

OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION Urban Aboriginal Strategy STEERING COMMITTEE

hosts the

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FORUM

Tuesday, February 24, 2015

Funded by:

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada and Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs



Greetings!

Kwey Kwey!

Wahchay!

Aaniin!

Ainngai!

Table of Contents

Welcome: Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition	2
Welcome: Jim Watson, Mayor, City of Ottawa	3
Aboriginal Community Forum Agenda	4
Ottawa Aboriginal Overview	5
ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES:	
Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation	7
Kagita Mikam Aboriginal Employment & Training Services	8
Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start	10
Minwaashin Lodge	12
Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre	
Tewegan Transition House	17
Tungasuvvingat Inuit	18
Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health	20
COMMITTEE UPDATE:	
Aboriginal Education Committee	22



Dear Participants:

On behalf of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition we welcome you to your Aboriginal Community Forum. This is your opportunity to come together as a community to feast, socialize, celebrate and hear all the great things that are happening for our Aboriginal population here in Ottawa.

We hope that you will enjoy and embrace this evening's agenda and that you leave here with a better understanding of the great work and continued dedication that your service delivery organizations are doing for you, the members of this diverse and unique Aboriginal community.

We continue to encourage you to feel at ease in asking any questions you may have regarding the work we are doing on your behalf, and to actively participate in this forum. Your input continues to play an integral role in the achievements that we celebrate as an Aboriginal community.

THANK YOU

MEEGWETCH

NIA:WEN

QUJANNAMIIK





Jim Watson Mayor/Maire

Office of the Mayor City of Ottawa

110 Laurier Avenue West Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1 Tel.: 613-580-2496 Fax: 613-580-2509

E-mail: Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

Bureau du Maire Ville d'Ottawa

110, avenue Laurier Ouest Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1 Tél.: 613-580-2496 Téléc.: 613-580-2509

Courriel: Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition c/o 396 MacLaren Street Ottawa, ON K2P 0M8

Dear Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition,

On behalf of Ottawa City Council, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all attendees of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition's Aboriginal Community Forum on February 24, 2015 at Ottawa City Hall.

In 2007, City Council approved the creation of the Aboriginal Working Committee (AWC), a partnership with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC), the Ottawa Police Service, the United Way and the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. Since its inception, the AWC has focused on building relationships with Aboriginal community agencies and residents, and enhancing service delivery for the Aboriginal community in Ottawa.

We know that the focus on relationship building has been productive. AWC members are committed and agree that this relationship model is a best practice. This would not be the case, without the cooperation, mutual support and commitment of the OAC. Thank you for working with us to serve our wonderful community.

The City's relationship with Ottawa's Aboriginal community agencies and residents is very important to us, and our partnership is an example of what can be accomplished when we open up, learn about and listen to the community we serve.

Allow me to convey my best wishes to the participants for a successful Community Forum.

Sincerely,

Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition 396, rue MacLaren Ottawa (Ontario) K2P 0M8

Mesdames et Messieurs les membres de l'Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition,

J'ai le plaisir de souhaiter la bienvenue, au nom du Conseil municipal d'Ottawa, à tous les participants au forum sur la communauté autochtone de l'Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, qui aura lieu le 24 février 2015 à l'hôtel de ville d'Ottawa.

En 2007, le Conseil municipal a approuvé la création du Comité d'étude sur les questions autochtones, qui réunit l'Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC), le Service de police d'Ottawa, Centraide et l'Ottawa Carleton District School Board. Depuis sa création, ce comité s'est efforcé d'établir des liens avec les organismes communautaires et les résidents autochtones et d'améliorer les services offerts à la communauté autochtone d'Ottawa.

Nous savons que les efforts consacrés à l'établissement de liens ont porté leurs fruits. D'ailleurs, les membres du Comité d'étude sur les questions autochtones s'entendent pour dire que la création de liens est un modèle à suivre. Il faut toutefois souligner que ce modèle ne connaîtrait pas une telle réussite sans la coopération, le soutien et l'engagement de l'OAC. Merci de nous aider à servir notre merveilleuse communauté.

Les relations de la Ville avec les organismes communautaires et les résidents autochtones d'Ottawa sont pour nous une priorité, et notre partenariat est un exemple de ce qui peut être accompli lorsque nous nous ouvrons à la communauté que nous servons, que nous nous y intéressons et que nous l'écoutons.

Je souhaite à toutes et à tous un forum communautaire des plus réussis.

Veuillez agréer, Mesdames et Messieurs, mes sincères salutations.

Jim Watson, Mayor/Maire

Ottawa 2017 ca



Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FORUM

AGENDA

5:30 p.m. Call the Forum to Order (MC

Waubgeshig Rice)

Opening Song/Drum: Makonsag Head

Start Children

Opening Prayer: Elders Jim Albert, Sally

Webster, and Jo MacQuarrie

5:40 p.m. **Dinner**

Viewing of Best Start Video

6:00 p.m.

Traveling through our community: the services we provide to support the community and the priorities we have worked on in the last year

Presenter: Marc Maracle, Chair Ottawa Aboriginal Caoalition

Hoop Dancer: Winter Doxtator

Education: The Aboriginal Education Committee:

Presenter: Karen Baker Anderson

The ongoing work that needs to be done:

Presenter: Allison Fisher

New ways for School Boards to relate to the community:

Presenter: Guy Freedman

Question: How do you, as a community member, see us moving forward in Education?

City Relationship:

Presenter: Marc Maracle, Ottawa

Aboriginal Coalition:

Presenter: Clara Friere, City of Ottawa

Participants: Walk around and visit the organizations' booth displays.

The Answer to Homelessness is Housing:

Presenter: Jason Leblanc

Question: How can we, as a community, continue to support homeless Aboriginal people under the new Housing First approach?

Drum/Song: Theland Kicknosway

Youth Presenter: Michael Wade

Question: What can we do to better support First Nation, Inuit and Métis youth in Ottawa?

Aboriginal Foster Homes:

(2 minutes) Presenter: Heidi Langille

8:15 p.m. **Closing:** Elders Jim Albert, Sally Webster, and Jo MacQuarrie

Closing Drum



OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION

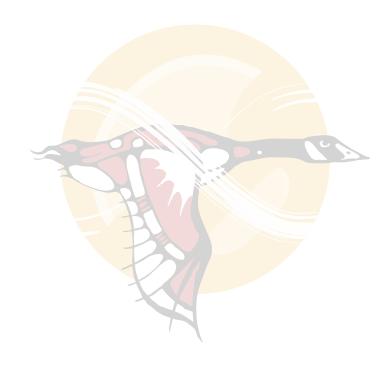
(Updated: February 2015)

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, Kagita Mikam, Makonsag Head Start, Minwaashin Lodge, Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth, Tungasuvvingat Inuit, 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.

Organization	Representatives	
Chair, Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition	Marc Maracle	
Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation	Barbara Craig	
Kagita Mikam	Lydia Belanger	
Makonsag Head Start	Robert Imrie, Executive Director	
Minwaashin Lodge Mary Daoust, Executive Dire		

Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre	Karen Baker-Anderson, Executive Director	
Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth	Tina Slauenwhite, Executive Director	
Tungasuvvingat Inuit	Tungasuvvingat Inuit Jason Leblanc, Executive Director	
Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health	Allison Fisher, Executive Director	
Métis Representative	Jo MacQuarrie, Métis Nation of Ontario	
Elder(s)	Requested on rotational basis.	



Aboriginal Organizations Updates



Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation

OVERVIEW:

Gignul Housing has 173 units under administration located in 73 buildings throughout the City of Ottawa. This is comprised of 162 rent-geared-to-income units and an 11-unit seniors building. Additionally, through Madawan Management & Development Inc., a parallel corporation to Gignul, we own and operate a 28-unit affordable housing project located in one building near the St. Laurent shopping mall in the east end of the City.

We are governed by a seven-member volunteer Aboriginal board of directors and have a staff of nine.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

In the past several months we have added some new faces to the team at Gignul. Tony Cruickshank joins us as our Tenant Relations Officer. David Assinewai and Carla Spence are part of the Maintenance staff.

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

Gignul/Madawan continue to pursue the development of an assisted–seniors project that would be ideally located close to the newly renovated and constructed Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health. The intention is to provide assisted living for Aboriginal seniors and make provisions for health services to be extended to residents to allow them to age-in-place.

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

EDUCATION: Fully support the OAC and efforts of the Aboriginal Education Committee as well as Education Report commissioned by Wabano.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS: Fully support the efforts of the Housing First agenda and the work of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Board (ACAB).

YOUTH: Fully support the efforts and priorities of the OAC regarding children and youth and representations to the OAC relationship streams with the City of Ottawa, the United Way of Ottawa and the school boards.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA: Fully support the relationship and outcomes of the Aboriginal Working Committee (AWC) and its alignment of efforts and priorities with the OAC. We are also in support of the evaluation of the AWC and its outcomes and results-based-accountability that is currently being developed through the partnership with the City and the Aboriginal community through the OAC.



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.

Carolyn McDonald, Community Developer, <u>Carolyn@kagitamikam.org</u> Lydia Belanger, Employment Development Officer, <u>Lydia@kagitamikam.org</u>

Youth Initiatives: In partnership with St. Lawrence College, the 18 week Pathways to Employment program was offered to eight community Aboriginal youth starting February 2015. The youth will earn minimum wage for the full 18 weeks. The goal of the program is to have all 8 youth employed at the end of the program.

The program is to help prepare youth for employment. The program aims to provide youth with the skills employers are looking for. The first three weeks will provide employability skills training, resume preparation and certification in WHMIS, First Aid, CPR, AED and Safety training followed by 15 weeks of work placement.

This is the fourth intake of participants and all sessions have been very successful to date.

Self Employment Initiatives: Kagita Mikam offered several workshops for the Entrepreneur this past calendar year, such as business plan development, self employment 101, web site design, and marketing. Self employment remains a popular topic among clients and we hope to keep up the momentum in year 2015.

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

EDUCATION: Committed to ensuring that pro-active measure are taken to improve the recruitment, training and employment of Aboriginal people.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS: Inform community of housing resources and referring clients to aboriginal housing agencies.

YOUTH: Encourage youth to continue their high school education and move towards post-secondary training to enable them to secure sustainable full time employment.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA: Collaborate and partner in various employment projects to assist the aboriginal community in accessing the City of Ottawa's resources and to gain employment.

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:

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. 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 program operates from Monday-Friday (8:00am-3:30pm).

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Makonsag has seen many faces leave and new ones come enter into our program. Many new staff have joined our team and each and every one of them is committed to ensuring that language and culture are at the centre of our educational programming.

We currently have 4 classroom teachers, a cook, a Family Coordinator, a custodian and an Executive Director.

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

We have many new and exciting initiatives, such as our little drummers program, which teaches our Makonsag children traditional First Nation hand drumming, the big pow wow drum and songs. We have also worked on a transition to Kindergarten project in partnership with the Ottawa Catholic School Board and the Ottawa Carlton District School Board and in the hopes that we will help our students and families have a smooth transition into the mainstream school system. Part of this project involves providing Professional Development to teachers so that are aware of cultural practices and that they can better support the success of Aboriginal Students.

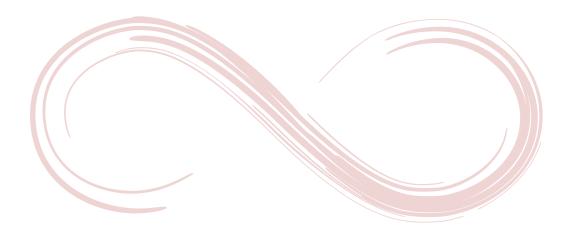
Being a member of the Aboriginal Best Start Circle, we have agreed to host the Annual Report Back for the City of Ottawa Best Start table. This event for all service providers for children 0 to 6 will be held in March.

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

EDUCATION: To ensure that children leaving our program will be well received in mainstream schools and that each teacher will be well prepared to receive them and able to meet their needs so that each Aboriginal child will have a successful educational experience and meet all expectations set out by the Ministry of Education in Ontario.

YOUTH: Working with local schools and colleges, we are providing opportunities for youth to have field placements at our site, either through co-op experiences or through teaching programs so that there can be an increased presence of qualified Aboriginal Early Childhood Educators.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA: Working with the City of Ottawa as a member of the Aboriginal Working Committee to voice concerns to the City in their planning process.





Minwaashin Lodge - Aboriginal Women's Support Centre

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, anger management, relationship issues, anxiety). 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:

Kateri Miles – Youth Worker

Kristin Johnson – Housing First (HF) - Case Manager (formerly Family Support Worker) – Oshki Kizis shelter

Interim Contracts:

Jasmine Kelly – HR Assistant/Executive Director Assistant
Jade Fletcher – Crisis Counselor
Shelly Longboat – Addictions Counselor
Vicky Chief – Outreach Worker
Deena Fontaine – Culture/Employment Program Assistant

Amber Chief – Sacred Child Assistant

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

Minwaashin's Annual General Meeting was held on September 18, 2014. Our new Executive is as follows:

Maryanne Pearce – President Louise Profeit-LeBlanc – Vice President Lynn Desjardins - Treasurer

Minwaashin Lodge – Aboriginal Women's Support Centre has undertaken a pilot project entitled "Taking Care of each Other" - VAW Family Gathering. This event is designed to support children and youth who are survivors of violence or at risk in strengthening their family values and ethics as well as our connections to the First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities. Every stage of life will participate in awareness workshops, dance demonstrations, teachings, drumming, singing and feasting.

"Journey Women" Phase II: – "Share Ideas on Healing." In partnership with Concordia University this opportunity will give Aboriginal female residents from E. Frye, supports to Aboriginal specific services and programs within Minwaashin Lodge.

Minwaashin Lodge submitted applications under the new Housing First Request for Proposals and was successful in their submissions, which will allow for current and new HF positions to be merged together under the new model.

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

EDUCATION:

- Member of Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition's Aboriginal Education Committee.
- Partnerships with Algonquin College, Carleton University, Ottawa University, Kagita Mikam, Herzing College, Everest College, St. Nicholas Adult High School, Ontario Works, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Causeway, Job Connect.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS:

- Member of the Alliance to End Homelessness Committee.
- Partnerships with Gignul Non-Profit Housing, Inuit Non-Profit Housing, Ottawa Housing, Wiigwamen. Salvation Army, OFIFC
- Minwaashin Lodge submitted applications under the new Housing First Request for Offers and was successful in their submissions, which will allow for current and new HF positions to be merged together under the new model.

YOUTH:

 Partnerships with Odawa, Wabano, Makonsag, Ottawa School of Art, The Children's 'Aid Society of Ottawa, Ontario Inuit Children's Centre; Youth services Bureau of Ottawa, Robert Smart, Ottawa Carleton School Board, Ottawa School of Art Outreach Program, Snowsuit fund, Toy Mountain/Sharing in Students Success program, Caring and Sharing Exchange, United Way – Gifts in Kinds program, Connect with Kids, Connect with Kids, Métis Nation of Ontario, Ottawa First Words, Canadian Association of Family Resource programs (FRP Canada)

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA:

- Member of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Board (ACAB)
- Member of the Aboriginal Working Committee
- Partnerships with City of Ottawa Public Heatlh, Ottawa Public Library, Ottawa Food Bank,



Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre

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 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 110 Inuit children and youth through the following programs and services:

- Sivummut Head Start
- Tumiralaat Child Care Centre
- Youth Sports and Recreation Program
- Tukimut Afterschool Program
- Akwe:go
- Bridging the Gap
- Uqausivut Language Program
- Woman's Program
- I am Well Mental Health Program
- Right to Play
- JK-SK Kindergarten in partnership with the Ottawa Carleton District School (OCDSB) Board

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Heather Campbell - Uqausivut Coordinator Selma Ford - Woman's Program and Uqausivut Program Jessica Peacock - Sports and Recreation Coordinator Jasmine Doig - Right to Play Youth Worker Tara Matte - Early Years Manager (Maternity Leave) Sabrina Brewster – Tukimut After School Youth Worker Brandon Chin – Tukimut After School Youth Worker Assistant

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

Close to 400 people attended our Annual Inuit Day where they played traditional games, ate country food and participated in a throat singing contest.

The OICC hosted a stakeholders meeting with staff from Nunavut Social Services, The Ministry of Children and Youth Services, 5 residential care facilities that are housing Inuit youth from Nunavut and Tungasuvvingat Inuit. We discussed how to collectively best meet the needs of this group of youth.

The leadership from the OICC attended a leadership roundtable discussion pertaining to the new provincial strategy for Aboriginal Children and Youth. The Ministers from Aboriginal Affairs and Children in Youth were in attendance as well as the leadership from Tungasuvvingat Inuit.

A sports and recreation program was started for our youth. In partnership with the City of Ottawa and the Canadian Tire "I Love to Play" program our youth will be playing hockey, soccer, basketball and dancing

Our very popular Inuktitut classes have started up again on Saturday late mornings and Wednesday evenings. We have both children and adult classes running. There will also be a March break camp for 7 to 13 year olds that will focus on language and culture.

Our Right to Play staff member Jasmine Doig was chosen to represent Urban Inuit Youth on the Premier's Youth Council.

Our Bridging the Gap school liaison program will be expanding to meet the growing demand for cultural presentations and one-on-one school support.

Our Youth Steering Committee is meeting twice a month to hear from professionals and educators to learn about different career choices. They will be working with the employment staff from the Youth Services Bureau to get ready to seek out summer employment.

20 of our moms and their children will be enjoying a few days together in March to talk about traditional parenting skills.

We have started a mom's group that is meeting weekly to talk about the joys and the challenging of being a parent.

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

EDUCATION:

- Since September the staff at the OICC has done over 90 school-based presentations throughout this City. We have also presented for teachers and have assisted in enrolling and supporting a number of students within their schools and classrooms.
- The OICC is working with the Aboriginal Education Committee in the delivering of the following workshops for parents of children enrolled in our school boards. We hope to see you out at these informative events!

Welcome to Head Start Odawa Sweet Grass Program	Robert E Wilson Public School 373 McArthur Ave, Ottawa, ON KIL 6N5	Tuesday February 10, 2015 5:30-7:30pm	
Bullying What to Do?	Ottawa Catholic School Board St. Michael School 437 Donald Street	March, 31, 2015	
My Child's Mental Health	Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health 299 Montreal Road	April, 2015 To be announced	
Advocating for My Child's Learning Needs	Minwaashin Lodge 155 Lola Street	April, 2015 To be announced	
School Transition Planning	Rideau High School 815 St Laurent Blvd	May, 2015 To be announced	

For information and registration, please contact: Wendy Dehler: wdehler I 020@gmail.com

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS:

• The OICC works with parents to ensure that they have safe and affordable housing for their families. We do this by referring individuals to the other aboriginal agencies who focus on this type of support.

YOUTH:

Our Youth Leadership program is learning about career choices. They recently assisted us in the writing of a proposal that was submitted to TD which resulted in us receiving funding to start a Youth Carving program which will start in the Fall. The Youth are actively engaged in our recreation program.

One of our staff members, Jasmine Doig was chosen to sit at the Premiers table. In doing so, Jasmine will ensure that the voice of Urban Inuit Youth is heard and understood.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA:

The OICC sits at the childcare stakeholders table where we are looking at the needs of the community in terms of childcare.

We are partnering with the recreation department in the delivery of sports and recreation programs. The Ottawa Public Health Department visits the youth during programming to talk about healthy choices and does dental care with the children in the Early Years Programs.

The Tukimut Childcare Centre which is funded through the City of Ottawa continues to operate at full capacity with a waiting list.



Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth

OVERVIEW:

Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth is a 12 bed transitional home for First Nations, Inuit and Métis women, ages 16 to 29 that are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. As an Aboriginal organization, Tewegan recognizes that culture is vital to a young First Nation, Inuit or Métis woman's sense of self and to her identity.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Barb Wolfe, Residential Support Worker Jessica Jackson, Residential Support Worker Katelyn Brant, Residential Support Worker

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

This year we underwent rebranding of our organization's name and logo. Our organization name has been changed from "Aboriginal Youth Non-profit Housing Corporation of Ottawa" to "Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth".

At our Annual General Meeting in September, 2014, we celebrated 10 years of providing safe, cultural-based transitional housing to our young women.

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

EDUCATION: Tewegan is an active member of the Aboriginal Education Committee. We will continue to work with other AEC members to increase the number of Aboriginal children attaining their high school diploma.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS: Tina Slauenwhite, Executive Director, is Chair of the Aboriginal Community Advisory Board on homelessness. We will continue to work with other Aboriginal and City agencies to ensure there is a collaborative approach with the delivery of supports and services to reduce homelessness.

YOUTH: Tewegan continues to operate the only Aboriginal specific transitional house for youth. We support the OAC's focus on youth program, supports and services.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA: Tewegan is a member of the City of Ottawa's Aboriginal Working Committee and supports the work plan set forth for the coming year. Tewegan continues to partner with various City departments, providing in-house workshops for our residents.



Tungasuvvingat Inuit

OVERVIEW:

Tungasuvvingat Inuit – "a place where Inuit are welcome" We are a Not for Profit and a Registered Charity.

Mission Statement:

"Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) provides Inuit specific programs, services, and support to empower and enhance the lives of Inuit."

Since 1987TI has been operating in Ottawa as a community-based counselling and resource centre.TI was first established as the result of an Inuit Needs Assessment study which clearly demonstrated the necessity for a service geared to the unique culture and needs of Inuit clients adjusting to the urban living. Since then, the programs at TI have expanded to accommodate the growing Inuit population.

TI is the only established Inuit specific service organization of its kind in urban Canada and as a result it is called upon to provide advice and support to other agencies across the province and country. TI provides:

- To provide supportive counseling and crisis intervention;
- To provide referrals to health and social services;
- To provide employment and training assistance;
- To provide family, youth and child support programs;
- To provide recreational and cultural programs;
- To assist with adjustment to southern urban culture;
- To provide a place for community gatherings and cultural events;
- To provide cultural awareness and knowledge through programs and education;
- To partner with governments and agencies in the design and delivery of programming and services; and
- To liaise with national, regional and community Inuit organizations on behalf of Ontario Inuit



Inuit Blanket Toss

Community members gather around the blanket and grabbing, pulling and holding tight to the blanket. The blanket and supporters will catch the individual in the air, No matter how high an individual is falling from, or how many times they tossed in the air.

Like the blanket toss Tl's supports will "catch" anyone who is in need of our support. The integration of all our programs is the cornerstone of our community of services.

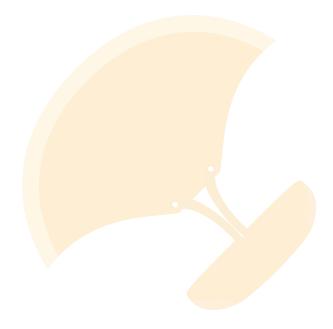
Board and Staff:

• Board members are elected with open membership, from individuals with a vested interest in the Inuit of Ontario. Their role is in representation of Inuit across Ontario and is not restricted to those who utilize TI's services.

48 staff:

- 36 FTE's
- 6 contract employees
- 6 PTE's

Majority of TI's staff are Inuit and have significant experience in working with and for Inuit.





Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health

OVERVIEW:

The Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health is a leader in community-based, holistic care. Each year, the centre serves more than 10,000 people through its health, cultural and social support services.

Mission:

Provide quality, holistic, culturally-relevant health services to First Nations, Métis and Inuit in Ottawa Engage in clinical, social, economic and cultural initiatives that promote the health of Aboriginal people Promote community-building through education and advocacy Serve as a centre of excellence for urban Aboriginal health

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Ainger, Kerry Clinical Therapist

Bellaire Valley, Jennifer Mental Health Outreach Worker

Castilloux, Gabrielle Community Support Worker/Seniors Recreation Coordinator

Commonda, Philip Youth Worker

Desormeaux, Brodie Housing Support Worker (Pat-Leave Replacement)

Dumont, Katrina Moms Mentoring Moms Coordinator

Fisher, Mary Community Support Worker

Joly, Gail Executive Assistant

Kakekapetum, Alice Community Support Worker

Lajoie, Sylvie Programs Director

Lyons, Donna Aboriginal Engagement Specialist

Michaud, CrystalEvents CoordinatorMonague, TriciaEvents AssistantMoore, JimmySeniors Case Manager

Moradizirkohi, Erfan Finance Coordinator

Oelsner, Maegan Mental Health Outreach Worker

Orr, Martin Director of Mental Health (Mat-Leave Replacement)

Printup, Daniel Director of Outreach and Facilities

Sylvester, Alayna Medical Receptionist
Trines, Jean Seniors Case Manager/RN
Van Hooser, Joanne Youth Transition Worker
Walsh, Margo Family Systems Navigator

Wilmot, Patrick Child and Youth Healthy Living Coordinator

Young, Amanda Youth Outreach Worker

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

Social Enterprise

Wabano launched its Events Social Enterprise in 2014, renting out the Cultural Gathering Space, offering Indigenous Catering, and providing a number of add-on services including linen rental, professional décor and cultural crafts and performances. The space is available for meetings, conferences, galas, weddings and other special occasions. Some notable events that happened at Wabano in 2014 include:

- Meshkwadoon Winter Festival
- Honouring Our Truths launch of the Legacy of Hope Commemorative Residential School Exhibit
- CBC Canada Reads event featuring Joseph Boyden
- Concert and Cultural Exchange with National Youth Orchestra of Jamaica
- Canadians for a New Partnership launch
- Culture as Treatment Symposium-- Dying to Please you: Indigenous Suicide in Contemporary Canada
- Inuit Community Celebration
- Halfbreed Hustle Métis Celebration

Healthy Kids Community Challenge comes to Wabano

Wabano is one of the Ontario AHACs that was selected by the MOHLTC to participate in the Healthy Kids Community Challenge. This provincial initiative challenged communities to come together to promote healthy living among children and youth. The project will be funded for the next four years and Olympian snowboarder Caroline Calvé will champion the project. Wabano is excited to be a part in making a positive impact on its children, youth and families in its community.

To learn more about Wabano's programs, services and events, visit wabano.com.

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

EDUCATION: With the support of the OAC, Wabano recently published **Pe Nah To Tah: Ottawa Urban Education Project**; a report to support school boards in meeting the Ministry of Education challenges and recommendations, provide community perspectives, and guide successful next steps towards meeting the most pressing challenges by 2016.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS: Wabano continues to support the Aboriginal Community Advisory Board and will work closely with the OAC and other mainstream organizations to ensure that housing and homelessness services for the Aboriginal community continue to be top priority for the city.

YOUTH: Wabano continues to partner, collaborate and share resources with all of the other Aboriginal organizations to connect with and provide programming for Aboriginal youth in Ottawa.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA: Ottawa Public Health keeps our clinic updated on all public health issues such as flu vaccinations (and provides vaccines), measles outbreaks, etc as well as attending Culture Night and other community gatherings on health issues. They have also provided us with monthly dental hygienist visits for dental health screenings. Their biggest undertaking in the last year has been to submit and receive funding from MOHLTC for a full service dental clinic to be located at Wabano. Processes for construction have already begun on this.

Committee Update

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (AEC) UPDATE

January, 2014

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.

As a community-based committee, the AEC works with the Ottawa-Carleton, Ottawa Catholic School Board and Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO) in the Ottawa area. Schools that have Aboriginal student populations are targeted for activities and gaining a better understanding of the diversity of the Aboriginal population in 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:

The following positions on the Aboriginal Education Committee are currently vacant:

Co-Chair Metis Representative Youth Representative Aboriginal Community Representative

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS:

Since the last Aboriginal Community Forum on April 2, 2013 the AEC has achieved remarkable gains as demonstrated by the "Learning Together" projects. The UAS funds supported the work of the AEC through the continuation of bi-monthly meetings to further its goals:

- To better prepare teachers and school administrators for meeting the unique learning needs of Aboriginal students in Ottawa.
- To promote culturally appropriate policies and practices that acknowledge Aboriginal cultural values within local School Boards; and
- To develop cultural specific resources for educators.

The AEC hosted two full-day Learning Together events with each of the two English school boards in Ottawa. The event was a full day that included teachings from a First Nation, Inuit and Métis Elders, presentations from 3 community-based Aboriginal organizations and a traditional lunch. The AEC organized one full-day

agency tours for teachers and administrators from both School Boards to showcase 5 Aboriginal service agencies in Ottawa. The tour concluded with a traditional meal. Participants had the opportunity to tour each organization, gather information resources, and meet staff. The "Learning Together" Aboriginal Services Directory was developed to help facilitate referrals to key Aboriginal agencies in Ottawa. Through the use of the cards teachers, administrators, guidance counsellors and social workers will have accurate and readily available information to rely on.

The Aboriginal Education Committee (AEC) achieved remarkable success in its first year of operations with support of Learning Together which allowed great progress toward goals on the AEC first year workplan. The AEC requested support for its second year of capacity-building and operations through the following Life Long Learning projects:

- Teacher Cultural Enrichment Workshops and Aboriginal Agency Tour
- "I AM..." Poster Campaign

The Teacher Cultural Enrichment workshops will be held February 19th (OCDSB) and February 20th (OCSB), 2014, with up to 40 teachers attending, per board. The Aboriginal Agency Tour is scheduled for March 4, 2014. There will be two buses, one leaving from the West end and one from the East end, each with up to 20 teachers on board. The "I AM" project will produce a set of posters on the theme of "I Am Inuk / First Nation / Métis ... and I am in your school". Through research conducted by the AEC under Learning Together, teachers and family members identified poor representation of Aboriginal people in visuals around the schools. It is the hope of the AEC the "I am" posters will help to develop a positive self-image for Aboriginal youth in the schools.

The AEC recently welcomed our newly hired AEC Life Long Learning Coordinator, Rachel Quinn. The AEC is very pleased that the Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO) has accepted our invitation to name a representative to the AEC. Our new colleague, Katy Tanguay, will be joining us at future meetings.

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

The AEC focuses on working with local schools that have an Aboriginal student population, and provide them with a better understanding of the diversity of our population in Ottawa, 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.



















