



OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION

hosts the

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FORUM

Thursday, December 10, 2015

Funded by:

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



Greetings!

Kwey Kwey!

Wahchay!

Aaniin!

Ainngai!

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December 10, 2015

Dear Elders, Community Members, Partners and Friends:

On behalf of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC), 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, particularly around the Urban Aboriginal Strategy, as we want your input as we move forward.

The OAC 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; particularly around education and employment.

The OAC have remained very active since our last Community Forum, including:

- ▶ Successful application of a 2 year funding agreement with Indigenous and Northern Affairs.
- ▶ Continued work with the City to coordinate Aboriginal participation in the City's emergency preparedness process, where applicable.
- ▶ Continued participation in full partnership with the City of Ottawa on the Aboriginal Working Committee.
- ▶ Participating on the Aboriginal Community Advisory Committee (ACAB) for Housing First.
- ▶ Partnering with local school boards on OAC's Aboriginal Education Committee (AEC).
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Participating with the City of Ottawa on cross-cultural activities and discussion workshops on Aboriginal issues with City staff members and Aboriginal community members.
- ▶ On-going planning for OAC activities and community forum(s).
- ▶ Establishing a new and exciting relationship with Canada 2017 in preparation for the upcoming 150 year celebrations.
- ▶ Actively seeking new relationships and funding opportunities.

We are also pleased to announce a new partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa to bring youth together to teach self-expression through contemporary and traditional art. The OAC will support the work of the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa in an advisory capacity.

We continue to work with our federal partners to assist in raising the profile of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) and build support for ongoing and enhanced resources for the Strategy.

With that in mind, other areas of interest include:

- ▶ Working on an effective and streamlined administrative process.
- ▶ Provincial and municipal roles in the UAS moving forward.
- ▶ 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 Indigenous and Northern Affairs officials in providing a two year Contribution Agreement. 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, 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



December 10, 2015

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

I would like to begin by acknowledging and thanking the Algonquin People, on whose traditional territory the City of Ottawa is located.

I am very pleased that the City of Ottawa and Aboriginal partnership is as strong as ever and that we are continually striving to improve the delivery of City services by being more inclusive and responsive to the needs of the Aboriginal Community.

This collaboration is demonstrated through the efforts of the Aboriginal Working Committee established in 2007. This committee brings together the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, senior officials from key City Departments, diverse service sector partners and front-line service providers, to collectively identify, prioritize and create solutions to challenges and difficulties faced by Ottawa's Aboriginal peoples to include: child services, health, policing, prevention, education, housing, and employment.

Central to our approach is relationship and awareness building. We believe that providing staff opportunities to learn about Indigenous cultures, traditions and most recently, the legacy of Residential Schools increases our capacity better serve the Aboriginal Community.

We are proud to say that the City's relationship with Aboriginal partners continues to be considered a best practice in Canada. This partnership is very important to us, and illustrates a powerful example of what we can accomplish when we listen to the people we serve.

Despite all the work we have done, and positive changes to date, there is always more that we can do to ensure that our services continue to be respectful, supportive and effective. We are committed to working on this together.

I wish you a productive and successful forum, and all the best for a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Jones".

Susan Jones
A/Deputy City Manager
City Operations

OUR ELDERS



ELDER MARIA BRAZEAU

Maria was born and raised in Nain, Labrador in a predominantly Inuit community in times when they traveled by dog teams, and mail came once a year by boat. Maria is married (42 years) with 2 children, and 6 grandchildren. Maria is perfectly bilingual in English and Inuktitut and has been a Labrador Inuktitut translator for many organizations, the government as well as Inuit Tapiriit Kanatame since 1972.

As an Inuit elder, she has taught Inuit Cultural Awareness and spiritual presentations at various government departments, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and the Odawa Native Friendship Centre's Youth meetings. She has performed numerous openings, closing s, and lighting of the qulliq ceremonies including The Aboriginal Summit; The Departments of Justice, and DIAND and has stood in for Jose Kusugak, past president of ITK to give presentations.

Maria worked at Canada Post Corporation (CPC) Head Office as Inuit Liaison Officer for Northern Services Division for 11 years where she started the Aboriginal Centre at CPC. While there, she was instrumental in convincing The CPC and Bank of Mtl to provide a first ever, full banking services to a small isolated community in the Arctic, Nain, and received a Business Growth award for it. She was then appointed as Inuit Liaison Officer for the Corporation. Maria's many achievements include: editor for the Department of Indian Affairs, contributed research for The Royal Commission on Labrador, Inuit language curriculum, receiving line for the Queen and Prince Philip, Prime Minister and Margaret Trudeau at the filming of "Dances With Wolves" and has been Vice-President of her own school in Nain, Labrador.



THOMAS LOUTTIT

Thomas Louttit is a member of the Moose Cree Band on James Bay. He was born on September 4, 1948 in Coral Rapids, Ontario where his father was stationed with Ontario Northland Railroad. He is second oldest of nine children. Thomas spent his early years being cared for in Moose Factory by his parents and his maternal grandfather. At five years old he was sent to Fort Albany Indian Residential School in Ontario and at nine to Fort George Quebec. In the 1965 Thomas was placed in the care of Children Aid Society. For next three years he lived in many different foster homes throughout southern and northern Ontario. As a young man Thomas moved to Toronto where he became a Flat Roofer, a career that would last 32 years. In the early 1980 he began to construct a life free of alcohol, abuse and other destructive patterns that he addressed through traditional ceremonies. He has spent many years pursuing his own healing from physical, emotional and sexual abuse. In 1994 he graduated from the three years Ontario Native Education Program.

Thomas describes himself as an Oskabay-wis, "a helper to the people". He developed his knowledge of Traditional Practices by assisting Elder Jim Dumont, Elder Roger Jones, Hector Copegog and at Enaathig Healing Lodge. For many years he was a Traditional Fire Keeper. For the past twenty-five years he has been facilitating Healing Circles, mostly for men's groups. He also conducts the Sacred Sweat Lodge once a month. Thomas is highly sought after by schools and community groups to speak on the Indian Residential School experience and to share his personal healing journey. Presently, Thomas provides elders services for Wabano Health Center, Carleton and Ottawa Universities, Algonquin College, and National Resources Canada. Also, he is National Elder for the Canadian Union of Public Employees Aboriginal Group, works with the Native Women's Association of Canada and Correction Services Canada Aboriginal Initiatives. His volunteer work has included being a founding member of the Barrie Native Friendship Centre.

Thomas is the father of Erica and Thomas Wilson (deceased), and grandfather of sixteen. He currently lives in Ottawa with his wife, Pennie.



SENATOR RETA GORDON

Senator Reta Gordon was born and raised in Ottawa, Ontario, along with seven brothers and two sisters. She has been happily married to Ronald for over 40 years and has one son William. Not to mention many adopted grandchildren throughout the Metis Nation.

After receiving her education, she worked for Bell Canada selling advertisements for the Yellow Pages Division for twenty-five years. She retired from Bell Canada in 1980.

Senator Gordon is known for her countless hours of volunteering within the Metis community. She was elected Senator to the Ottawa Regional Metis Council by her peers in order to replace the vacancy, after the loss of her brother Senator Donald Kelly.

In 2001 Senator Gordon was elected as the Executive Senator of the Métis Nation of Ontario, she still holds this position with prestige and honour.

She continues to dedicate her time and energy to advocating for Metis people. It is clear that Senator Gordon and her family are dedicated to the Metis Nation. Her sisters Senator Lois McCallum & Elder Barbara Kelly are following in her footsteps. They have a wonderful teacher.

Senator Gordon is an example to us all. Her positive outlook and healing words compare to no one else. She is a woman of her word. I can personally contribute to the testament of her love for her people and the pride she takes in every event she attends as a Metis

Senator Gordon ensures that every new Community Council Senator is welcomed and informed about the procedures of the MNO and the important role they now play within the Metis Nation of Ontario.

She exudes knowledge to the Aboriginal Youth she encounters. She has made a great personal commitment with creating and contributing to the awareness of Metis Culture.

Her generosity and love for her fellow peers is second to none. She will always greet you with a smile and a hug.

Senator Gordon has set a high standard for her predecessor. Therefore when the position of PCMNO Executive Senator becomes available to another Senator, they better be prepared, as she has set the bar high.

Senator Gordon is not only a person who knows how important it is to be a Senator but she is first and foremost a Metis and proud of it.



**Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FORUM**

AGENDA

December 10, 2015

5:30 **Call to Order** (MC Joan Riggs)

Opening Drum: Theland Kicknosway

*Opening Prayer: Elders Thomas Louttit,
Reta Gordon and Maria Brazeau*

5:40 **Dinner**

6:00 **Welcoming Remarks:**

Marc Maracle, Chair, Ottawa
Aboriginal Coalition

Susan Jones, A/Deputy City Manager,
City of Ottawa

**Tungasuvvingat Inuit
Mamisarvik Healing Centre
Recognition Award**

**Community
Announcements and
Requests:**

- CAS Presentation: Janique Cyr,
CAS Family Recruitment
- Ottawa 2017 announcement: Guy
Laflamme, Executive Director
- Boys and Girls Club
announcement: Colleen Mooney,
Executive Director

6:30 **OAC/City of Ottawa
Relationship:**

Presenters:

Marc Maracle, Chair, Ottawa
Aboriginal Coalition
Clara Freire, City of Ottawa

7:15 **Urban Aboriginal Health:**

Presenters:

Dr. Levy, Ottawa Public Health
Marc Maracle, Ottawa Aboriginal
Coalition

**Community Participants
Activities**

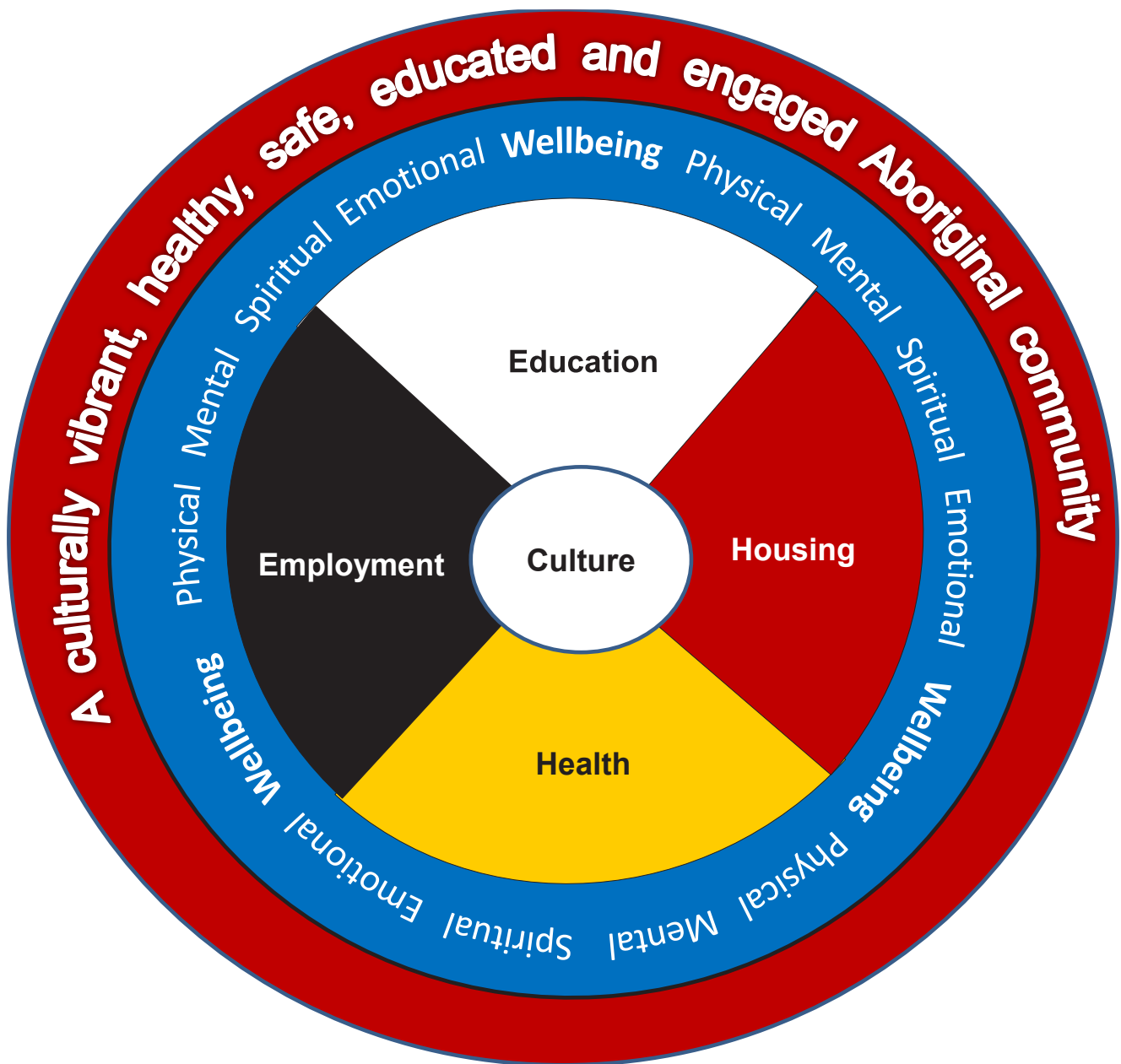
Summary of Results

Hoop Dance: Theland Kicknosway

8:15 **Closing:**

*Elders Thomas Louttit, Reta Gordon
and Maria Brazeau*

Aboriginal Working Committee Working Model



OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION – MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

December, 2015



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 ten.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Since the last Community Forum in February of this year, we have welcomed two new members to the team at Gignul. Ken Fraser has joined us as Maintenance Supervisor, replacing Terry Conroy who has retired. Susan Howard has also joined us as our new Finance Clerk.

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

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.

STAFF MEMBERS:

Carolyn McDonald, Community Developer, Carolyn@kagitamikam.org
Lydia Belanger, Employment Development Officer, Lydia@kagitamikam.org

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Youth Initiatives: In partnership with St. Lawrence College, we offered four consecutive 18 week Pathways to Employment programs for community Aboriginal youth. The youth earn minimum wage for the full 18 weeks. The goal of the program is to have all youth employed at the end of the program. A fifth program may be available pending confirmation of funding by early 2016.

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 2016.



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

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.





Koki Mino-Miikan Nosawadoon

(Algonquin: "Following the Good Road Again")

OVERVIEW:

Koki Mino-Miikan Nosawadoon is an organization that is dedicated to providing programs and services for Aboriginal offenders and individuals at risk of being repeat offenders in the City of Ottawa and surrounding area. Our mandate is to help decrease the rate of incarceration and those entering the criminal justice system. It is well known that Aboriginals are overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

Koki Mino-Miikan Nosawadoon is Algonquin for "following the Good Road again." Many Aboriginal offenders have fallen, been led down, or strayed from the "Good Road." In most instances this is not the fault of the Aboriginal offender, but the circumstances in which they were exposed to. Most Aboriginal offenders are in a fragile and broken state in which they need help to get back on the good road again.

Koki Mino-Miikan Nosawadoon or "Mino-Miikan" for short, will offer programs and services that will provide assistance to Aboriginal offenders and individuals at risk of being repeat offenders as they move through the criminal justice system. These programs and services will be culturally appropriate and embedded in the principles of restorative justice and be made available at all stages of the criminal justice system including: Prevention, Pre-Charge, Post-Charge, and Reintegration.

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mino-Miikan is currently in a refining development stage and has begun funding negotiations with the Department of Justice (and other funding sources).

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

Mino-Miikan's objective, as a member of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, is to:

- Support Aboriginal agencies and urban Aboriginal community where Aboriginal offenders are involved
- Complement existing programming in the urban Aboriginal community made available to Aboriginal offenders
- Provide a voice for Aboriginal offenders and to include them in urban Aboriginal community discussions
- Developing structures and facilitating information exchange
- Developing and fostering partnerships with non-Aboriginal agencies working with Aboriginal offenders
- Gladue Advocacy and Training
- Training and Services (i.e. cultural sensitivity and understanding the principles of restorative justice) geared to Correctional Staff



Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start

OVERVIEW:

Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start offers a culturally-enriched environment for Aboriginal preschool children to socialize with peers and experience play-based learning. There are six components of the Aboriginal Head Start Initiative:

- Education:** Prepare Aboriginal children for entry into the school system.
- Culture & Language:** Promote the retention of Aboriginal cultures and languages for preschoolers and their families.
- Parent Involvement:** Include parents and caregivers in all aspects of the program.
- Social Support:** Provide advice, support and information to parents and caregivers.
- Health Promotion:** Provide and model healthy lifestyle choices for Aboriginal children.
- Nutrition:** Encourage healthy eating habits using a variety of nutritious foods, which also includes traditional food options.

Makonsag is licensed by the Ministry of Education as a Child Care Centre with hours of operation Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm. The program is delivered through the unique integration of early childhood development activities and traditional Aboriginal culture and practices.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Carey Calder joined Makonsag prior to the start of the school year as their new Executive Director. Carey has been an active member of Ottawa's Aboriginal community for over 10 years and has an extensive background in financial and Aboriginal program management. Makonsag is also pleased to announce their newest staff member, Georgia Maracle, in the role of Operations Coordinator. Georgia is happy to be a part of the Makonsag team!

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start is experiencing a busy and exciting time with the recent launch of the Child Care and Early Years Act. This new legislation modernizes regulatory guidelines for all licensed child care centres and places emphasis on the latest developments in early childhood learning.

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

Makonsag is a member of the Ottawa Best Start table and is the lead organization of the Aboriginal Best Start Circle. These committees maintain a focus on early years programming in the City of Ottawa.



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).
- Grandmothers 55+ program. Recruiting incoming grandmothers and preparing them to becoming Elders in the community.
- 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).
- "Children Who Witness" Therapist – Oshki Kizis shelter children ages 4 – 12 yrs who have witnessed domestic violence receive Sandtray therapy.
- 55+ Program. Cultural Program of Empowerment for women 55 years and over
- Employment Unit delivers 4 programs: 1) Employment Readiness for adult women to obtain employment and/or go back to school 2) Courage To Soar for adult women to obtain Administrative Assistant Diploma, 3) Apatisiwin, to assist women with interventions to go back to school, obtain employment or start businesses 4) Ishkodewisiwin for youth aged 16- 29 to assist youth with interventions to go back to school or obtain employment.
- Advocacy, Family Support, Transitional Support, Housing First-Case Management Support, Day Outreach,
- Sex Trade Outreach Mobile, and Court Accompaniment.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Toni King – “Children Who Witness” Therapist
New Positions: Jasmine Kelly – Outreach Worker
Deena Fontaine – Ishkodewisiwin - Youth Employment Program
Diane Wolfe – Housing First – Case Manager
Kristin Johnson – Housing First – Case Manager

Interim Contracts:

Shelly Longboat – Addictions Counselor

Vicky Chief – Housing First – Case Manager

Brooke Goodsell – Sex Trade Outreach Worker

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Minwaashin's Annual General Meeting was held on September 17, 2015. Our new Executive is as follows:

Maryanne Pearce – President

Louise Profeit-LeBlanc – Vice President

Lynn Desjardins - Treasurer

- Minwaashin Lodge – Aboriginal Women's Support Centre hosted it's 2nd Children of MMIW" mini powwow On October 3, 2015. It was held at the Rideau High School. Over 400 families were in attendance.
- The annual Children's Winter Gathering will be held at the Mac Hall in the Bronson Centre on December 19, 2015 from 12 – 3 pm. We anticipate over 300 families in attendance.
- The annual Women's Gathering will be held at the Rideau Hill Camp on June 10-12, 2016

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

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, 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 City - Community Advisory Board (CAB)
- Member of the Aboriginal Working Committee (AWC)
- Partnerships with City of Ottawa Public Health, 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 Small Business and Entrepreneurial Program
- Tukimut Afterschool Program
- Akwe:go
- Bridging the Gap
- Uqausivut Language Program
- Right to Play
- JK-SK Kindergarten in partnership with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB)

STAFF MEMBERS:

Karen Baker-Anderson - Executive Director
 Bronwyn Rees - Director of Finance and Administration
 Sherry Metcalfe - Manager of Administration and Support Services
 Erica Selschotter - Director of Programs
 Lynda Brown - Director of Youth Programs
 Thomas Ill - Manager of Youth Programs
 Jasmine Doig - Youth Worker
 Rachel Quinn - Bridging the Gap Coordinator
 Dion Metcalfe - Bridging the Gap Presenter
 Trudy Metcalfe-Coe - Bridging the Gap Presenter
 Heidi Langille - Coordinator, Special Projects
 Christine Kudluk - Youth Small Business Coordinator
 Janice Messam (on maternity leave) - Manager of Early Years
 Ulayuk Komangapik - Office Administrative Assistant
 Jennifer Kudluk - Administrative Assistant



Ina Zakal - Toddler and Preschool Teacher
Fred Simpson - Preschool Teacher
Natasha DaSilva - Toddler Teacher
Sarah Metcalfe - Toddler Teacher
Bea Alvarez - Preschool Teacher
Appa Mark - Preschool Teacher
Nikkutai Folger - Akwe:go Urban Aboriginal Children's Program Coordinator
Courtney Henderson - Systems Navigator
Bruce Kigutaq - Kindergarten Cultural Teacher
Lisa Richards, OCT - Kindergarten Teacher – Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Krista Thomas - Registered Early Childhood Educator – Ottawa-Carleton District School Board
Barb Cayer - Cook
Glen Boyer - Cook

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

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 Government of Nunavut, The Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Tungasuvvingat Inuit, CHEO, Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Ottawa Catholic Board, Ottawa Health Services Network Inc., Akusivik Family Health Team and Ontario Trillium Foundation. We discussed how to collectively best meet the needs of youth from Nunavut residing in Ottawa.

The leadership from the OICC has been participating at the leadership roundtable discussions pertaining to the new provincial strategy for Aboriginal Children and Youth.

A Youth Small Business and Entrepreneurial Program has started and many of our youth are learning carving, beading, sewing and other skills, selling their work and learning how to run a small business.

Our very popular Inuktitut classes have started up again on Saturday late mornings. We have both children and adult classes running.

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

10 of our youth will be participating in an exchange program with a northern Cree community.

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.



HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS:

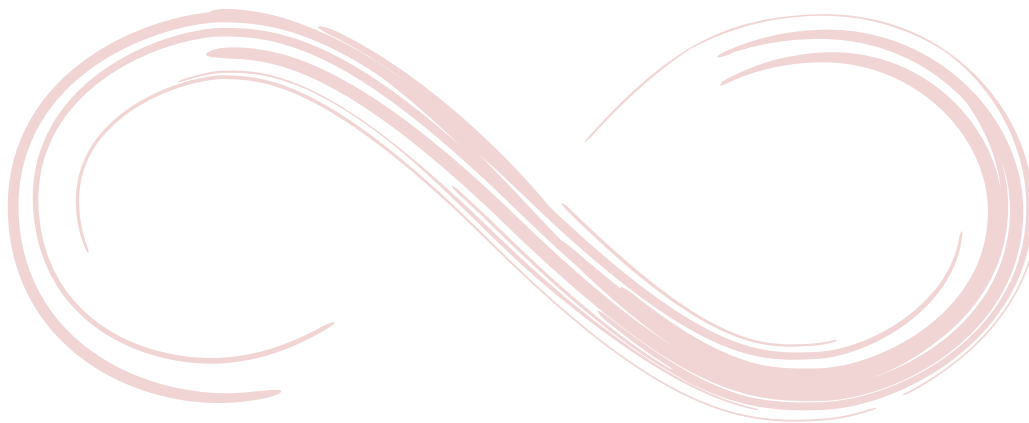
- The OICC works with parents to ensure that they have safe and affordable housing for their families. We do this by referring individuals to the other aboriginal agencies who focus on this type of support.

YOUTH:

- Our Youth have been participating in many activities including WE Day, Amazing Race Ottawa and selling their creations at craft and art sales throughout the city.
- The Tukimut Afterschool program is operating at full capacity with a wait list.

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.
- 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 Tumiralaat 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:

Jasmine Kelly, Residential Support Worker
April Guanish, Residential Support Worker
Annie Kingston Miller, Residential Support Worker

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

In April, 2015 Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth was successful in securing funding through the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres under the Federal Government's Homelessness Partnership Strategy. This funding allowed us to operate our 12 bed transitional house for young First Nations, Inuit and Métis women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. This month also marks our 11th year of providing a safe place to call home to young Aboriginal women.

In June, 2015 the staff of Tewegan came together to celebrate Amanda Slauenwhite's 10th year of employment at Tewegan. Miigwetch Amanda for your continued support and dedication 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 (AEC). 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 in 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 programs, 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, registered charitable organization.

It is the mission of Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) to broadly provide Inuit-specific programs that contribute to the health and well-being of Inuit and to encourage and support similar programs for Inuit across the country.

TI is a registered, charitable, not-for-profit organization, offering more than 20 highly integrated, front-line services. The agency is the only Inuit-specific service organization of its kind in urban Canada offering support through the entire life cycle.

TI has almost 30 years of highly successful experience in crafting the design, development and delivery of a wide range of effective, client-centered services.

With about 30 per cent of Inuit now living outside of the north, TI is recognized as a leading advocate for urban Inuit and is prominent within the framework of national Inuit organizations.

Our comprehensive agency is a respected leader and the primary model for Inuit-specific service delivery, working in both urban and non-urban settings. We partner with over 60 Inuit and non-Inuit organizations.

TI is called on to provide advice and support on Inuit topics to other agencies across the country; such as courts, hospitals, schools and social services agencies. We offer them information on Inuit culture and values, resources for Inuit-specific programming, an understanding of Inuit rights in the city and information on labour market engagement including financial assistance for Inuit post-secondary students and employment and training opportunities.

The majority of TI's staff is Inuit. The organization serves a critical and invaluable role in the education, training and development of high-performing Inuit professionals.

TI prides itself on a rich history of community development. With limited Inuit specific resources available, several TI projects have evolved into standalone Inuit service providers, enriching the options for Inuit needs to be met and strengthening the community voice. Beyond Ottawa and across southern Canada, TI has been working with Inuit in many cities to help strengthen and develop local capacity to better meet the needs of Inuit.

Our agency has received mainstream recognition as a centre of excellence in several of our programs. TI is supported by more than a dozen public and private funders, including all levels of government.

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's mandate includes:

- 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 are tossed.

Like the blanket toss TI'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:

TI Board members have a wide variety of backgrounds and expertise and share a common interest in community services for Inuit living outside of Inuit Nunangat.

The Board normally meets 6-8 times per year and as needed for special projects or initiatives. The Board of Directors governs TI by setting the strategic direction of the organization. The Board oversees and works with the Executive Director in providing a working environment which ensures that Inuit cultural and historical values are reflected in all corporate decisions and undertakings.

As of 2015 the TI team is comprised of 48 dedicated and talented staff:

- 38.5 FTEs
- 6 contract employees

The majority of TI staff are Inuit and have significant experience working with and on behalf of the Inuit community.

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER 2015		
12th 17th	Winter Celebration Community Feast	Overbrook Community Centre, 33 Quill St, Vanier Our Lady of Assumption, 320 Olmstead St, Vanier
JANUARY 2016		
15th-17th 21st	Tim Horton's Camp Community Feast	Quyon, Quebec Our Lady of Assumption, 320 Olmstead St, Vanier
FEBRUARY 2016		
13th	Elders and Youth Connections Community Feast	Location TBA Our Lady of Assumption, 320 Olmstead St, Vanier
MARCH 2016		
17th 19th	Community Feast Spring Equinox Celebration	Our Lady of Assumption, 320 Olmstead St, Vanier Bronson Centre, 211 Bronson Ave, Ottawa
26th	Sugar Bush Outing	TBA

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

- Education for children and youth including cultural supports and information
- Sports and recreation for children and youth
- Housing support and Housing First initiatives
- Health promotion
- Trauma and addictions treatment, crisis intervention, mental health support and counselling
- Community gatherings and cultural events
- Employment and training services
- Family, youth and children support, including pre-post-natal, parenting, CAS support and access visits
- Culture awareness and knowledge demonstrations and training

TUNGASUVVINGAT INUIT'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION AND THE UAS-OTTAWA STEERING COMMITTEE:

- A contributing member of OAC
- Hosted and chaired the Inuit-specific Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS) Engagement Session, held in Ottawa, November 5-6, 2015 and attends all other Inuit-specific engagement sessions, held across Canada
- Represented at UAS, Aboriginal-specific consultations for Ontario, in Ottawa, August 2015.



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

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Social Enterprise

Wabano's Events and Catering social enterprise took off in 2015, 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 tours, meetings, conferences, galas, weddings and other special occasions. Some notable events that happened at Wabano in 2015 include:

- "Tradition in the Kitchen" event with Dan Kimowan & Waubgeshig Rice
- Culture as Treatment Symposium—Journey to Safety: Creating a Place of Belonging
- Truth and Reconciliation Health Supporters Wrap-up event
- Rotary Adventures in Citizenship
- Harvest Moon Extravaganza featuring Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau
- Spur Festival
- 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 three years and Olympian snowboarder Caroline Calvé will champion the project. Wabano held its Healthy Kids Community Challenge launch on November 20th, 2015 with over 25 kids in attendance.

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. An education symposium is scheduled for end of February 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. Construction will begin in January of 2016 with a grand opening expected in April of 2016.





United Way Ottawa Report

Simon Brascoupé, December 10, 2015

It's been a pleasure to sit on the United Way Ottawa board for the past two years. Since being on the board I have attended several board meetings and recently on a weekend planning meeting. The United Way Ottawa has been a supportive partner in the past for the Ottawa Aboriginal community. In this report I have included a partnership initiative led by United Way Canada to encourage participation in the Canada Learning Bond (CLB) among Aboriginal people in Canada.

2016

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition is working on a Creative Arts Program for Indigenous and Ottawa youth for 2016. Local Indigenous artists will be involved in visual, musical and dance arts. OAC is working in collaboration with the United Way of Ottawa and the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa.
United Way Centraide Canada

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its findings and Calls to Action after six years of work with residential schools survivors across the country. At the closing events of the Commission, a new partnership of private and community foundations, financial institutions, academic institutions and non-profit organizations was announced. Millions of dollars in federal funding for postsecondary education are currently going unclaimed by Aboriginal families, and this partnership seeks to facilitate outreach and encourage participation in the Canada Learning Bond (CLB) among Aboriginal people in Canada.

United Way Centraide Canada is pleased to be the most recent partner to join the initiative. The partnership consists of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, National Association of Friendship Centres, Winnipeg Boldness Project, Inspirit Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada, Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative, Vancouver Island University and SmartSAVER, a national program operated in partnership with BMO, Meridian, RBC Royal Bank, Scotiabank, TD Bank Group and Vancity to facilitate Canada Learning Bond enrollment.

United Way Centraide Canada will be reaching out to engage local United Ways Centraides and our comprehensive community networks to advance the objectives of this partnership.

- The United Way has targeted Community Investments benefiting Aboriginal populations over the past five years, as follows:
- In 2011/12 Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health was provided with \$111,472 for the Working Hope Program is based on the four core values that traditionally served as a foundation for child rearing in Aboriginal communities of North America.
- In 2012 Accenture, Minwaashin Lodge and United Way Ottawa awarded a grant of US\$100,000 in funding as well as volunteer resources to three Minwaashin Lodge programs that help Aboriginal women affected by violence. Through Accenture's financial and volunteer resources, Minwaashin will enhance its Employment Readiness Program to equip women with the skills they need to enter the workforce with confidence. United Way will report on the results of the partnership and oversee the investment on behalf of Accenture.

- In 2013 the United Way Ottawa and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition announced a Targeted Community Investment supporting five unique educational programs for 250 Aboriginal children and youth living in Ottawa and on three First Nations reserves. The \$195,000 investment, provided by an anonymous donor, funded summer camps featuring tours of the National Gallery of Canada's Sakahàn: International Indigenous Art exhibition, a weekend lecture series, workshops led by artists featured in the Sakahàn exhibition, and several youth-driven art projects. The new programming was offered in collaboration with the National Gallery of Canada.

In 2014 the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) was awarded the Growing Up Great Award from United Way Ottawa for the work done with the National Gallery of Canada's 2013 Sakahàn exhibition. More than 250 Aboriginal youth were able to take part in a summer youth camp in Ottawa, and two Algonquin community youth projects in Pikwàkanagàn and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nations. Aboriginal students from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board and the Ottawa Catholic School Board also participated in Sakahàn school based art projects.



Notes



