership of the UAS – Ottawa Steering Committee**

- Seven members representing Aboriginal organizations in Ottawa (Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Kagita Mikam, Makonsag Head Start, Odawa Native Friendship Centre, Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre, Tewegan Transition House and the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health);
- Three members at large representing the Ottawa Aboriginal community – a youth member, an aboriginal business stakeholder and a representative from the Métis community;
- Three members representing government – municipal, provincial and federal;
- An Elder.



# OAC COMMUNITY WORKPLAN/CALENDAR

December, 2012 – March, 2013

CATEGORY	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Meetings	OAC Learning Circle (sustainability) December 14, 2012		OAC and UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee meeting Date - TBD	OAC meeting Date - TBD
Community Forums	OAC/UAS Community Forum December 13, 2012			Community Forum (AEC Community consultation) Date - TBD
Youth	Youth Coordinators Meeting Date - TBD	Youth Coordinators Meeting Date - TBD	Aboriginal Youth, Business Community Trades Fair & Summer Student Recruitment Date - TBD Elders/Youth Gathering Date - TBD	Youth Coordinators Meeting Date - TBD
Elders			Elders/Youth Gathering Date - TBD	
Community Investment Funds (CIF)			CIF Proposal	
MAA and AANDC Funding	Interim Report and Finances due December 31, 2012		Preparation of AANDC Proposal Preparation of MAA Proposal	

Aboriginal Education Committee (AEC)	Resource/Referral Cards	AEC meeting Date - TBD  OCDSB Lunch and Learn Date - TBD	AEC Meeting Date - TBD  Resource/Referral Cards	AEC meeting Date - TBD  Agency Tour Date - TBD  AEC Members Evaluation Date - TBD
UAS National Caucus				Meeting (?)
Communications	First draft of Communications Policy		Communications Policy  To be approved at OAC/UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee Meeting.	
Evaluation			Survey out to Members	Results of evaluation to the members.
Aboriginal Organizations AGMs and key community events	ODAWA Craft Fair December 1, 2012  Gignul AGM December 5, 2012  Makonsag AGM December 8, 2012  OICC Christmas Party December 8, 2012 Makonsag Winter Social/Feast December 14, 2012  Minwaashin Family Christmas December 15, 2012 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.		Grand Opening of the Wabano's new building.  Inuit Day February 9, 2012	March Break March 11 – 15, 2013  Minwaashin Mental Health Conference March 21 and 22, 2013  Children's Pow Wow March 23 and 24, 2013  Wabano Symposium "Culture as Treatment"  Makonsag Spring Equinox Social/Feast March 22, 2013
City of Ottawa Partnership Aboriginal Working Committee				
Community Consultations		Mental Health Consultation 2nd or 3rd week of January		

**URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY – OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES (Updated: December, 2012)**

<b>ORGANIZATION/DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>REPRESENTATIVES</b>	<b>ALTERNATES</b>
Chairpersons	Marc Maracle Jo MacQuarrie	
Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation	Jim Lanigan, President	Charlie Hill, Board Member
Kagita Mikam	Carolyn McDonald	
Makonsag Head Start	Catherine Macnab A/Executive Director	Anita Armstrong
Metis Community Representative	Currently Vacant	
Minwaashin Lodge	Castille Troy, Executive Director	Mary Daoust
Odawa Native Friendship Centre	John Henri Commanda, President Michael Lascelles, Executive Director	Delores Peltier, Board Member
Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre	Karen Baker-Anderson Executive Director	Lynda Brown Head Start Coordinator
Tewegan Transition House	Tina Slauenwhite, Executive Director	Carlie Chase, President
Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health	Allison Fisher, Executive Director	Carlie Chase Director of Initiatives
Youth Representative	Currently Vacant	
Business Representative	Currently vacant	
Federal Government – Office of the Federal Interlocutor	Karim Hajiani	
Provincial Government – Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs	Jessica Hill	Delaney Waddell
Municipal Government – City of Ottawa	Colleen Hendrick	Clara Freire, Manager
Elder(s)	Provided on rotational basis.	

## Aboriginal Organizations Updates



### GIGNUL NON-PROFIT HOUSING CORPORATION

#### OVERVIEW:

Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation is committed to a holistic and comprehensive approach to housing that includes both those Aboriginal people at risk of losing their housing, or those who are currently homeless.

Gignul, working in partnership with other Aboriginal organizations, focuses on both short and long term solutions, including supportive shelters to affordable, independent living.

#### NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Mike Assinewai – Maintenance Assistant  
Arnold Owl – Building Custodian  
John Russett, Tenant Relations Officer


#### NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

Our new building at 1043 Cummings has been operational for one year and has received many visits from people interested in our projects. The visitors have included officials from the Housing Branch of the City of Ottawa and CMHC officials and the Minister of Housing from Manitoba.

We are currently undertaking a Senior Assistance Living Development and Feasibility Study. A final report is expected in February 2013.

#### GIGNUL NON-PROFIT HOUSING'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC) AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE:

Madawan Management and Development Inc., a sister company of Gignul Non-Profit Housing, acts as the flow-through agency for the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition and UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee funding received by the provincial and federal governments.



Marc Maracle, Executive Director is the Chairperson of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition and the Co-Chair of the UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee. He was also recently appointed as Co-Chair of the UAS National Caucus.

In addition to the above voluntary commitments, Marc also is a member and Co-Chair of the City of Ottawa Aboriginal Working Committee.

Jim Lanigan, President, is Gignul's official representative on the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition and the UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee. He is also an active member of United Way's Successful Aging Committee.

### **AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OAC AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE GIGNUL NON-PROFIT HOUSING ENVISIONS:**

That Aboriginal issues will continue to be identified by community members and better addressed through relationships established through the OAC.

We look forward to receiving new feedback from community members at the Community Forum to help shape our work as a Coalition and with our other partners.







## **KAGITA MIKAM ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING**

### **OVERVIEW:**

Kagita Mikam Aboriginal Employment and Training provides services to Aboriginal peoples within Ottawa, the Ottawa Valley and Gatineau. The employment office provide full employment counselling for individuals as well as access to computers, a job board and community events board. First visit will be a meeting with the employment development officer to ensure resume is up to date, and to determine career goals. Kagita Mikam provides funding to support community members with training and employment goals.

### **NEW STAFF MEMBERS:**

Office of two full time staff.

Carolyn McDonald, Community Developer; [Carolyn@kagitamikam.org](mailto:Carolyn@kagitamikam.org)

Lydia Belanger, Employment Development Officer; [Lydia@kagitamikam.org](mailto:Lydia@kagitamikam.org)

### **NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:**

We relocated from Catherine Street, where we spent the last 12 years, to 456 McArthur Ave (near St. Laurent Blvd), plenty of visitor parking and on bus route #14.

### **KAGITA MIKAM'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC) AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE:**

Information sharing, promotion of services offered by other OAC members, promotion of job opportunities and training offered by other OAC members, client referrals to other member agencies, positive and proactive community involvement.

### **AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OAC AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE KAGITA MIKAM ENVISIONS:**

Kagita Mikam looks forward to a continued positive and progressive working relationship among OAC membership, community members and with the overall employment and training network across the city.



## MAKONSAG ABORIGINAL HEAD START

### OVERVIEW:

Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start offers a culturally-enriched environment for Aboriginal preschool children to socialize with peers and to learn through play.

Makonsag's early childhood program is fully licensed by the Ministry of Education to accommodate 20 children. The Head Start program is delivered by registered early childhood educators and offers a unique integration of early childhood education and traditional Aboriginal culture and practices. The Head Start program operates from Monday-Friday (8:00am-3:30pm).

Makonsag also offers an extended day for after school care until 5:30pm on a cost recovery basis.

### NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

*New staff at Makonsag this year:*

Catherine Macnab (Interim Executive Director; maternity replacement for Angela Bush)

Teresa Brynczka (Head Teacher; maternity replacement for Valerie Roque)

Kelly McQuarrie (Cook)

Rikki McDonald (Apprentice Child Development Practitioner)

*Longer serving staff:*

Anita Armstrong (Family Coordinator)

Blaine Wolfe (Early Childhood Educator)

Pauline McKay (Early Childhood Educator/apprentice)

Fern Chicquen (Maintenance/Custodian)

### NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

- New logo and website: [www.makonsag.ca](http://www.makonsag.ca)
- 15th anniversary reunion
- Enriched cultural curriculum
- Expanded to 5-day program

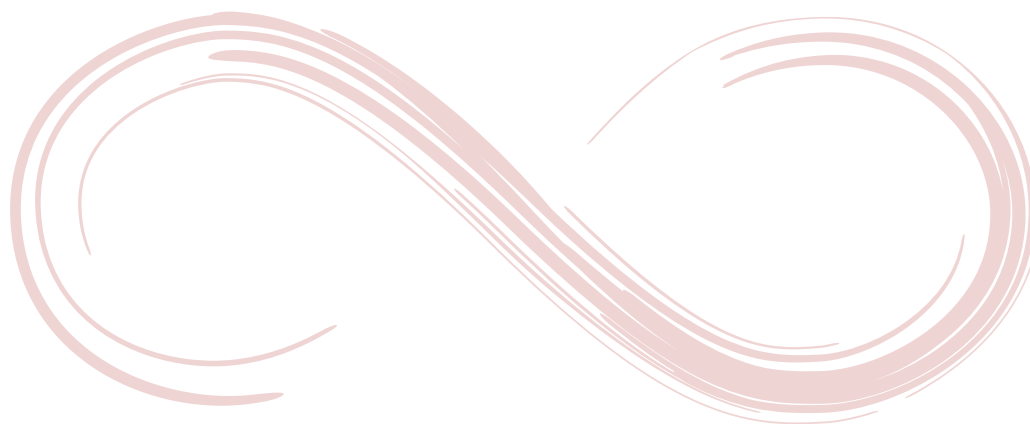
- Launch of extended day after school care
- Increased license to 20 children (maximum possible for current site)
- Launch of monthly Culture Nights (first Tuesday of every month)
- Offering Seasonal socials/feasts for the community
- Providing site for Children's Aid Supervised Group Access for Aboriginal families
- Inaugural Elders/knowledge keepers advisory meeting
- Proposal to National Capital Commission for site on Victoria Island

### **MAKONSAG'S - CONTRIBUTION TO THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC) AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE:**

- Participation at meetings
- Representing voice and interests of young children and their families
- Promoting OAC-UAS in other networks (e.g., Ottawa Best Start, Ontario Aboriginal Head Start Association)
- Contributing to city-wide programming

### **AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OAC AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE MAKONSAG ABORIGINAL HEAD START ENVISIONS:**

- Increasing community coordination and collaboration in the interest of young children and their families
- Increasing the visibility and accessibility of early childhood education and care for Aboriginal children
- Developing a full-service children's centre to increase support to Ottawa's Aboriginal families





## MINWAASHIN LODGE

### OVERVIEW:

Minwaashin Lodge - The Aboriginal Women's Support Centre - 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:

- A 21 bed shelter for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women and their children fleeing abusive life situations.
- Sacred Child Program (for preschoolers) with Family education and support.
- Spirit Movers and Fire Keepers Program (for youth).
- Counselling Services for women, youth and children (crisis and general counselling, sexual abuse, addictions, art therapy).
- Culture and Reclamation Program (ceremonies, traditional teachings, Elders' support - for all ages).
- Employment Programs - Employment Readiness, Courage to Soar, Apatisiwin (for all stages of work preparation, training and readiness).
- Advocacy, Family Support, Transitional Support, Housing Support, Street Outreach, Court Accompaniment.

### NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Vera Wabegijig - Cultural Program Assistant  
Avery Barnaby - Youth Worker  
Florence Hiltz - Sacred Child Program Assistant  
Victoria Desilets - Crisis Counsellor

## **NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:**

Karen Green, has stepped down as President of the Board, after 16 years of leadership in that role, but has agreed to continue as a member of the Executive. Her years of experience will prove invaluable as we transition to new leadership on the Board of Directors.

Our new executive was elected on November 14th, and is as follows:

Michelle Brass - President

Karen Green - Vice President

Maryanne Pearce - Treasurer

In October, 2012 we moved to a new facility which is wheelchair accessible, and which features additional space for programming and client participation. Our new address is 1155 Lola Street, off of Coventry Road.

We have entered into a partnership with Accenture, an international consulting firm, who have provided additional funds for our Employment Program, as well as volunteers from the local Accenture offices. This partnership was facilitated through the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition and United Way Ottawa.

## **MINWAASHIN LODGE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC) AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE:**

Minwaashin Lodge is an active sitting member of the OAC and the UAS, providing community collaboration and consultation, with a view to providing the best possible opportunities for the Aboriginal people of Ottawa. As a partner in the OAC and UAS, our expertise in the areas of violence against Aboriginal women and children, as well as our 19 years of service to the Aboriginal people of Ottawa provides an informed and experienced contribution to the valuable work of the OAC/UAS.

## **AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OAC AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE MINWAASHIN LODGE ENVISIONS:**

An overall better Ottawa for Aboriginal people, with good living, learning, and working opportunities, and with readily available programs and services that are culturally-based and represent the needs and wishes of the Aboriginal people of Ottawa.

I also envision a continued strengthening of the existing partnerships within the OAC / UAS, as well as a broadening of our membership and concurrent increase in representation and service to all First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples of Ottawa. I envision continued strong leadership from the many dedicated members on the OAC / UAS, as well as continued building and enhancement of partnership and participation with our many non-Aboriginal supporters.



## ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

### OVERVIEW

The Odawa Native Friendship Centre is a non-profit organization serving the Aboriginal community in the National Capital Region and surrounding communities.

The Odawa Native Friendship Centre opened its doors to the community in August 1975. The Aboriginal population has grown in the Ottawa community and we have expanded our services to meet their needs. We are an organization which offers various programs and services to people of all ages and where “Everyone Is Welcome”. For over three decades now, Odawa’s volunteers, Board of Directors, committee members and staff have worked diligently to ensure that we positively affect the quality of life for Aboriginal people in the National Capital Region.

A tradition of community, ethnic self-help and development, in addition to traditional teachings from our elders are important values, which we will continue to reinforce in the coming years.

**Culture:** Odawa Annual Pow-Wow held each May, Native Veteran’s Dinner, Traditional Drumming and Dancing, Dances, Socials and Family Events, Children’s Pow-Wow.

**Community Services:** Odawa Sweetgrass Home Childcare Agency, Youth Support, Family Support Service, Counselling Referrals, Culture Relations (Anti-Racism), Community Justice, Alcohol and Drug Counselling Referrals and an emergency food bank location.

**Sports & Recreation:** Odawa’s volleyball league, Jiu-Jitsu, Judo, Bowling, Annual Arts Auction, Volunteer Appreciation.

### NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Amanda Wong, Administrative Support.



## **NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS**

Odawa Native Friendship Centre has hosted a number of community events which included a Traditional Harvest Feast, the Annual Veteran's Feast, the 17th Annual Art Auction & Dinner and the Annual Arts & Crafts Sale.

### **ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC) AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE**

Odawa Native Friendship Centre is an original member of the OAC and the UAS-Ottawa steering Committee and is committed to enhancing the well-being of the Aboriginal Community in the NCR. Odawa has actively participated in the crafting of funding requests and has offered to be host organization for funding programs/projects through the OAC and UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee.

### **AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OAC AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE ODAWA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE ENVISIONS**

Odawa Native Friendship Centre will continue to participate in the OAC and the UAS-Ottawa Steering Committee to enhance the quality of life for the Aboriginal Community Members. Odawa will strive to offer programs and services which will allow the Center to be recognized as one of the Pillars in the Aboriginal Community.

Odawa believes the establishment of strong partnerships (both current and new) and "active" participation in the Aboriginal Community as the means of ensuring the continued needs and supports of the Aboriginal Community membership are identified and being addressed.



## OTTAWA INUIT CHILDREN'S CENTRE (OICC)

### OVERVIEW:

The Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre is a multi-service Inuit organization that provides cultural, educational, recreational and social support services to children, youth and families of Ottawa's growing Inuit community. The centre serves as an integrated hub of early years and youth services for Inuit families in Ottawa.

Mandate: to serve Inuit children and youth from birth to 13 years of age and their families.

Vision: Strong culture, strong families, strong community

Mission: In partnership with parents and the community the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre fosters strong and proud Inuit children, youth and families.

OICC programs support Inuit children, youth and their families by delivering services that are preventive in nature and that promote the health and well-being of the whole family. On a daily basis, OICC provides programming for approximately 90 Inuit children between 18 months and 13 years of age through the following programs and services:

- Sivummut Head Start
- Inuit Family Literacy Program
- Tukimut Afterschool Program
- Akwe:go
- Bridging the Gap
- Tumiralaat Child Care Centre
- Uqausivut Language Program
- I am Well Mental Health Program
- JK-SK Kindergarten in partnership with the Ottawa Carleton District School (OCDSB) Board

### NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Child and Youth Mental Health Worker – Tara Arnatsiaq-Barnes

Youth Coordinator – Rachel Quinn

Parent Support Worker- Selma Ford

## **NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Launch of I am Well program: individual supports for children, youth, parents; women's healing/sewing circle, Father's Group, Youth Take a Hike program
- Annual General Meeting – held October 24, 2012
- Youth Feasibility Study identifying the needs of Inuit youth 14 – 18 years of age; Youth Forum held in September 29, 2012 engaged youth to discuss needs. Will continue with parent focus groups, Elder focus group and more youth engagement.
- Submission of Collective OAC proposal to UAS.

## **OICC'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC) AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE:**

The OICC attends meetings on a regular bases and were actively involved in forming the Aboriginal Educational Committee. We collaborate with other members to ensure that the needs of the urban Inuit community are met. We submitted the joint UAC proposal this year and will act as the coordinating agency for that work.

## **AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OAC AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE THE OICC ENVISIONS:**

That the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre will continue to work with others to ensure that the needs of our growing community are met. We look forward to actively participating and sharing in the important work that is being done by this passionate group who want to ensure a healthy future for the urban Aboriginal community in Ottawa.





## TEWEGAN TRANSITION HOUSE

### OVERVIEW:

Tewegan Transition House, is owned and operated by the Aboriginal Youth Non-Profit Housing Corporation of Ottawa, and is the only Aboriginal youth transition house in the National Capital Region. We have been providing services to young First Nations, Inuit and Metis women since November, 2004 and have provided services to over 450 young women since then.

Tewegan is a 12 bed transition house for young Aboriginal women between the ages of 16 – 29 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We provide 24/7 supports in a safe cultural based environment for young woman to learn about the necessary life skills for them to obtain and maintain housing, return back to school, find employment or work on personal self -growth.

All of our programming is delivered in a holistic, culturally safe environment. Our current programming consists of: Tutoring, Life Skills, Job Readiness, Cultural Teachings/Crafts, Drumming, Fitness.

### NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Jody Warnes – Board Member  
Aisha Printup – Overnight Residential Support Worker  
Simone McLaughlin - Evening Residential Support Worker

### NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

Since last year's community forum Tewegan's staff and Board of Director's have been working to ensure our young women have a clean, safe environment to live in. In order to keep to this standard of living we have undergone extensive maintenance to both the interior and exterior of the house and continue to make improvements. We have also increased our programming to better meet our resident's needs. In doing so we have partnered with Sisters Achieving Excellence to continue to run our weekly tutoring program and new this year is our job readiness program. We continue to work close with our partnering organizations and with Wabano Centre we have been able to partner with their Outreach Program to deliver in-house counseling and deliver our fitness program.

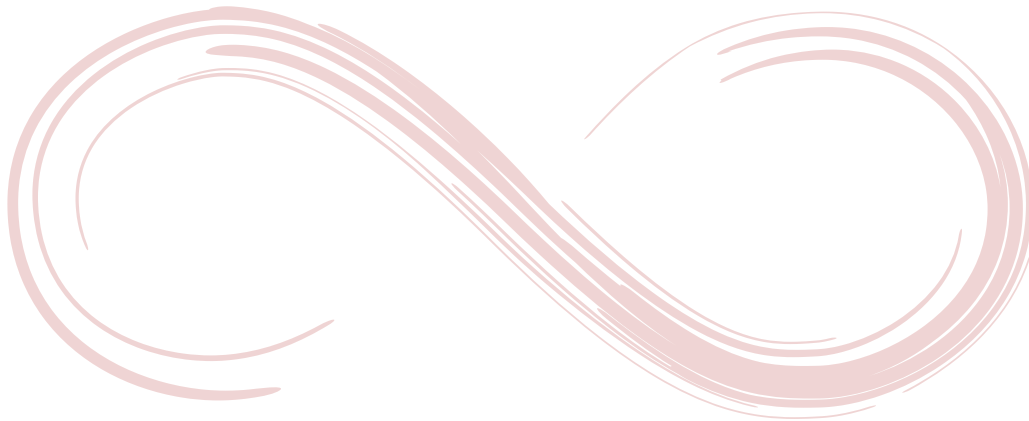


### **TEWEGAN TRANSITION HOUSE - CONTRIBUTION TO THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC) AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE:**

Tewegan contributes to the overall work of the OAC and UAS by providing feedback when it comes to selecting the priorities for the year; attending all community forums and informing our clients and staff about community events and programming that is a direct result from UAS funding.

### **AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OAC AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE TEWEGAN TRANSITION HOUSE ENVISIONS:**

As we move forward, I envision a stronger and more cultural rich community for everyone to share along with ensuring our youth are receiving supports and programming that will allow them to achieve their goals in life.





## WABANO CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH

### OVERVIEW:

Serving the community for 14 years.

Established in 1998, Wabano is a leader in community-based, holistic health care. One of ten Aboriginal Health Access Centres in the province, Wabano provides a combination of traditional healing, primary care, cultural programs, health promotion programs, community development initiatives, and social support services to more than 10,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit people each year.

#### *Wabano's 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

### NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Vicky Laforge, Programs Director  
Lois Cartwright, Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

Nicola Eynon-Brown, Nurse Practitioner  
Suzanne O'Reilly, Nurse Practitioner  
Janet Scollard, HIV/AIDS Education Coordinator  
Janet Brant, Nurse Practitioner  
Kelly Fisher, Healthy Living Coordinator

Parker McRae, Diversion Program Coordinator  
Misty Hare, Registered Practical Nurse  
Leo Lanois, Outreach Client Advocate

Pierre Beaulieu-Blais, HIV/AIDS Coordinator  
Cindy Ashkewe White, Administrative Assistant  
Penny Green, Seniors Case Manager  
Courtney Powless, Executive Assistant  
Katherine Lariviere, Physician  
Rebecca Roberts, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner  
Nathaniel Parant, Seniors Program Coordinator  
Christine Kudluk, Wasa-nabin Coordinator  
Kara Morris, Child Therapist



## **NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **Expansion**

In May 2011, Wabano broke ground on a \$15 million, 25,000 square-foot expansion to create a National Centre of Excellence in Aboriginal Health. To date, construction is more than 80 per cent complete. The expanded Wabano Centre, slated to open in early 2013, will offer enhanced maternal and newborn wellness services and social enterprise initiatives. It will feature a rooftop garden commemorating residential school survivors, and a community gathering space which, through rentals for events, workshops and celebrations, will help fund Wabano's ongoing programs and services. For more information about Wabano's capital campaign, please contact Carlie Chase, Director of Initiatives at 613-748-0657 ext. 220 or [cchase@wabano.com](mailto:cchase@wabano.com).

### **Igniting the Spirit Gala**

On National Aboriginal Day, more than 550 friends of Wabano came together to celebrate Aboriginal cultures through the theme of fire at the 2012 Igniting the Spirit Gala. The flames of generosity burned brightly throughout the evening, raising \$175,000 for the Wabano Capital Expansion Campaign.

### **Modernizing health care**

Wabano is modernizing its approach to health records and how it connects clients with specialist care. This year, Wabano signed agreements with the Association of Ontario Health Centres and the Ontario Telemedicine Network to implement electronic medical records and telemedicine. The programs will go live next year.

### **Accreditation**

In March 2012, Wabano achieved Building Healthier Organizations accreditation. Going through the accreditation process helped create a strong administrative structure to support Wabano's programs and services.


### **Website**

Wabano recently launched a revamped and more user-friendly website. Stay up-to-date on programs, events and Wabano-related news at [wabano.com](http://wabano.com).

## **WABANO'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC) AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE:**

Wabano brings the voice of its large membership and clientele, representing First Nations, Inuit and Métis. It advocates for the health and social needs of the entire family—from infants to seniors.

Wabano is currently operating the Circle of Care Program which is a coalition of Aboriginal organizations in Ottawa who have come together to provide Alternative Dispute Resolution for families involved with the Children's Aid Society. The level of involvement from the Aboriginal communities of Ottawa has been unprecedented whether for community and service provider consultations or in solution-focused planning and problem-solving. From a long history of adversarial relations, the CAS and Aboriginal communities



in Ottawa have made significant progress towards meaningful, respectful cooperation and collaboration. Evidence of this is shared through good stories that open each meeting of the Liaison Group as well as through changes in practice, such as foster parent and adoptive recruitment at Pow Wows.

The following members of the Inuit, Métis and First Nation coalition are partners in the development, implementation and evaluation of the 'Circle of Care' collaborative planning and decision-making model. Each of these partners carry their own distinct mission, mandates and roles, independent of each other:

- Children's Aid Society of Ottawa
- Maksonsag Head Start
- Minwaashin Lodge/Aboriginal Women's Support Centre
- Odawa Native Friendship Centre
- Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre
- Tewegan Transition House
- Tungasuvvinat Inuit
- Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health

In collaboration with the Inuit, Métis and First Nation service providers and community leaders, the coalition has taken the first steps on a path toward reconciliation in Aboriginal child welfare in a mutually beneficial long-term partnership with each other. Each member of the committee brings knowledge, experience, abilities and, most importantly, a commitment to build community capacity for its members.

### **AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OAC AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE THE WABANO CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH ENVISIONS:**

Wabano envisions a world in which First Nations, Inuit and Métis have achieved full and equitable access to the conditions of health, including: pride in ancestry, cultural reclamation, peace, shelter, education, food, income, a stable environment, resources, and social justice—and where the gifts and wisdom of First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures are recognized as distinctive and beautiful.

# Committee Update

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (AEC)

### OVERVIEW:

The Aboriginal Education Committee (AEC) is a sub-committee of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) and the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) – Ottawa Steering Committee. The AEC was established in February 2012 as a means to increase collaboration, raise awareness and find solutions for Urban Aboriginal students in all four school boards in the Ottawa area.

The Aboriginal Education Committee is a community member-based committee representing the interests of Urban Aboriginal students, persons and families in the City of Ottawa.

The AEC vision is to support a self-reliant, culturally engaged, healthy Urban Aboriginal education system, in the City of Ottawa.


Our mission is to provide a process for ongoing discussion through collaboration and coordination and informed action on Urban Aboriginal Education issues in the City of Ottawa.

### ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Wendy Dehler, Co Chair  
Heidi Langille, Co Chair  
Karen Baker-Anderson, OAC/UAS  
Elian Kicknosway, Minwaashin Lodge  
Richard Sanderson, Odawa Native Friendship Centre  
Vicky Laforge, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health  
Tina Slauenwhite, Teewagan Transition House  
Rachel Quinn, Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre  
Catherine Macnab, Makonsag Aboriginal Children's Headstart  
Chris Pacci, The Metis Nation of Ontario  
Susan Macdonald, Ottawa Carlton District School Board (OCDSB)  
Krista Coppa, Ottawa Carlton District School Board (OCDSB)  
Gabrielle Fayant, AEC Youth/ Metis Representative  
Carolyn Boyle, Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB)  
Jane Wharton, Ottawa Catholic School Board (OCSB)

### NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

Since the AEC was formed in February of 2012, we have been actively involved in recruiting community members and establishing a relationship with the OCDSB and the OCSB. The AEC has met XX times, using the information "what is your urban aboriginal education dream" from the last community forum the AEC developed our Terms of Reference and our two year workplan. The AEC played a role in the OCDSB



Aboriginal Voluntary Self-Identification Policy Community Consultation in April, attended a community circle organized by the OCDSB as part of an initiative the Aboriginal Education Professional Development Network and attended the OCSB Aboriginal Student update.

The AEC has jointly developed and submitted four components of the Learning Together Project. The project goal is to improved cultural awareness and education for school staff, students, and provide current and accurate curriculum resources for teachers.

The Advisory Committee on Equity is an Advisory Committee to the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB) that assists the Board of Trustees in their commitment to provide an equitable and inclusive educational and work environment in the public school system and provide advice to the OCDSB on matters of diversity that takes into consideration, ancestry, culture, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, language, physical and intellectual ability, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation and socio-economic status.

On November 15, 2012 the Co-Chair of the AEC was asked to serve on the ACE committee and attened the first meeting on Thursday, November 22nd.

#### **THE AEC'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC) AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE:**

Through community consultations and coalition discussions, the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition has identified Education as a key priority for the urban Aboriginal community in Ottawa. As a collective, the OAC believes that increased engagement with local school boards combined with professional development opportunities for teachers and improved access to relevant resources can contribute to improved educational outcomes for Aboriginal students in Ottawa.

The (AEC) is a local community based Committee, we are focused on working with local schools in the Ottawa-Carleton area that have an Aboriginal student population to provide those schools with a better understanding of the diversity of our population in Ottawa, and to work in partnership to provide better educational opportunities and represent the interests of urban Aboriginal students, persons and families in the City of Ottawa.

#### **AS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE OAC AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE THE AEC ENVISIONS:**

The AEC will continue meeting on a bi-monthly basis to represent the learning needs of Aboriginal students, collaborate on solutions and inform policies, practices and develop cultural specific resources for educators.



*Season's Greetings to our Aboriginal Community, Friends and Partners*



Ottawa Inuit  
Children's  
Centre

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Urban Aboriginal Strategy  
**STEERING COMMITTEE**