

OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION

hosts the

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FORUM

Thursday, February 1, 2018

Funded by:
Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada



Greetings!

Kwey Kwey!

Wahchay!

Aaniin!

Ainngai!

Table of Contents

Welcome: Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition	2
Welcome: Mayor Jim Watson, City of Ottawa	4
Welcome: Councillor Diane Deans, Gloucester-Southgate Ward.....	5
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC)	6
Elders.....	7
Aboriginal Community Forum Agenda.....	8

ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS UPDATES:

Gignal Non Profit Housing Corporation.....	9
Kagita Mikam Aboriginal Employment and Training.....	11
Koki Mino-Miikan Nosawadoon.....	13
Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start.....	15
Minwaashin Lodge – Indigenous Women’s Support Centre.....	17
Ottawa Inuit Children’s Centre	20
Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth	24
Tungasuvvingat Inuit.....	25
Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health	29

ADDITIONAL UPDATES:

Aboriginal Community Advisory Board (ACAB) Annual Report 2016.....	31
City of Ottawa Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action - Aboriginal Working Committee	33
Ottawa Urban Indigenous Health Strategy	34
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition History Project.....	35
Housing and Homelessness Community Project.....	36
A Home of Our Own: Indigenous Perspectives on Homelessness: Acknowledgement of Participants.....	38
Honouring Our Community Members.....	39
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) Relationship Streams	40
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) Representatives.....	41



February 1, 2018

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 take the opportunity to connect with community partners and friends throughout the evening.

Our coalition has recently gone through some staffing changes. In July 2017, Wendy Lanouette made the decision to leave her position as OAC Coordinator after ten years with the Coalition. Wendy has made an incredible contribution to the OAC over the past years, and we are extremely grateful for her dedicated service. To honour her for her work, both with the coalition, and her 25 years of service to the Indigenous community of Ottawa, we will be presenting a blanket to her tonight. Please join me in congratulating Wendy on her accomplishments.

In moving forward, the OAC has hired two staff to support the Coalition. Elena Abel has been hired as our Community Developer. Elena has worked with the Ottawa Aboriginal community for the past 15 years and will soon be completing her B.A (Hons.) in Public Administration and Governance at Ryerson University. Whitney Knott, has accepted the position of part-time Administrative Coordinator. Whitney is a recent graduate of Lakehead University with a major in Political Science and Pre-law. Both will be working closely with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition members and partners to support our strategic plan and respond to community needs. Please help me welcome them both to our team.

Since we last met in June 2017, the coalition has remained very active in our community, particularly with our Housing and Homelessness research project which was funded through the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres. This community-driven research project will include a special short documentary showcasing the stories of four Indigenous community members who have experienced homelessness in the City of Ottawa. Through their storytelling, we can learn about the challenges for our community in obtaining affordable, safe housing, as well as the type of culturally-based intensive case management that is needed to support them through this process. The premiere of this documentary will be screened here tonight, and we hope you enjoy it.

In addition to this project, the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition has been actively involved with the following work:

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ An Elder's lunch to gather input into the Municipal response to the TRC's Calls to Action.
- ▶ Actively seeking new relationships and funding opportunities.
- ▶ Successful application of our funding agreement with Indigenous and Northern Affairs.
- ▶ Coordination of two Indigenous focused workshops with the Ontario Human Rights Commission.
- ▶ Presentations with the City for all Women Initiative - Righting Relations Forum and the Ottawa Police Service - Human Rights Learning Forum.

We will also be updated our strategic plan to reflect the work that we want to accomplish for the community. As the Chair of the OAC, I have the responsibility to maintain our relationships with other UAS sites at the provincial and national level.

I want to thank our community partners who continue to work with us to strengthen the Ottawa community that welcomes and supports Aboriginal community members.

On behalf of all the members and partners of the OAC, I would like to recommit to the community that the Executive Directors, who are the members of the OAC, will continue to work on your behalf and show that strength and beauty of the Aboriginal community.

Respectfully,



Marc Wm. Maracle, Chair
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition



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
Télééc. : 613-580-2509
Courriel : Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

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 and Dinner, convening under the theme *Telling Our Stories* on February 1, 2018 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.

This meaningful partnership will ensure that we continue to take steps towards reconciliation so that 2018 can be a year of healing, growth, and celebration for all citizens.

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

Sincerely,

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 et au dîner de l'Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, dont le thème sera *Telling Our Stories* et qui auront lieu le 1^{er} février 2018 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 intéressons et que nous l'écoutons.

Ce partenariat significatif nous permettra de continuer à prendre des mesures en vue de la réconciliation afin que 2018 soit une année de guérison, de croissance et de célébration pour tous les citoyens.

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

Veillez agréer, Mesdames et Messieurs, mes sincères salutations.

Jim Watson, Mayor/Maire



February 1, 2018

Dear First Nations, Métis and Inuit community members, Elders, Traditional Teachers and friends,

On behalf of my Council colleagues, I would like to begin by honouring and thanking the Algonquin people, on whose traditional territory the City of Ottawa is located. I would also like to thank the First Nations, Inuit and Métis people for their ongoing hospitality and contributions to this wonderful land.

As Chair of the Community and Protective Services Committee of Council, I am committed to supporting and shepherding our joint work on the Aboriginal Working Committee (AWC) and to continuing to build relationships and trust towards reconciliation.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, public sector partners and other stakeholders for the work accomplished together as part of the AWC. This formal partnership between the City of Ottawa and Indigenous and non-Indigenous community partners has evolved into a strong relationship based on respect, understanding and dialogue. This relationship will form the foundation for our continuing path towards reconciliation.

We recognize that reconciliation is a journey, a destination, and at the same time, a way of working together. I look forward to continuing to provide leadership within the City of Ottawa as we respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

We are grateful to all of you, and especially to the Elders, for your time, wisdom, clarity and insights, and to all the partners who have supported us on this journey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Deans".

Diane Deans
Chair, Community and Protective Services Committee
City Councillor, Gloucester-Southgate (Ward 10)



OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC)

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) was formed in 2001 as a means of presenting a unified voice on behalf of the Aboriginal community. The Coalition is an alliance of Aboriginal delivery organizations that provide front-line programs and services to Aboriginal people living in the National Capital Region (NRC).

The current membership of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition includes Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Kagita Mikam, Koki Mino-miikan Nosawawadoon, 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.

VISION STATEMENT

To support a self-reliant, culturally engaged, healthy urban Aboriginal community in Ottawa.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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

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

Our Elders for the Evening...



Métis Elder Jo MacZuarrie



Inuit Elder Sally Webster



Grandmother Irene Lindsay



**Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition
ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FORUM**

AGENDA

Thursday, February 1, 2018

5:30 pm **Call to Order**
Joan Riggs, Master of Ceremonies

Opening Song
Theland Kicknosway

Opening Prayer
First Nations Grandmother, Irene Lindsay
Inuit Elder, Sally Webster
Métis Elder, Jo MacQuarrie

Feast

6:00 pm **Welcoming Remarks**
Marc Maracle, Chair, Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition
Mayor Jim Watson, City of Ottawa
Councillor Diane Deans, Gloucester-Southgate Ward

6:20 pm **Strategic Plan Update**
Marc Maracle and Joan Riggs

6:35 pm **Aboriginal Working Committee**
Marc Maracle, Chair, OAC

Clara Freire, Manager - Partner and Stakeholder Initiatives, Community/Social Services, City of Ottawa

6:45 pm **Homelessness Project**
Elena Abel, Community Developer, OAC
Documentary Film Screening: A Home of Our Own: Indigenous Perspectives on Homelessness

Acknowledgement of Participants

7:15 pm **Honouring Ceremony**
Reepa Evic-Carleton
Theland Kicknosway
Wendy Lanouette

7:40 pm **Entertainment**
David Finkle and Laura Leonard

8:00 pm **Closing**
Door Prizes

Closing Prayer

Aboriginal Organizations Updates



Gignul Non Profit Housing Corporation

OVERVIEW:

Gignul Housing has 201 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 11.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

We recently filled a Maintenance Assistant position with the departure of Gordon Surrier. We are pleased to welcome James Desmoulin to our maintenance team.

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Recently, Gignul has entered into a relationship with Carleton University to manage two small scale projects to be located in the backyards of 388 Carmen Street and 1043 Cummings Avenue. The projects are intended to create seating space for story-telling and general conversation. The projects were initiated through the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada through their Indigenous Task Force and the creation of a community partnership through the University and a community partner (Gignul Housing), which was identified through the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition. The lead architect is Manuel Baez, an Associate Professor at the Azrieli School of Architecture and Urbanism at Carleton University. These projects have been completed and we are currently exploring funding opportunities to construct the seating designs for our Seniors Lodge on Carmen Street and our building at Cummings Avenue.

Gignul Housing continues to explore a number of development options and opportunities for the creation of new community housing. This includes seniors housing, a mixed development that would bring together seniors and single mothers as well as general development for the Indigenous community.

Gignul Housing has been actively involved at the municipal, provincial and federal levels to advance support for an urban and rural housing component of the proposed Indigenous Housing Strategy currently being developed by the federal government. The rent-geared-to-income (RGI) component of our housing portfolio (162 units) will expire between 2021 and 2028. This means that the current subsidy that helps maintain affordability through lower rental amounts and covers the costs of utilities will expire. This will mean that rental costs will increase toward market rent. We are acutely aware that our tenants will not be able to afford these potential increases. We are advocating for all levels of government and in particular, the federal and provincial governments to address the issue of affordability, maintenance and new supply in an Indigenous Housing Strategy being developed at the federal and provincial levels. We will keep community members apprised as developments emerge regarding these strategies.



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). We continue to fully support the HF agenda and the work of the ACAB. Additionally, we whole-heartedly support the OAC Housing and Homelessness Research Project and appreciate the contributions of those with lived experience who have participated in the project.

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 an Aboriginal framework for results-based-accountability 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 have an on-going 18 week Pathways to Employment program 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.

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 third year for the program and all sessions have been very successful to date. New intakes will start May 2018 for the June program.

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. We encourage youth who are looking to complete their Gr 12 to contact the office as there are several options available to help youth achieve this goal.

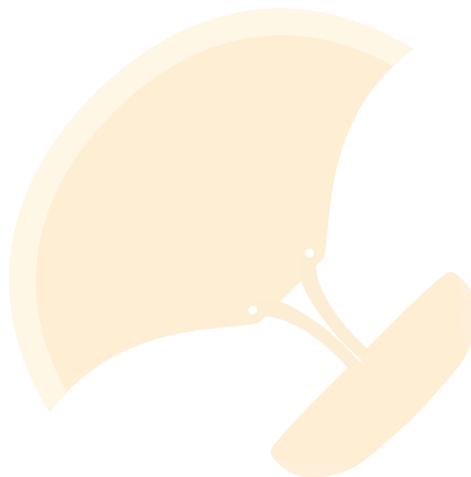
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Collaborate and partner in various employment and training initiatives to assist the Aboriginal community in accessing community resources and to gain work and develop new employability skills.

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 OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION:

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. Like Kagita Mikam on Facebook for updates on employment and training opportunities.





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 continues to operate unfunded. In the past year, Mino-Miikan has begun to develop partnerships with various stakeholders within the Criminal Justice system. It has made contact with neighbouring First Nation communities to begin developing partnerships with programs and services that cater to Aboriginal offenders.

Mino-Miikan continues to build partnerships with the Ottawa Police Service (OPS) and the Ontario Court of Justice and Superior Court of Justice. The ED has met with and will continue to work with outreach team leaders of the OPS to engage in knowledge-sharing as well as to ensure best practices are employed where Aboriginal individuals are concerned.

The ED of Mino-Miikan is a member of various "justice" themed committee's providing a voice for Aboriginal offenders as well as the urban Aboriginal community in general. The ED is a representative of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition for COMPAC (Community and Police Action Committee) which is a OPS community engagement committee. The ED is also a member and community lead for the Service Initiative Community Advisory Group for Service Implementation representing again OAC by offering a voice for Aboriginal offenders as well as the urban Aboriginal community in general.



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 provides Indigenous child care to Aboriginal children through a culturally relevant framework guided by the principles of the Aboriginal Head Start federal initiative.

Makonsag also forms part of the Ontario Aboriginal Head Start Association (OAHTSA), comprised of Aboriginal organizations throughout the province providing Aboriginal Head Start programming and Indigenous child care.

Makonsag is licensed by the Ministry of Education as a Child Care Centre and offers a culturally-enriched Early Learning and Care Centre for Aboriginal preschool children.

Programming centers around the 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.

STAFFING:

The Makonsag teaching team is comprised of Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECEs) who deliver programming through the unique integration of early childhood development and best practice activities. A cultural curriculum guides planning to ensure an environment where Aboriginal children socialize with peers in a play-based learning environment.

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start is thrilled to announce that a new permanent home has been found for its preschool program. The new Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start building is located at 297 Olmstead St. The space will have 24 full time spots for preschool aged Indigenous children. The new location requires some renovations and is expected to open later this spring. Makonsag will keep the community updated on the date for a grand opening and tour of the new building.

Makonsag has also embarked on an engagement process to guide the growth and expansion of Indigenous child care spots that will be coming soon through the provincial Journey Together initiative.

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

Makonsag leads the Indigenous Early Years Circle (previously called the Aboriginal Best Start Circle), a collective of the Indigenous organizations providing culturally relevant programming for children and families.

As a part of this work, Makonsag is an active member on the Best Start Leadership table in Ottawa and sits on the Ontario Early Years Child and Family Centres (OEYCFC) Planning Advisory Group.





Minwaashin Lodge – Indigenous Women’s Support Centre

OVERVIEW:

Minwaashin Lodge officially changed its name to Minwaashin Lodge-Indigenous Women’s Support Centre on September 21, 2017 at our Annual General Meeting.

Minwaashin Lodge 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 0-6 yrs) with Family education and support.
- Spirit Movers and Fire Keepers Program (for youth).
- Counselling Services for women, youth and children including crisis and family counseling, art therapy, play therapy, sexual abuse, addictions, anger management, relationship issues, and anxiety.
- Strong Women - “Mashkawizig Ikwewag” Support group for all women seeking traditional and life skills support.
- 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 and Play therapy.
- Employment Unit delivers 3 programs: 1) Employment Readiness preparation 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.
- Advocacy, Family Support, Transitional Support, Housing First-Case Management Support and Housing First Youth Case Management, Day Outreach, Cultural Outreach, Sex Trade Outreach Mobile, and Court Accompaniment.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

Jordyn Payne – Women’s Counselor

Interim Contracts:

Krista Shackelford Lye - ASI Counselor (Addictions Services Initiative)
Jennifer Bellaire - Courage to Soar Coordinator
Charlotte Disbrowe - Crisis Counselor
Sabrina Jones-Monette - Housing First Youth Case Manager

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Minwaashin's Annual General Meeting was held on September 21, 2017. Our new Board of Directors Executive is as follows:

Velvet Johnson- President
Jo McCutcheon- Vice President
Pamela Wolfe-Roberge - Treasurer

- Minwaashin Lodge – Indigenous Women's Support Centre continues to move forward with the Indigenous Women and Children Treatment Centre. An updated Business Plan was re submitted to the Champlain LHIN and Aboriginal Health and Wellness Strategy in September 2017. Applicants will be informed of the status of their applications early in the New Year.
- United Way has extended funding for the "Children Who Witness" Program from 2018-19. Oshki Kizis shelter children ages 4 – 12 yrs who have witnessed domestic violence will continue to receive a very critical service.
- Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)-Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples funded a full time Family Support Worker for Oshki Kizis shelter residents.
- City of Ottawa approved a Housing First Youth Case Management (HFYCM) position to support youth ages 16-24 yrs.
- Hon Minister Dr. Helena Jaczek, MPP toured our centre on October 13, 2017. The Minister congratulated Minwaashin Lodge on receiving funds through the Ministry of Community and Social Services Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Grant. This allows the existing S.T.O.R.M program to support women on the streets for an additional two days a week by hiring two part time Outreach Workers.
- Mona Fortier, MP toured Minwaashin Lodge on October 16, 2017 and volunteered at our Children's Gathering on Sunday, December 17, 2017 at City Hall.
- On Sunday, December 17, 2017, Minwaashin Lodge was very proud to collaborate for the second year with the City. They generously donated space at Jean Piggott Hall to accommodate the overwhelming response and demonstrated need of Ottawa's Indigenous community for our Annual Children's Gathering. Minwaashin Lodge and all our families experienced another magical Christmas!
- Minwaashin had the honor to partner with **The MISSION** and their culinary experts this year as they provided a hot Christmas meal. They also collaborated with 'Cupcakes for Christmas' and supplied 250 beautifully decorated cupcakes for dessert.
- **Nathalie Des Rosiers, MPP and Mona Fortier, MP** tirelessly served 250 Christmas meals to our families and children. Minwaashin staff and families appreciated all their hard work.
- Annual Women's Gathering is **June 8-10, 2018.**

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

EDUCATION:

Minwaashin is in the process of creating a partnership with three (3) French School Boards in the Ottawa region; (Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario; Conseil des écoles catholiques du Centre-Est and Conseil scolaire de district catholique de l'Est ontarien). This collaboration is necessary in order to offer counselling services to the 500 Indigenous students within these school boards and offer cultural training to teachers and staff members as required.

Partnerships:

Algonquin College; Carleton University; Ottawa University; Kagita Mikam; Herzing College; Everest College; St. Lawrence College; St. Nicholas Adult High School; Ontario Works; Congress of Aboriginal Peoples; Causeway; Job Connect; Ottawa Community Coalition for Literacy; Academy of Learning; Minwaashin Lodge's Employment Readiness Program; Youth Service Bureau (YSB) – Employment Ontario Service Centre; Adirondack and Maxsys (Aboriginal employment services); Apatisiwin (training & cost sharing); and Accenture Inc. –Management & Consulting.

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS:

Member of the Alliance to End Homelessness Committee.

Partnerships: Gignul Non-Profit Housing; Inuit Non-Profit Housing; Ottawa Housing; Wiigwamen; Salvation Army; OFIFC.

YOUTH:

Partnerships:

Odawa; Wabano; Makonsag; Ottawa School of Art, The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa, Youth services Bureau of Ottawa, Ottawa Carleton School Board, Ottawa School of Art Outreach Program, Caring and Sharing Exchange, United Way – Gifts in Kinds program, Métis Nation of Ontario, Canadian Association of Family Resource programs (FRP Canada and Northern Youth Abroad).

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

ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ
ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ
ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ

Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre

OVERVIEW:

The Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre (OICC) 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 center 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. We offer a continuum of services that follows children and their families from new born until they transition into adult hood.

- Tumiralaat Child Care Centre
- Sivummut Head Start
- JK-SK Kindergarten in partnership with the Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB)
- Woman Services/Violence Prevention Program
- Inunnguiniq Parenting Program
- Family Well-Being Program
- Youth and Elders Program
- Tukimut Afterschool Program
- Akwe:go Program
- We Belong Program
- Wasanabin Program
- Bridging the Gap School Program
- Uqausivut Language Program
- Mental Health Systems Navigator
- Right to Play Program
- Youth Life Promotion
- Conferences/Seeing the Light Program
- Volunteer Engagement Program
- Mental Wellness Services Program
- Silatunig Inuit Youth Engagement Program

STAFF MEMBERS:

Several new staff members have joined our team including:

Ruth Kadlutsiak – Bridging the Gap Coordinator
Stephanie Etuangat – Uqausivut Language Program Coordinator
Geeteeta Tikivik – Cultural Educator, Pre-School
Sheba Kasarnak – Cultural Educator, Headstart
Natasha da Silva – moved into the position of RECE, Assistant Supervisor
Reepa Evic-Carleton – moved into position of Inuit Mental Health Counselor
Sabrina Brewster-Montague – Youth Worker Assistant

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

- OICC held its Annual General Meeting in October, and welcomes three new Board of Directors, Bruce Uviluq, Maniok Thompson, Jesse Kangok.
- Close to 500 community members attended our OICC Christmas party where we ate country food, played Inuit Games and celebrated our children and the season.
- Through the generous donations and sponsorship of individuals, organizations and businesses in Ottawa, 57 Inuit families, 203 individuals received Christmas packages.
- Cindy Blackstock visited our Early years program and brought us a reconciliation polar bear. The kindergarten children have adopted him, and will expose him to all their cultural learnings
- We continue to receive calls from other agencies in Ottawa, Ontario and the North around the work that we do in early years. Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre received a visit from educators with the Pirurvik Preschool in Pond Inlet, Nunavut in early June
- An OICC delegation of Elders who are living in Ottawa attended the Gidinwewinaanan, No Lang Indigenous Languages Symposium in Thunder bay, Ontario in June.
- This fall 42 community members received free Inuktitut lessons at our weekly Saturday Uqausivut Language program
- OICC will launch their Silatuniq Inuit Youth Engagement Program in January, 2018 which focuses on Inuit youth aged 14 to 24 living in Ottawa and eastern Ontario. The goal of the program is to break the cycle of poverty for Inuit youth by supporting them to complete high school, enroll in post-secondary education or gain meaningful employment. The program is Inuit-specific, trauma-informed and community based, providing social, cultural and practical supports including tutoring, mentorship, life skills, youth leadership, outreach, advocacy.

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

We see over 120 Inuit children and youth daily. On top of these children and youth we see another 100 plus in our other programs. We also work with the family of these children. We do not do this work alone and are happy to partner with many other agencies.

TUMIRALAAT CHILDCARE CENTRE /SIVUMMUT HEAD START / KINDERGARTEN

- The Early Years teams hosted both End of Year as well as Welcome to School BBQ's that brought families together in a celebration of their children. Over 100 community members attending each of these events.
- In July Inukshuk Drum Dancers from Iqaluit and the Cantiamo Girls Choir in Ottawa visited the OICC and performed for the children. This connection was made through their partnership with Nipiit Katittut –Voices United
- The Ottawa Public Library sends OICC a visitor each month who shares a circle and story time with each of our Early Years programs
- Our Head Start children performed for Aboriginal Awareness Week in June
- Staff were able to attend two modules on American Sign Language, hosted by Andrew Fleck
- Our Head Start Director and a staff were able to attend Regional Training with the Ontario Aboriginal Head Start Association in Fort Francis
- OICC offered a School's Cool program during the summer months, as a school preparedness program for our Head Start children.

EDUCATION:

- Since September over 400 cultural presentations have been done in Ottawa schools by our Bridging the Gap team. These presentations have reached over 6,000 students throughout this City regarding Inuit Culture, History, and Language. We have also provided presentations for teachers and have assisted in supporting over 56 Inuit students within their schools and classrooms.

CULTURAL FORUMS/SEEING THE LIGHT

- November 1, 2017 was our 4th Seeing the Light Conference in Ottawa which provides Inuit cultural education for service providers. OICCs first Seeing the Light Conference in Toronto was delivered at the end of November in partnership with the Toronto District School Board.
- ½ day and full day training to external agencies including Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, CUPE, Shephard's of Good Hope, Partners in Parenting, St. Vincent Hospital, Bairncroft and Kairos training approximately 150-75 front line service providers
- Participated in several events at the Museum of Nature that included Inuit Elders, Performers, and Artists for hundreds of Ottawa community members throughout the year
- Performers and Presenters attended and participated in the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Toronto, July 2017 where approximately 4,000 participants took part in the weeks' events
- Cultural performances, including throat-singing or drumming at Wabano, ONWA, Ottawa Police Corus, Health Canada, Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network
- Involved in 3-day camp with the CFORP in Mattawa, ON, August 2017
- Took part in Governor General's Mental Health Fair and Ottawa Police Diversity Day, September 2017

FAMILY WELL BEING PROGRAM

- To date the Family Well Being program has provided individual support or group programming to over 200 individuals this past year

- Highlights includes: on land family camps, mom and dad healing circles, Inunnguiniq Parenting Program, Drop-ins for Youth and Families, support group for adoptive and foster families, monthly cultural nights for families, sewing and beading activities, and a dad's breakfast group. Parents have also received one to one support as well as referrals for services.
- New funding to provide Mental Health activities began at the end of 2017, including individual and group art therapies.
- The shared space provides regular access visits for families with children in care so that they are done in a culturally safe and welcoming environment.

HEALTH:

- We partner with Akausivik to provide Well Child Checks for our children each month. Nurses and nursing student volunteer's come to the Centre each month.
- We ensure that our children, youth and families have access to nutritious food during programming
- We ensure that all our programs have out door physical activities planned.
- We discuss the importance of physical, mental and spiritual well-being.

YOUTH:

- OICCs Tukimut Afterschool program has children learning about their culture, participating in recreation and art activities, with Let's Talk Science coming in monthly for special science experiments. Tukimut will expand the program from 3 to 5 days a week starting January 2018. Elders are visiting the program daily.
- Youth Life Promotion is offering daily cultural programming to youth between 8-18 years old that includes on-the-land field trips, guest speakers, and March break and summer camps.
- Through our Bridging the Gap program we continue to offer one to one support for students.
- Our System Navigator is working with youth with mental health issues and their families to ensure that all service providers are supporting the health and well-being of the youth, and Aboriginal Integrated Plan of Care
- Through our youth programs children are accessing recreational programs such as swimming thanks to the I Love to Program and our partnership with the City of Ottawa.
- We offered two summer camps for Inuit youth in July and August.
- OICC is collaborating with Volunteer Ottawa and the Ottawa Carleton District School Board; 100 volunteers engaged to date.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA:

- The OICC sits at the Aboriginal Best Start table where we are looking at the needs of the community in terms of childcare.
- We are actively engaged at the City of Ottawa Aboriginal Working Committee
- 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.
- Our children and Youth access recreational programs though the City.
- Holly Vullings, our Early Years Manager sits in on the Education and Awareness working group for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health, and is on an Early Childhood advisory committee with Algonquin College.
- We are actively engaged in a Child Care and Early Years System Planning Group where we provide advice and guidance on the planning, transformation, and management of a high quality, affordable, and integrated child care and early years system in Ottawa.



Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth *A Safe Place To Call Home*

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. Since first opening in 2004, more than 600 young women have called Tewegan home.
- Our Housing Transition program provides a safe and comfortable home environment designed to support and provide resources to young women that will assist them in finding housing, finding employment, staying in or returning to school, volunteering, learning valuable life skills and lifestyle habits aimed at improving their overall well-being.
- As an Indigenous organization, Tewegan recognizes that culture is vital to a young First Nation, Inuit or Métis woman's sense of self and to her identity. Our program includes traditional and cultural activities and teachings aimed to connect individuals with their culture.
- Upon successful program completion, each participant receives a customized start-up kit of houseware and household items to assist them as they move into independent housing (some for the very first time).

HIGHLIGHTS & RECENT / UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tewegan provides a variety of services to our residents to help them achieve their goals and objectives, including fun activities and opportunities to expand their horizons in a positive and supportive manner.

What to expect at Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth

- Safe and secure accommodations for up to 1 year
- Residential Support Worker onsite 24/7 to provide support
- Assistance finding independent housing and housing applications
- Assistance with transition plans, goal setting, time management, and life skill development
- Referrals to agencies within the community (medical, legal, and more)
- Weekly workshops on a wide range of topics, including social activities, community involvement and group outings
- Weekly house meetings, including meal planning and communal living responsibilities such as cooking and house chores
- Bi-weekly cooking classes and kitchen skill development
- Supportive listening and individual crisis counselling referrals
- Outreach supports including referrals after program departure
- Tutoring, employment, and financial management assistance
- Use of recreational and sporting equipment
- Scheduled visits with Elders from the community
- Access to traditional medicines and weekly Tewegan House "smudge"
- Tewegan Fun Nights: Tewegan "Bingo", Movie Nights, Game Nights, Art Nights, and so much more!

Recent and Upcoming Events

- Vision Boards
- Hand drum Making
- Self-Defense
- Seven Grandfather Teachings
- Beading workshops
- Horseback riding
- Hiking at Gatineau Park
- Ottawa Haunted Walk
- Financial Literacy
- Dog Sledding
- Self-care / Self-love
- Meditation Techniques



If you know someone who is between 16 and 29 years old who is homeless (in a shelter, couch surfing, staying with friends, just left home, etc.) or at risk of becoming homeless (violence, relationship issues, eviction, etc.) please let them know about Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth and our transitional program.

Tewegan is currently recruiting for the Executive Director Position. In the meantime, all inquiries can be directed to Karen Polson at (613) 233 0672.



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 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 January 2017, the TI team is comprised of 65-70 dedicated and talented staff, and have significant experience working with and on behalf of the Inuit community.

NEWS/HIGHLIGHTS/UPCOMING EVENTS:

Programs

T.I. recently received funding for two new programs:

Alluriarniq Program: Exiting Prostitution and Anti-Human Trafficking

ABOUT THE ALLURIARNIQ PROJECT:

Alluriarniq means "stepping forward". Using a harm-reduction and strength-based model for programing, the goal of this project is to support Inuit (male and female ages 16 and up) who are engaged in prostitution, sex work and/or survivors of human trafficking with life enhancing programing and services. The project will provide outreach, counseling, group programing and cultural activities to support our target group in making informed decisions around sex work. It is not our goal to make community members engaged

in prostitution exit this lifestyle, rather we hope to provide them with practical and transferable skills to have alternative options of accessing a sustainable income and harm reduction-based practices for health promotion. In addition to the project components, Alluriarniq team members will work in collaboration with internal TI departments, programs and initiatives to access other life enhancing resources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE MANAGER AT:

Manager, Alluriarniq Program
Exiting Prostitution and Anti-Human Trafficking
Tungasuvvingat Inuit
604 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1R 6L1
Phone: 613-232-4477
Fax: 613-232-8672
ep-mgr@tungasuvvingatinuit.ca

Inuit Court and Justice Services

Tungasuvvingat Inuit recently received funding from Ministry of Attorney General to start a Justice Services Programs. Currently we have a Manager of Inuit Court and Justice Services, Gladue Writer, Gladue Aftercare Case Worker, Restorative Justice Coordinator. We are working to address the lack of recognized Inuit specific Restorative Justice programming and diversion within Ottawa, Ontario. Through our depth of programing, and resources, Inuit youth and adults, within the community that have come in conflict with the law, will have the potential to be diverted from the Criminal Justice System both pre-and post charge. This being achieved through working with offender, victim and the community to heal and bring all parties involved together.

Manager, Inuit Court and Justice Services
Tungasuvvingat Inuit
604 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1R 6L1
Phone: 613-232-4477
Fax: 613-232-8672
Mgr-icjs@tungasuvvingatinuit.ca

News

Tungasuvvingat Inuit recently signed an MOU with the Ministry of Education on Nov. 27, 2017. The Inuit of Ontario, through Tungasuvvingat Inuit, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Education today. The President of the Board of Tungasuvvingat Inuit signed the MOU with the Minister of Education, the Honourable Mitzie Hunter. This MOU will formalize the working relationship that Tungasuvvingat Inuit and the Ministry of Education have been involved in together for many years. The MOU sets out how the Ministry of Education and Tungasuvvingat Inuit will collaborate to achieve shared goals consistent with the **Ontario First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework** to ensure that Inuit students are supported and successful across the province in the K-12 system.

“This historic agreement on shared priorities will ensure that, moving forward, Inuit students will have the supports needed to help them succeed in the Ontario school system. The MOU will also address the gaps in knowledge about Inuit within the curriculum. Tungasuvvingat Inuit has been involved in the ministry’s curriculum refresh with new and relevant information for grades 4-10 in Social Studies and History across the province. The new curriculum will also ensure that all Ontario students will learn accurate information about Inuit in their studies.” Jason LeBlanc, Executive Director of Tungasuvvingat Inuit.

You can continue reading the press release and the MOU here on our website

<http://tungasuvvingatinuit.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/News-Release-TI-ON-MOU-11-23-2017-JL-MH.pdf>

Events

- The 3rd Thursday of every month a community feast is held. Please call reception for location details throughout the year.
- Food bank services are held every Wednesday for Inuit community members that require extra help at 297 Savard Ave.

Recently Released Reports:

- Our Health Counts Urban Indigenous Health Database Project: Community Report Inuit Adults City of Ottawa, July 2017. Can be reviewed at:
- <http://tungasuvvingatinuit.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Our-Health-Counts-Urban-Indigenous-Health-Database-Project-Inuit-Adults-July-2017.pdf>
- Cancer Risk Factors and Screening Among Inuit in Ontario and Other Canadian Regions in partnership with Cancer Care Ontario and Tungasuvvingat Inuit Sept 2017. Report available at:
- <http://tungasuvvingatinuit.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Cancer-Risk-Factors-and-Screening.pdf>
- National Urban Inuit Community Dialogue: Supporting Local Champions, an Urban Inuit Strategy March 2016.
- <http://tungasuvvingatinuit.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/National-Urban-Inuit-Community-Dialogue-EN.pdf>

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



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 15,000 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 Meeting and Event Centre social enterprise was launched in 2016. The Centre rents out the Cultural Gathering Space and a variety of other meeting and event spaces, offers Indigenous catering, and provides 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. Event highlights from 2017 included:

- Bell Let's Talk Day event with Clara Hughes, Mary Walsh and Her Excellency Sharon Johnston (January 23rd)
- Health Equity Think Tank (February 28th & March 1st)
- Igniting the Spirit Gala: The Trickster – Stories that Shape Us (June 21st)
- Wabano's Fall Fun Fair
- Mary Walsh's "Canada, It's Complicated" (October 10th)
- Wine and Food Tasting (November 24th)

Join us in 2018 for:

- Now, Now, Now Symposium – Health Equity for Indigenous Children, Youth and Families (March 7th and 8th)
- Igniting the Spirit Gala – 13 Nokomis Moons (June 21st)

Indigenous Cultural Safety Training

Wabano is currently developing an Indigenous Cultural Safety Training program for healthcare professionals in the Champlain LHIN area. Cultural Safety is an outcome that is based on respectful engagement which



recognizes and strives to address power imbalances inherent in the health and social services system. The Wabano Indigenous Cultural Safety program will provide the participants with a view of the historical context that frames the Indigenous client's thinking, as well as provide tools and plans to move forward within a healthcare framework.

Moms, Moons and Me

Wabano's new private donor funded "Moms, Moons and Me" program for children ages 0 to 5 and their parents or guardians aims to create a generation of strong and self-confident Indigenous children who are connected to their culture, families, and community. The program focuses on developmental, cultural and physical/nutritional education through exploratory play-groups. The program runs in 10 week cycles and includes a culture component, activities, games, crafts and a nutritious meal. Facilitators help with different levels of growth based on the needs of our community, while monthly outings in the community allow children to have fun with their parents and interact socially with their peers. The "Moms, Moons and Me" program has been thoughtfully created with the intention of helping our children become school-ready and preparing them for vibrant, health-filled lives.

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:

HOUSING FIRST: Wabano's Housing First and Outreach team continues to support the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) and will work closely with the OAC and other mainstream organizations to assist First Nations, Inuit and Métis in finding affordable, safe and permanent housing. Maintaining these relationships, and providing culturally-specific Indigenous resources and education with the OAC and partner organizations is a vital role for the Housing First team.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CITY OF OTTAWA: Ottawa Public Health keeps our clinic updated on all public health issues such as flu vaccinations, measles outbreaks, etc. It also provides flu vaccines, and participates in Culture Nights to discuss health related themes.

In June of 2016, Wabano launched its new dental clinic. The dental clinic team continues to work to improve the oral health of our Indigenous community. This program is funded by the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, in partnership with Ottawa Public Health.

ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (ACAB) COMMUNITY FORUM – FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Aboriginal Community Advisory Board (ACAB)

The Aboriginal Community Advisory Board (ACAB) is comprised of representatives from the following agencies:

- Minwaashin Lodge;
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit;
- Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health;
- Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth; and
- Gignull Housing.

ACAB is responsible for the development of the Aboriginal Community Plan for Ottawa, making annual updates to the Community Plan and submitting it to ESDC for approval. It also provides recommendations to OFIFC (Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres) as the community entity, as to what supports are necessary to address gaps in service delivery when funding opportunities presents.

ACAB Objectives:

- To minimize duplication of services.
- To increase the visibility of the Aboriginal homelessness issues/concerns.
- Appropriately identify resources and programs to end homelessness.
- To continue to advocate on behalf of the Aboriginal community on issues affecting urban Aboriginal homelessness.

Housing First

Housing First (HF) is a recovery-oriented approach to homelessness that involves moving people who experience homelessness into independent and permanent housing as quickly as possible, with no preconditions, and then providing them with additional services and supports as needed. The underlying principle of Housing First is that people are more successful in moving forward with their lives if they are first housed.

Highlights

In addition to Housing First services, ACAB members continue to actively work in the community, advocating for additional supports and services that will prevent and end homelessness for Aboriginal people in Ottawa. The following are highlights of that work.

- In April of 2017, the City of Ottawa provided additional resources to implement a housing first approach for youth ages 16-24. Through the City of Ottawa's coordinated access approach the ACAB was able to ensure that any youth who self-identifies as Aboriginal will automatically be referred to the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health. Wabano staff will then conduct an intake and assessment with the youth,



inform them of supports and services available in our community, and provide them with the option to either work with Wabano or with another agency. This process is to ensure that all youth are connected to their community and receive culturally appropriate support in a safe and familiar environment.

- The ACAB also finalized a position paper outlining the strengths and challenges of delivering services under the Housing First model. In September, 2017, an overview of the position paper was presented by the ACAB Chairperson at the Housing First and Homelessness Prevention Symposium.
- ACAB members also held meetings with Deputy Mayor, Mark Taylor, in order to share their position paper and provide information and insight on the Aboriginal homeless population in Ottawa. Excerpts from the paper will be incorporated into the Housing & Homelessness report.
- On July 18, 2017 Aboriginal agencies delivering HF services held the 2nd annual community feast which was attended by approximately 100 individuals experiencing homelessness. This annual event has proven a positive way to engage trusting relationships with those Aboriginal people who are experiencing homelessness. Building on the success of the community feasts, we will continue this practice
- As of December 31, 2017 the three agencies delivering Housing First (Tungasuvvingat Inuit, Minwaashin Lodge, and Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health) have collectively served approximately 251 individuals and housed 107.

Moving Forward

The Aboriginal Community Advisory Board will continue to work at building trusting relationships with all agencies in Ottawa in an effort to develop effective, cooperative partnerships that will serve to ensure that Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness are supported with obtaining and maintaining housing.





February 1, 2018

Dear community members and partners,

On behalf of the City of Ottawa management and staff, and as Co-chair of the Aboriginal Working Committee, I wish to extend a warm welcome to everyone attending the Aboriginal Community forum.

Over the past year and a half, the Community and Social Services department has been working together with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, community partners and staff from across the City of Ottawa to consider how we can work together on a reconciliation journey. We have listened to one another and reflected on actions that could form the City's response to Truth and Reconciliation Commissions' (TRC) Calls to Action.

With the support of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, we have met with urban First Nations, Métis and Inuit Elders and Traditional Teachers and with Algonquin Anishinabe representatives from both the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan and Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation. Their views and perspectives serve as key principles and values to guide us on this journey. They include:

- Leadership starts and stops with the ability to have a conversation
- Focus on relationships and create opportunities for people to share their stories
- Respect and trust are key
- Focus on youth, as they will bring back the Aboriginal cultures
- Involvement of the Elders makes a difference (to share history and culture).
- Action is important (the community needs to see tangible results), at the same time rethink the "big picture" (also work on structural changes)
- Reconciliation is not about "doing for" but "doing with" the Indigenous community (do not lecture or consult, but engage and involve the community)

We are so thankful to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit community partners who have patiently worked with us. Several City departments are already integrating reconciliation activities into their plans and operations and we look forward to presenting other suggested actions to City Council for consideration in February 2018.

I look forward to continuing our shared journey towards reconciliation.

Janice Burelle
General Manager
Community and Social Services



Ottawa Urban Indigenous Health Strategy

(Update January 2018)

With the commitment and support of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC), Akausivik Inuit Family Health Team (AIFHT), Ottawa Public Health, Ottawa-based hospitals and other community-based health service agencies, strategic activities have taken place over the past couple of years to facilitate the development of an Indigenous Health Strategy for Ottawa.

In 2016, a consultation with local First Nations, Inuit and Métis Elders, youth and 12 Indigenous and non-Indigenous health service organizations, identified community strengths, challenges and actions necessary to improve Indigenous health equity in Ottawa. The need to improve cultural safety by addressing racism and discrimination within the health care system was recognized as one of the priority areas for action.

More recently, leaders from Ottawa-based Indigenous and non-Indigenous health service organizations have met to discuss ways in which that they can work together to improve access, quality, safety and benefits of health services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis community members.

In response to these discussions, Catalyst Research and Communications conducted a survey of Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations in order to determine the extent to which Indigenous cultural safety training (ICST) is available and has been received by health service providers in Ottawa. Results clearly showed a strong local commitment and access to a wide variety of learning opportunities.

At a follow up meeting in January 2018, this same group of leaders agreed that more resources were needed to effectively promote Indigenous-specific anti-racism training within the health care system. Building on the cultural safety initiatives of the Champlain LHIN's Indigenous Health Circle Forum, local Indigenous partners will use 1-time funding secured from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care via Ottawa Public Health, to co-create resources such as videos and clinical case studies, to reflect the unique and diverse health and wellness needs of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples living in Ottawa.

In the spirit of reconciliation, and in consultation with Indigenous partners, non-Indigenous health service organizations are also interested in the development of organizational 'pathways' to cultural safety/anti-racism, including quality standards and performance measures that will allow them to monitor system-wide progress over time.

Submitted by:

Kim Trotter
Public Health Nurse
Ottawa Public Health



Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition: History Project

In 2017, the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition was asked to help tell the story of the history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Ottawa. A number of suggestions were brought forward during our community forum. Some ideas included:

Who is the Indigenous community of Ottawa?

What is the history of the Indigenous social services in our city?
What is the story of our leaders in our community?
What was their journey to leadership?

In response to these great ideas, the OAC will be embarking on an exciting project in 2018.

We will be doing a history of our community organizations by conducting mapping exercises and reunion celebrations. These events will bring together the original creators of each of the OAC organizations together with current members to do a mapping and storytelling workshop. It will also provide us with the opportunity to tell the story of the incredible leaders in our community who had a vision to support Indigenous community members, as well as encourage and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

How can I get involved?

Do you have a special story or memory to share on the development of a local Indigenous organization?
Do you have pictures of earlier locations or events? We'd love to hear from you!
Please contact: Elena Abel, Community Developer by email info@ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca





Housing and Homelessness Community Project

The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition has begun a community-driven project to learn about the experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals who have experienced homelessness, as well as the Housing First services that support them. We began our project by conducting a literature review, including a report from the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, which included this definition of Indigenous homelessness:

Unlike the common colonialist definition of homelessness, Indigenous homelessness is not defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully described and understood through a composite lens of Indigenous worldviews. These include: individuals, families and communities isolated from their relationships to land, water, place, family, kin, each other, animals, cultures, languages and identities. Importantly, Indigenous people experiencing these kinds of homelessness cannot culturally, spiritually, emotionally or physically reconnect with their Indigeneity or lost relationships (Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness, 2012).



Tour of the Ottawa Mission, January 2018

Ottawa public housing or supported living residences. Workers also spoke about the discrimination faced by Indigenous people, as well as the multi-generational trauma experienced individuals and families.

In previous forums, community members emphasized a desire to better understand the reality of homelessness in our city, by hearing directly from Indigenous people with lived experience. Therefore, in the second stage of our project, we conducted several filmed interviews with participants who were referred to the project through their Housing First Case Manager. Working alongside Adam Langlois, from Extremeline Productions, we visited each community member in their new home, allowing each to share their personal story in their own way. While each story was different, I was struck by the strength and generous spirit within each of them. Despite profound loss and difficulties, each story contained examples of resiliency, hope and a desire to give back.

With this definition in mind, we set out to interview the Housing First staff at local Aboriginal organizations, including: Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, Minwaashin Lodge/Oshki Giizis and Tungasuvingat Inuit. Staff at each organization were able to highlight the specific barriers they faced while attempting to secure housing for their clients, including eligibility requirements, limited availability of safe, affordable rental units, low income levels, insufficient housing allowances, and long waiting lists for

The short film project will be premiered at the OAC Community Forum tonight, and we hope to continue using it as a resource to increase awareness of the complexity of housing and homelessness for urban Indigenous people.

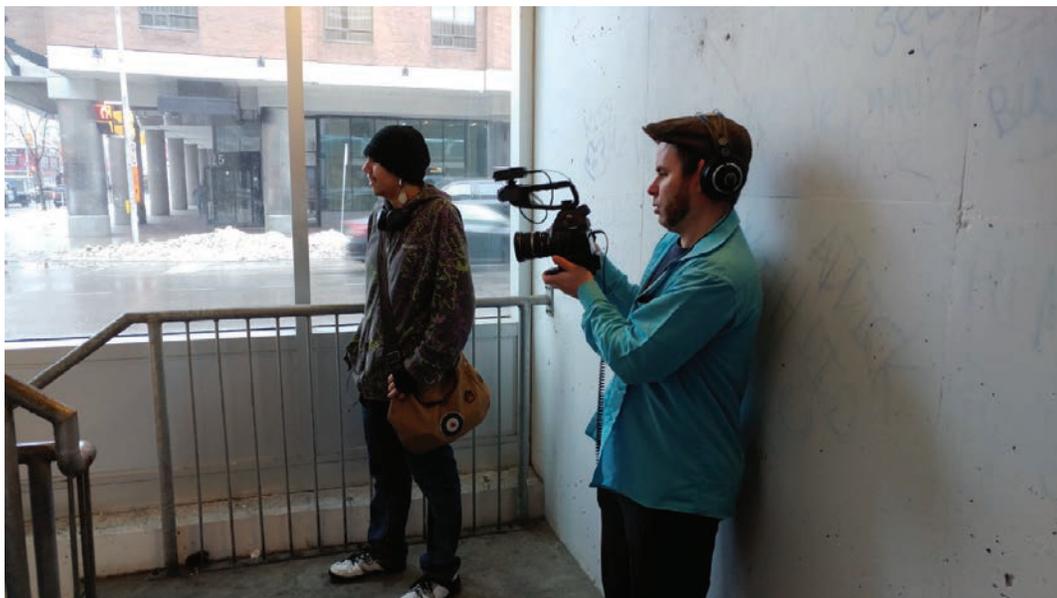
In the final stage of our research project, we will be visiting with non-Indigenous service providers who work with our community members. We hope that through these discussions, we can build stronger partnerships, and ensure our community members are provided with trauma informed, culturally reflective support services wherever they may go.

It has been a true honour to take part in this project. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to meet with us, and share their personal story or perspective. Special thanks to the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres for their support and guidance throughout this process.

Elena Abel, Community Developer
Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition



*Chris, in his home during our pre-interview.
December 2017*



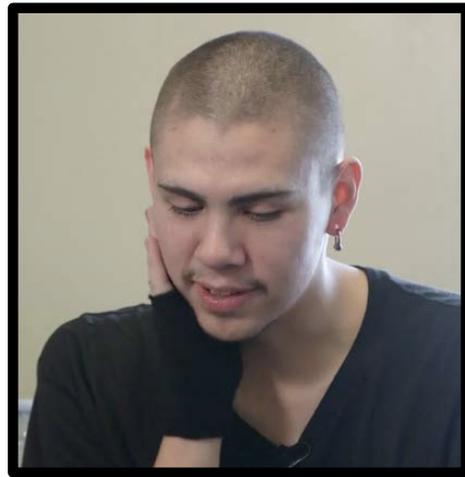
Adam filming Martell in the stairwell where he used to sleep. January 2018

A Home of Our Own: Indigenous Perspectives on Homelessness – Film Participants

Through their own words, our community members have courageously shared their experience with housing and homelessness in the city of Ottawa. Though they share similar difficult histories, each has shown immense strength and resiliency which has enabled them, with the support of our community organizations, to finally find a safe place to call home. Woven through their stories is a generous spirit, and desire to give hope to others. It was a sincere honour to hear their stories, and share them with you tonight.



“Always leave something behind, because maybe someday, your footprint will change somebody's life.” *Chris (Métis, Age 57)*



“To any of the group home kids, or foster kids or any kids in CAS care, I would say: 'Prove them all wrong...everyone has the potential to be something.’” *Martell (First Nations, Age 18)*



What would you like for the future?
“I would like to see more homeless people get housed, not just Inuit people, but all individuals.” *Galvestine (Inuit, Age 36)*



“Even when you have your hard days, and you just want to give up and go to sleep, just roll over and get up and go. Reach out to your support - they're out there. It's going to get better. Stay positive and smudge every day.” *Pamela (First Nations, Age 38)*

Honouring Our Community Members



Wendy Lanouette (*left*)

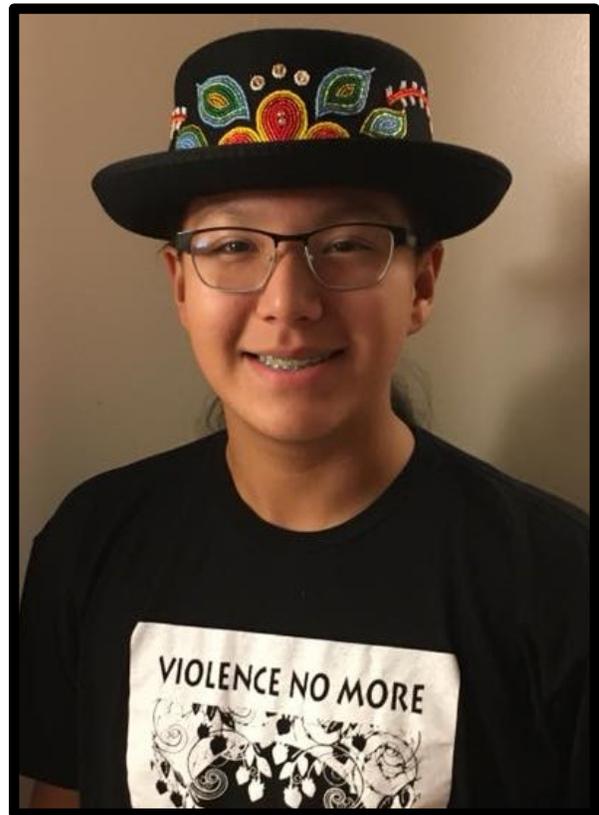
Ojibwe from the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation. Wendy is honoured today for her 25 years of service to Ottawa's urban Indigenous community, and her dedicated work with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition.

Reepa Evic Carleton (*bottom left*)

Born in Cumberland Sound, Nunavut, Reepa relocated to the community of Pangnirtung at the age of five. Reepa has dedicated her career to working with Ottawa's Inuit community. She is the recipient of the 2017 Chapin A'sin Elder Vern Harper Award.

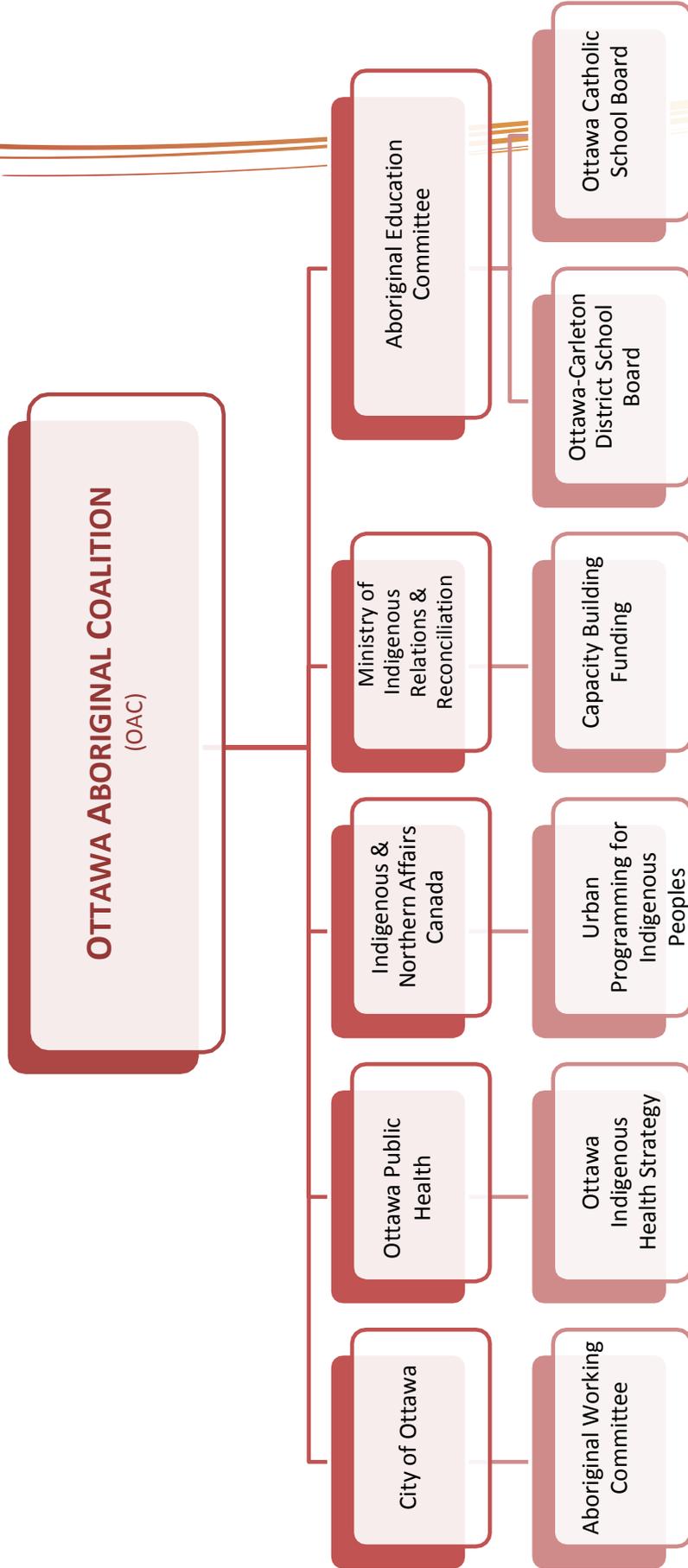
Theiland Kicknosway (*bottom right*)

Walpole Island Bkejwanong Territory, ON. Recipient of the 2018 Inspire Award, the 2017 Spirit Award, and ranked sixth in the 'Top 25 people in the Capital'. Theiland recently completed his third 130 km run to raise awareness for Families of Sisters in Spirit.





OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION RELATIONSHIP STREAMS





OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION (OAC) REPRESENTATIVES

Organization	Description
<p>Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition 396 MacLaren Street Ottawa, ON K2P 0M8 Telephone: 613-232-0016</p>	<p>The Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition (OAC) was formed in 2001 as a means of presenting a unified voice on behalf of the Aboriginal 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.</p>
<p>Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation 396 MacLaren Street Ottawa, ON K2P 0M8 Telephone: 613-232-0016</p>	<p>Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation works in partnership with other Aboriginal organizations to focus on both short and long term housing solutions, including supportive shelters to affordable, independent living.</p>
<p>Kagita Mikam 456 McArthur Avenue, Box 5 Ottawa, ON K1K 4B5 Telephone: 613-565-8333</p>	<p>Kagita Mikam provides provide training and employment support services to Aboriginal clients, including resume writing, employment counselling, labour market information, referral to employment and training opportunities.</p>
<p>Koki Mino-Miikan Nosawadoon 1560 Dorion Avenue, Suite 5 Ottawa, ON K1G 0J6 Telephone: 613-406-4863</p>	<p>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. Their 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.</p>
<p>Métis Nation of Ontario 500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit 3 Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4 Telephone: 613-798-1488</p>	<p>Métis Nation of Ontario provides a range of employment training programs and supports for the educational success of all Métis across Ontario beginning in early childhood, continuing through K to 12 to post-secondary education and into adulthood.</p>



Organization	Description
<p>Minwaashin Lodge 1155 Lola Street Ottawa, ON K1K 4C1 Telephone: 613-741-5590</p>	<p>Minwaashin Lodge provides violence prevention and intervention services for Aboriginal women, youth, children and elders, including traditional healing, employment, counseling, shelter, youth and cultural programs, community development initiatives, and social support.</p>
<p>Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre 230 McArthur Avenue Ottawa, ON K1L 6P5 Telephone: 613-744-3133</p>	<p>Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre (OICC) provides cultural, educational, recreational and social support services to children, youth and families in Ottawa's Inuit community. The OICC operates an Inuit Kindergarten program and does class room presentation on Inuit culture.</p>
<p>Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth 65 Harvey Street Ottawa, ON K1S 0A8 Telephone: 613-233-0672</p>	<p>Tewegan Housing for Aboriginal Youth operates a 12-bed home for young First Nations, Inuit and Métis women between 16 -29 years who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.</p>
<p>Tungasuvvingat Inuit 604 Laurier Avenue West Ottawa, ON K1R 6L1 Telephone: 613-233-0572</p>	<p>Tungasuvvingat Inuit is an Inuit-specific, provincial service provider that provides social support, cultural activities, counselling and crisis intervention as a one-stop resource centre to meet the rapidly growing, complex and evolving needs of Inuit in Ontario.</p>
<p>Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health 299 Montreal Road Ottawa, ON K1L 6B8 Telephone: 613-748-5999</p>	<p>Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health provides a combination of traditional healing, primary health care, cultural programs, health promotion, community development initiatives, and social support services to more than 10,000 First Nations, Inuit and Métis people each year.</p>

Thank you to the following organizations/agencies for their support in making this Aboriginal Community Forum a huge success:

City of Ottawa

Elephant Shoe Media

Elm Printing

Gignul Non-Profit Housing Corporation

Kagita Mikam

Métis Nation of Ontario

Minwaashin Lodge - Indigenous Women's Support Centre

Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre

Ottawa Public Library

The Children's Aid Society of Ottawa

Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health

Wawatay Catering

Also a very special thanks to

Laura Leonard, David Finkle and Theland Kicknosway,
our volunteers, our Aboriginal Community, and all our partners.

Chi-miigwetch! Nia:wen! Zujannamiik! Thank You!

Our Cultural Performers this Evening...

*Thelana Kicknosway, Age 14
Pottawatami Cree*



Laura Leonard (Maliseet) and David Finkle (Mohawk)





OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION

