

**Thunder Bay Indigenous  
Friendship Centre**

# **Annual General Meeting Highlights**

2022/2023



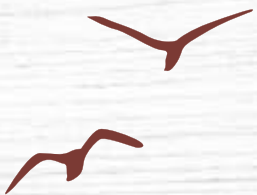






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## OUR VISION

A welcoming Indigenous community that nurtures healing, culture, traditions and self-determination.

## OUR MISSION

Rooted in culture, the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre strengthens the lives of Indigenous people by providing holistic supports, services and advocacy.

The Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre is located on the traditional lands of Fort William First Nation, Signatory to the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850. The land on which we live, work and play on is the traditional territory of the Anishnaabek.

We recognize and deeply appreciate our historic connection to the land; we also recognize the contributions of Metis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples have made in both shaping and strengthening our community.



# **BOARD OF** **DIRECTORS**

**Tamara Spence** – President

**Derek West** – Vice-President

**Sally Ledger** – Treasurer

**Christina Michon** – Secretary

**Tahshiina Cheechoo** – Director

**Tammy Squitti** – Director

**Cecile Lesperance** – Director

**Lindy Sportak** – Youth Director

**Athena Hudson** – Youth Director





# BOOZHOO!

## Aaneen, Wachay

On behalf of the *Board of Directors and Staff of the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre*, we are pleased to share with you our AGM highlights for the fiscal year April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023. We had a very exciting and productive year with many new initiatives that we would like to share.

First and foremost, we are pleased to announce our recent acquisition of the former *Bank of Montreal* building located at the corner of *Red River Road and Court Street*, and secondly, design planning of the transitional housing to be built on *Junot Avenue*. These two initiatives have kept us extremely busy and both are very rewarding.

To our many volunteers and donors, I wish to extend our appreciation and say *Chi-Miigwetch*; you make our success possible.

We trust that our annual report reflects the wide range and scope of our programs and services, our commitment to meeting the needs of our community as well as demonstrating our capacity for leadership and community development within the City of Thunder Bay. If you have time to volunteer and want to get involved in the Friendship Centre, we encourage you to give us a call.

Until then, we thank you for the opportunity to share these AGM highlights with you. We look forward to serving you, our community, in the upcoming year.

With Gratitude

INDIAN YOUTH FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY  
Ms. Tamara Spence, President  
Board of Directors



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

## 256 RED RIVER ROAD FORMER BANK OF MONTREAL BUILDING

On March 30, 2023, TBIFC took ownership of the former *Bank of Montreal* building. It is approximately 12,000 sq. feet covering the main floor, second floor (mezzanine) and a basement. The building was built in 1982 and is located on a main thoroughfare with high-visibility and accessible by transit.

The new office and programming space is an important step that will bring our Justice programs together with our *Drug Treatment Court, Healing & Wellness and Anishnawbe Skills Development Programs* together in one location to create a wrap-around support system for services and direct access to employment and training, cultural programming, and other well-being supports.

During the months of April – June 2023, TBIFC worked with *FORM Architecture* to redesign the building. It is anticipated that demolition and renovations will begin this fall and could take up to a year to complete.

We are really excited and I know the staff are looking forward to relocating.





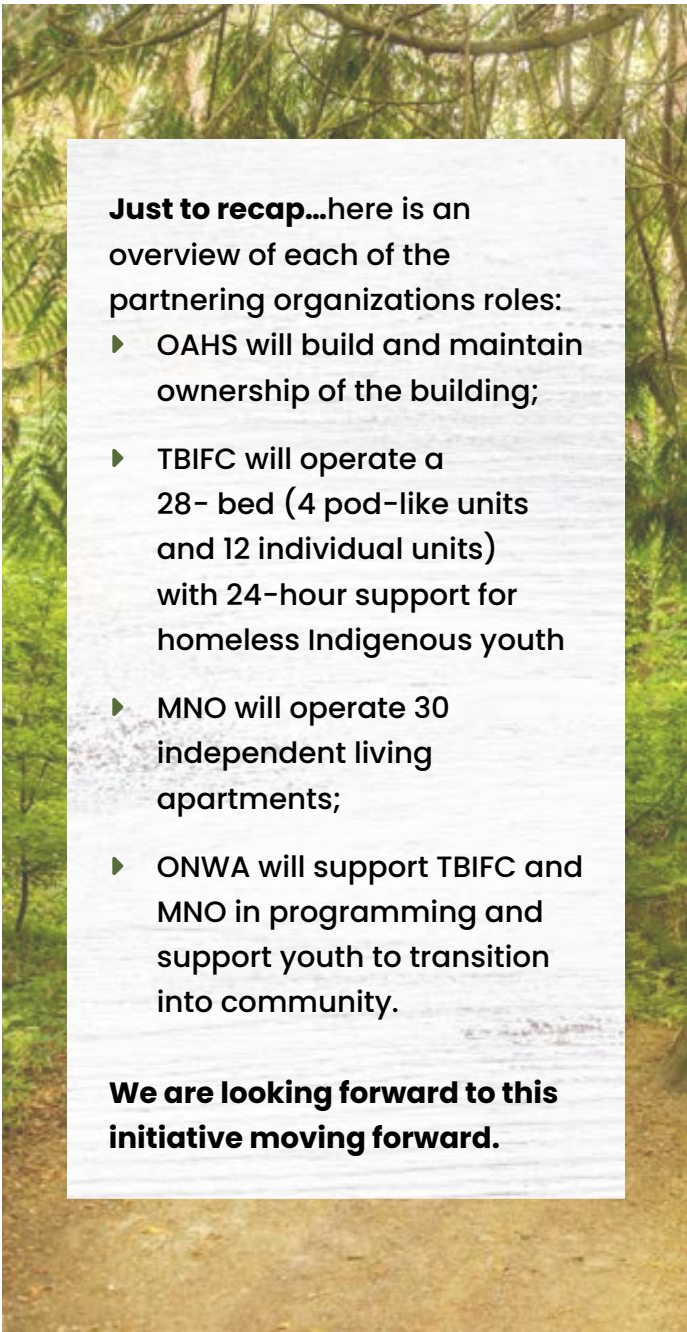


# ONTARIO ABORIGINAL HOUSING SERVICES (OAHS) – JUNOT AVE YOUTH TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Last year we noted that the *Junot Ave. Transitional Housing Project* would begin construction in the spring of 2023. The tentative schedule presented last year, is for the most part, on track.

It was a very busy year meeting every week to review design plans that included pod and unit design, programming space, commercial and teaching kitchen, ceremonial room, and review the electrical, telephone and internet, health & safety requirements, maintenance services, and ground / environmental needs.

All of the partners OAHS, TBIFC, MNO, and ONWA joined together for a traditional ground breaking ceremony with our Elders to prepare the grounds for construction and offer tobacco and prayers for all who will be living there.



**Just to recap...**here is an overview of each of the partnering organizations roles:

- ▶ OAHS will build and maintain ownership of the building;
- ▶ TBIFC will operate a 28- bed (4 pod-like units and 12 individual units) with 24-hour support for homeless Indigenous youth
- ▶ MNO will operate 30 independent living apartments;
- ▶ ONWA will support TBIFC and MNO in programming and support youth to transition into community.

**We are looking forward to this initiative moving forward.**

# REACHING HOME

TBIFC has completed four years of a five-year agreement with *Service Canada's Reaching Home* – Canada's redesigned federal homelessness program. It is a community-based program aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness by providing direct support and funding.

TBIFC was advised that Reaching Home would be moving to *Infrastructure Canada (INFC)* effective April 1, 2023. This transfer is a structural change within the Government of Canada and will have no impact on the nature or funding of the *Reaching Home* program.

## New Reaching Home TBIFC Sub-Projects

### **Dilico Anishinabek Family Care**

Last August, TBIFC funded an application submitted by *Dilico Anishinabek Family Care* to fund a “*Transitional Aged Youth Supportive Housing*” project until March 31, 2024. The project focuses on transitional housing and client support services activities for youth 18–30 years of age. The project provides safe accommodations for youth to learn necessary skills for independent living in a supported environment with an emphasis on substance free lives, and provides services to help improve integration, connectedness and navigation of community support services in the areas of social, emotional, cultural, recreational, health and addictions.

### **Ka-na-chi-hih Specialized Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre**

In September 2022, TBIFC funded an application submitted by *Ka-na-chi-hih* for “*The Home is Life*” project that assists Indigenous youth ages 18–29 in obtaining housing through the provision of pre and post treatment programming to clients entering and exiting Ka-na-chi-hih. Programming includes addiction awareness, land-based teachings, life skills, resume building and job readiness. The project will provide housing support to clients who require assistance with housing applications and viewings of potential residences as well as housing set-up and basic needs assistance.



## **Other Reaching Home TBIFC Sub-Projects**

### **Beendigen – Memengwaa House**

A five-bed transitional house for single Indigenous women age 16 who are at risk of experiencing violence and/or homelessness.

### **Kinna-Aweya Legal Clinic – Eviction Prevention Project**

Employs a Housing Support Intake Worker and a Housing Social Navigator to prevent evictions through landlord-tenant mediation.

### **Ontario Native Women's Association – Nihdawin Program**

Supports Indigenous women and their families who are affected by homelessness by providing supports such as housing placement, basic needs, transportation, system navigation, and access to cultural programming and activities.

### **Alpha Court – Coordinated Housing Access System Lead**

Coordinates and facilitates the implementation of the Coordinated Housing Access Table (CHAT) that enables access points to receive support for housing and for housing resources utilizing a common assessment tool.

# DRUG TREATMENT COURT (DTC)

On March 9, 2023, the *Ministry of the Attorney General* advised TBIFC that funding had been secured for the establishment of a *Drug Treatment Court Program* in Thunder Bay. In partnership with *Anishnawbe Mushkiki Aboriginal Health Access Centre*, DTCs operate within the criminal justice system and consist of two separate and distinct components: judicially supervised court dockets and treatment components. Sentencing is delayed while the offender with a substance use disorder successfully completes the treatment program.

The objective of DTC's is to reduce substance use, crime and recidivism through the rehabilitation of persons who commit crimes to support their substance use. DTC's provide non-violent offenders suffering from a substance use disorder an opportunity to participate in community-based treatment programs as an alternative to incarceration. DTC's use a multidisciplinary, collaborative approach that involves judicial supervision, comprehensive substance use treatment, random and frequent drug testing, primary health care, incentives and sanction, clinical case management and social services support.





# INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM (ILRP)

In June 2022, OFIFC advised that funding from *Canadian Heritage* had been secured to develop urban Indigenous community models of language learning, immersion, and revitalization through locally determined activities.

ILRP will support the development of language hubs and will work toward integrating Indigenous language into the daily operations of TBIFC and in community by providing Indigenous language programming. It will further provide access to culture and land-based Indigenous language activities, and create partnerships and build relationships that support Indigenous language learning.

The program's objectives are as follows:

- ▶ To reclaim and revitalize Indigenous language learning proficiency;
- ▶ To improve access for Indigenous language learning pedagogy that incorporates water and land-based cultural practices;
- ▶ To build capacity and proficiency in language speakers;
- ▶ To promote the integration of Indigenous languages in key community spaces to foster learning and well-being; and
- ▶ To provide evidence-based policy advice for the enhancement and expansion of urban Indigenous language revitalization programming.

We are happy to report that TBIFC was advised in April 2023 that funding will continue for another fiscal year.





## ENHANCED YOUTH OUTREACH WORKER PROGRAM (EYOW)

In January 2023, TBIFC was advised of a new *Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker Program* for three years that may be extended beyond March 31, 2025. The program's target population is to serve youth 12–21 years of age.

The purpose of the *EYOW* is to help at-risk and high-risk youth and their families better navigate and connect with services and social opportunities in their community to improve youth outcomes. It is a prevention and intervention program that focuses on youth who live in an identified priority community and/or belong to a distinct priority population. These youth may experience increased barriers in accessing opportunities that can help them develop their capacity to make healthy life choices and achieve their goals.

*EYOW's* will provide interim, short-term counselling and support services to help a youth participant, support youth to develop and enhance their identity, culture and sense of belonging, and refer youth to appropriate resources and supports.

*EYOW's* serve as a clinical "bridge" in situations where a youth is in crisis and services are not immediately available or a youth requires support in accessing further community services.

This new *EYOW Program* complements the existing TBIFC Youth and Children's programs and their families.



## INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S COURT REVIEW

The *Indigenous Peoples Court Review* was completed January 10, 2023 by *Superior Strategies*. On January 23, 2023 the final report was presented to community and contained 23 different recommendations for change. The review included interviews with elders and knowledge keepers, crown attorneys and defense counsel, TBIFC staff and board members, and the Indigenous accused.

If you would like a copy of the report, please contact the *Manager of Justice Services*, Roseanna Hudson.

## INDIGENOUS HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM (IHRP)

On March 20, 2023, TBIFC was advised that the *Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres* was successful in securing funding for an *Indigenous Human Rights Coordinator* for a three-year period. TBIFC will hire one individual to assist urban Indigenous people to feel empowered to make decisions regarding their rights and be responsible for overseeing the free legal clinic and public legal education workshops.

## MENTAL HEALTH PEER COORDINATOR

The *Mental Health Peer Coordinator* position ended March 31, 2023.



## KIZHAAY

On January 24, 2023, the OFIFC advised that the *Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin* has been designated as an *Indigenous-Specific Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Program* (IS-IPVP). The OFIFC was successful in advocating for this much needed designation to respond to the growing demand for urban Indigenous people to gain access to culturally appropriate court-sanctioned programming. The designation does not alter the nature of the program but rather allows for the utilization of the existing model to address intimate partner violence (IPV) within community as opposed to the mainstream Partner Assault Response (PAR) program.

This new designation will facilitate the referral of IPV diversions in the program and clients will gain access to culture-based healing practices to address the root causes of harmful behaviour. The designation expands referral pathways and formalizes any prior agreements between the justice system and *Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin* regarding parallel PAR programming.

This is good news given TBIFC has been advocating locally and provincially for this designation for many years.

## YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council had been successful in receiving a Jerri Keeash Youth Initiative Grant. The goal of the grant was to rebuild TBIFC Youth and Council and provide youth led initiatives for the community including a youth ribbon shirt and skirt workshop, a youth council gender inclusion workshop, a cultural camp, and a community round dance. This logo was designed by Athena Hudson, youth council member.





## MEETINGS & TRAINING

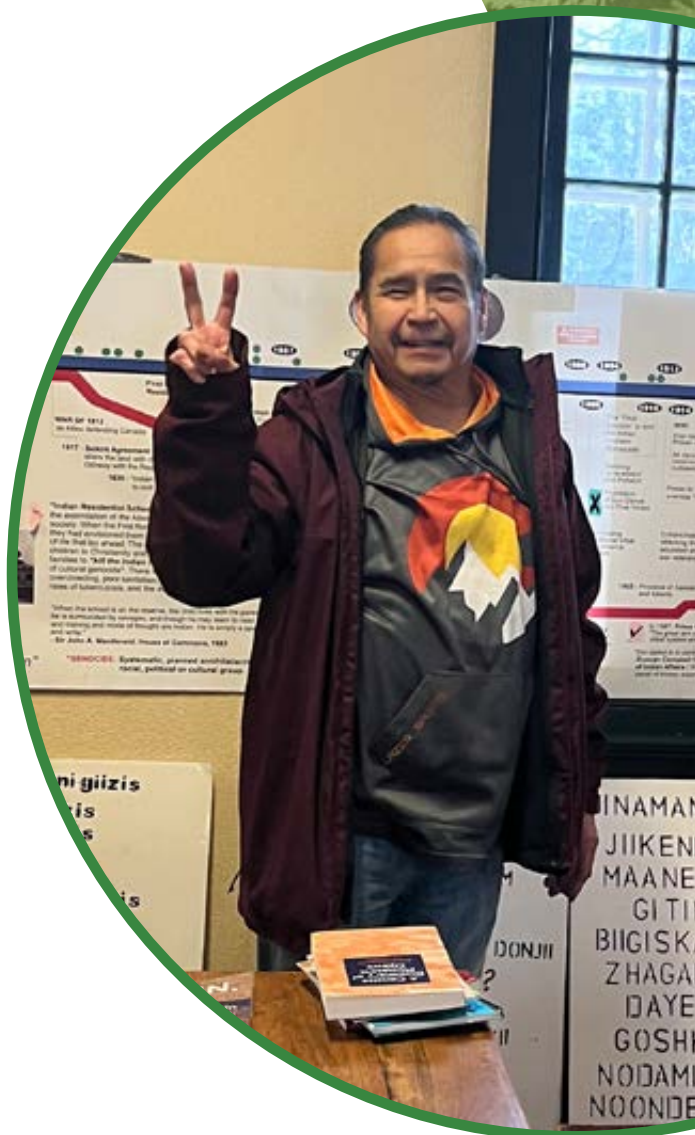
The Board of Directors continues to meet monthly to conduct business on behalf of the Friendship Centre and to provide direction and leadership to staff.

On July 8, 2022, the OFIFC held a *Retirement Dinner* for Sylvia Maracle at the *Sheraton Centre* in Toronto, Ontario. The *Annual General Meeting* was held the following two days July 9-10, 2022.

TBIFC's AGM was held at the *Victoria Inn* on September 15, 2022.

### Other Significant Meetings & Events

- ▶ OFIFC Northwest Regional / Board Meetings
- ▶ OFIFC Strategic Gathering – October 24-26, 2022
- ▶ OFIFC – Indigenous Health Plan Engagement – November 28, 2022
- ▶ OFIFC – United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act – January 18, 2023
- ▶ Thunder Bay Urban Aboriginal Advisory Committee Meetings
- ▶ TBUAAC Community Forum – March 28, 2023
- ▶ Naadmaagewin Aboriginal Domestic Violence Committee
- ▶ Aboriginal Day Celebrations – June 21, 2022
- ▶ Canadian Alliance to end Homelessness – November 2-4, 2022











# PROGRAM & SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS

For nearly 60 years TBIFC has been a leader in providing quality supports and services to the urban Indigenous community in Thunder Bay. We provide many life-journey support services and programs, including Justice, Child & Family, Wellness, Education & Employment, and Transitional Housing Services.

## CHILD & FAMILY

### Waabogonee EarlyON

Waabogonee translated means “flower that wakes up in the morning and blossoms throughout the day.” This program offers drop-in programming for parent/caregivers and children from birth to 6 years of age. The program supports children and parents/caregivers in learning, growing and deepening their connections.

✔ **Programming was provided to over 2000 participants this year!**

### Indigenous Family Support

A Community Action Program for Children (CAP-C) offering programming for caregivers and children birth to 6 years of age. The program offers parent/caregiver support, child development, nutrition support, cultural retention and community development.

✔ **This year over 2500 food supports were provided to families!**

## Akwe:go

Akwe:go translated means “all of us.” This program provides support and guidance to youth ages 7 to 12 who are at risk by incorporating traditional cultural teachings and values that enhances life skills, knowledge, and encourages healthy lifestyle choices.

- ✔ This year programming was provided to 1647 participants!

## Wasa-Nabin

Wasa-nabin translated means “to look ahead.” This program provides support and guidance to youth ages 13-18 who are at risk by incorporating traditional cultural teachings and values that enhances life skills, knowledge, and encourages healthy lifestyle choices.

- ✔ This year programming was provided to 1322 participants!

## Youth Life Promotions

Founded on principles of self-determination and cultural reclamation for youth ages 13-24 years of age, this program promotes positive self-identity, self-determination, enhance leadership and foster social responsibility.

- ✔ This year programming was provided to over 2000 participants!

## Children’s Wellness Program

Provides services that assist children 7-12 years of age and their families to address a child’s behavioral and mental health needs.

- ✔ This year programming was provided to 1372 participants!

## Community Support Worker

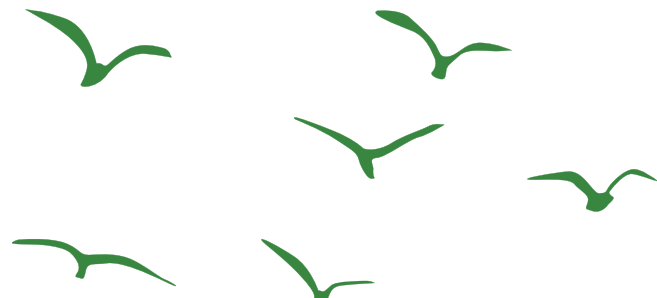
Provides culturally wholistic prevention and intervention support to individuals and families impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

- ✔ The program has 90 registered clients!

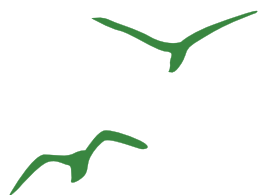
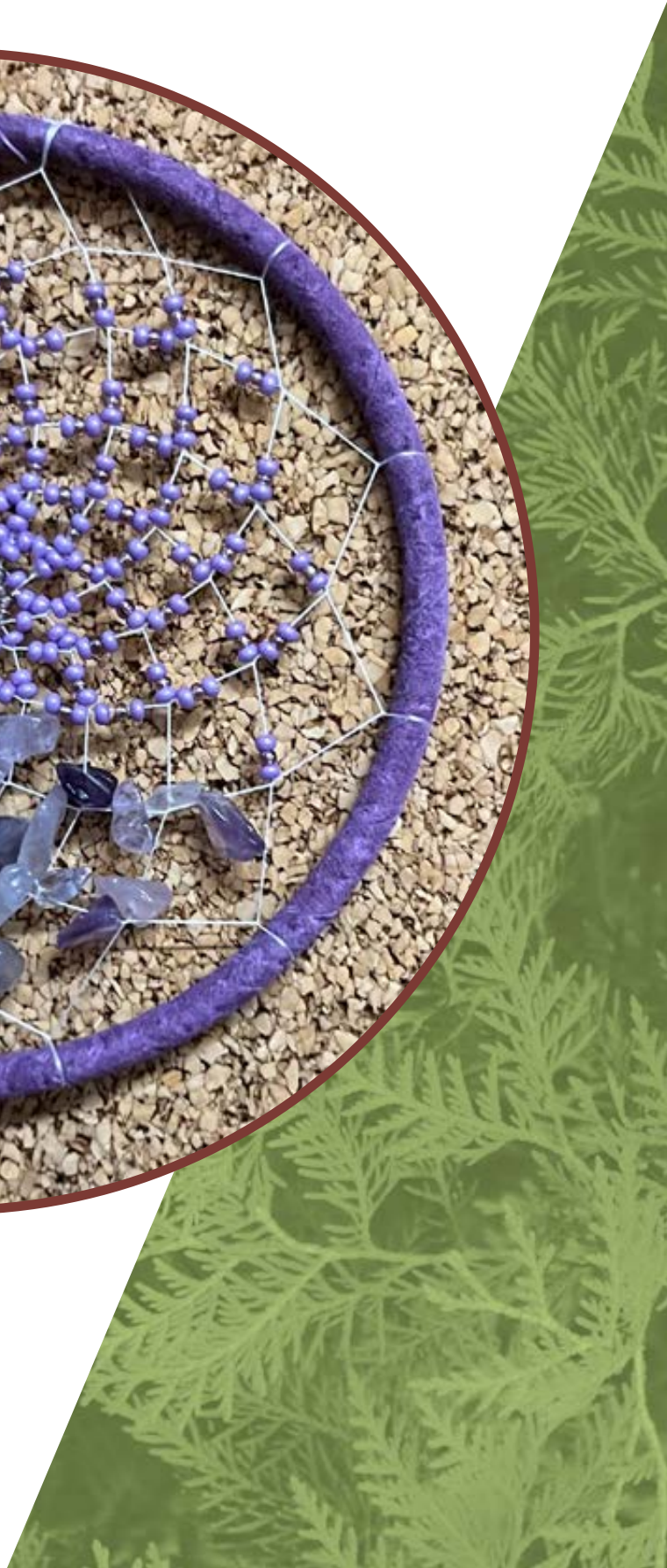
## Enhanced Youth Outreach Worker Program

Provides wholistic, culturally-informed counselling support to high-risk youth ages 12-21. Provides youth and their families support with navigating and connecting with services in the community.

- ✔ This is a new program to TBIFC!







# WELLNESS

## Cultural Resource Coordinator Program

Providing cultural and traditional supports for Indigenous children, youth, and families, as well as building internal capacity for the Friendship Centre.

- ✔ **This program offered 52 participant-based programs this year and over 120 individual client supports!**

## Indigenous Healthy Living Program

Focuses on healthy eating, physical fitness, and overall well-being through fitness classes, individual coaching, and regular programming.

- ✔ **This program offered 85 different participant-based programs this past year!**

## Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin “I Am a Kind Man”

Encourages men and male-identified people to speak out and end all forms of violence, and is now a recognized Partner Assault Response program equivalent.

- ✔ **This year there were over 100 graduates!**

## Wiisinadaa: Let's Eat! Nutrition Program

A food-based diabetes prevention and management program that seeks to improve health outcomes for urban Indigenous people by increasing access, knowledge, and skills around healthy eating, nutrition, traditional foods, and traditional ways of knowing.

- ✔ **Wiisinadaa provided over 600 client supports this past year and coordinated 322 Good Food boxes for the organization!**

## Indigenous Healing & Wellness Strategy

The Indigenous Healing & Wellness Strategy focuses on reducing family violence, promoting healthy lifestyles, and deliver culture-based programming to support wholistic healing.

- ✔ **Over 110 registered clients were supported by this program this year!**





## Treatment & Aftercare Program

Designed to support urban Indigenous people who are experiencing issues related to drug and alcohol use and are seeking change.

- ✔ **This program supported over 400 participants with over 80 programs this year!**

## Indigenous Mental Health and Wellness Program

Provides wholistic, culture-based supports for individuals by providing services that implement trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches.

- ✔ **This year over 750 individual client supports were provided by this program!**

## Life Long Care Program

Supports the needs of Indigenous seniors, people with disabilities and the chronically ill through supportive calls, friendly visiting, programming, and community support.

- ✔ **This year our Life Long Care staff provided over 400 client supports!**

## Building Gender Diverse Communities

Provides support, resources, and programming to those who identify as Two-Spirit or LGBTQQIA+, this program is available to people of all ages.

- ✔ **This year there were over 900 program participants, including those who participated in our first Two-Spirit Pow Wow!**

## Creating Safer Spaces

Collaborates with internal and external partners to evaluate barriers and trends regarding gender-equitable community service deliverables, and for develops strategies to strengthen awareness and enhance inclusive spaces.

- ✔ **In addition to spearheading a round dance this year, this program also provided 57 individual client supports.**

## Indigenous Language Revitalization Program

A new program implemented this year, it provides access to culture and land-based Indigenous Language activities that support Indigenous language learning and reclamation of culture.

- ✔ **Our first 5-day language camp had over 400 participants whose ages ranged from 0 to 100!**

# EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING/EDUCATION SERVICES

## Anishinawbe Skills Development Program

A free basic upgrading program in Mathematics and English for individuals aged 18 and over.

- ✔ This program saw 120 participants through the Literacy & Basic Skills Program and 10 participants through the Corrections Literacy Initiative Pilot with the District Jail and Correctional Centre!

## Apatisiwin Employment Program

This program supports Indigenous people gain education, experience, and skills to achieve and maintain meaningful employment through funded and non-funded program interventions.

- ✔ This program serviced 100 clients with employment counselling, skills development, and networking opportunities!

## Alternative Secondary School Program

In partnership with Lakehead District School Board, this program provides Indigenous youth a gentle transition into the mainstream high school setting. The programs are being offered in two locations Hammaraskjold High School and Westgate Colligate High School.

- ✔ 26 students successfully completed grade 9 credits this year!





# TRANSITIONAL HOUSING SERVICES

## Indigenous Youth Transition House- Dibiniwaang Youth Outreach Program

Dibiniwaang translated means “shelter from the wind.” The Dibiniwaang Youth Project provides coordinated outreach services & supports to Indigenous youth at risk due to socioeconomic conditions (ie: mental health, addictions, income, housing, and food security, etc) who are currently not living in supportive housing.

✔ **343 intakes were completed for case management this year!**

## Reaching Home

Supported by the Indigenous Homelessness Community Administrator, Reaching Home is responsible for the oversight of community subprojects dedicated to reducing urban Indigenous homelessness.

✔ **This year Reaching Home supported Beendigen’s Memengwaa Transition Home, Dilico’s Transitionally Aged Youth Supportive Housing Project, Kinna-aweya’s Eviction Prevention Project, Ka-Na-Chi-Hih’s Home is Life Program, and ONWA’S Nihdawin’s Program!**



# JUSTICE

## Indigenous Community Council Program

A post-charge diversion program for Indigenous offenders who accept responsibility for their actions, behaviours and are interested in participating in a process that repairs harm, while addressing outstanding issues.

- ✔ This year 88 Indigenous individuals accessed this program and 24 Indigenous volunteers participated in assisting with the development of healing plans!

## Victim Advocate Services

Provides supportive services to victims of crime and encourages participation in alternatives mainstream court processes.

- ✔ This year this program accepted 88 referrals and completed one round of the "Grief and Loss" program with 5 graduates!

## Gladue Writer Services

Prepares a report for an Indigenous offender that sets out their life history and systemic background factors as well as alternatives of custody recommendation for the Judge to consider at sentencing.

- ✔ This year 19 Indigenous persons accessed the program with 13 reports completed (others were carried over to the next year)!

## Gladue Aftercare Program

Provides supportive services to Indigenous offenders during and following the completion of a Gladue Report.

- ✔ This year 36 participants completed the "Nishin Neen (Anger Management) Program" based on the Seven Grandfather Teachings!

## Indigenous Peoples' Court

Considered a "Healing Court" that is an alternative to mainstream court for Indigenous offenders that offers opportunity to accept responsibility for one's actions with a focus on healing.

- ✔ This year 25 Indigenous persons accessed this program with 10 active Elders and Knowledge Keepers sitting in court!



## Indigenous Criminal, Family and Combined Courtworker Programs

Assists Indigenous adults in navigating through the criminal, Family and Child Welfare court processes.

- ✔ **This year there were 518 Indigenous people who accessed court services in the areas of criminal, family, child welfare, civil, witness, and power of attorney!**

## Indigenous Bail Verification Supervision Program:

Provides supervision services, and access to cultural programming for Indigenous individuals released on conditions of bail.

- ✔ **This year 112 Indigenous individuals accessed the program!**

## Youth Justice Committee

A pre and post charge diversion program for all youth (12-17) providing an opportunity for youth to be accountable and participate in healing and reparation options.

- ✔ **This year there were 42 accepted pre and post charge referrals with 8 active volunteers hearing cases!**

## Mental Health Peer Coordinator

Provides networks, support, and mentorship to Indigenous people under Community Supervision orders seeking to improve their overall mental health and well-being.

- ✔ **This year, this program hosted a Sharing Circles and a spiritual retreat, securing 2 mentors!**

## Indigenous Community Reintegration Program

Assists Indigenous individuals released from custody reintegrating into the community and provides advocacy services for successful outcomes of Conditional Sentences.

- ✔ **This year there were 26 accepted referrals from Probation/Parole!**

## NEW – Drug Treatment Court

Access to supportive services for Indigenous persons living with an addiction that contributes to criminal activities. This program is currently in negotiations with the court and funders.



# ANNUAL EVENTS

## EVERY CHILD MATTERS ORANGE SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST



Youth Life Promotions program had an Every Child Matters Orange Shirt design contest. This contest was open to youth ages 13–24. Kaydence Vondrasek's artwork was the successful candidate. Kaydence is 15 years old and is interested in the arts along with learning about their Metis heritage. All proceeds from the t-shirt sales went to supporting the Elder and Youth programs.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

**November 11, 2022**

The *Friendship Centre* attended Mount McKay to support *Fort William First Nation* in the *Remembrance Day* ceremonies. A wreath was laid in honour of all our Indigenous veterans.



## MINO BIMAADIZIWIN CAMP

Lakehead Public Schools, in partnership with the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, Thunder Bay Police, and other community organizations, hosted Mino Bimaadiziwin translates mean (Leading a Good Life), an Indigenous Youth Leadership cultural camp. This one-week summer camp is designed for students who transitioned into new schools, specifically those entering grades 7, 8, 9, or 10. The camp curriculum emphasized on the important life skills such as leadership, building healthy relationships, developing positive self-esteem, increasing self-awareness, and fostering connections to education.



## MINI POW WOW HONOURING ALL TWO-SPIRIT & LGBTQQIA+ PEOPLE

TBIFC hosted our first Pow Wow honouring all two-spirit and LGBTQQIA+ people! Featuring Two-Spirit Elders and Traditional Knowledge keepers, we brought community members of all ages together to celebrate our 2SLGBTQQIA+ relations in Thunder Bay's first Two-Spirit Pow Wow. It was a day of celebration and pride with over 400 attendees. This was part of our participation in Thunder Pride, which also included hosting a Sunrise Ceremony to open Pride Month.



## SEASONAL FEASTS

This year, the Friendship Centre conducted our seasonal feasts and shared traditional teachings to staff and community members. Program staff gathered medicines for use during the year. To accommodate everyone during the pandemic these feasts were conducted in a hybrid manner, with virtual options being available for those who could not attend in person. Chi-Miigwetch to Elder Gene Nowegejick for leading us in these!

## VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER & XAVIER MICHON MEMORIAL CELEBRATIONS

In appreciation of our volunteers, the Friendship Centre hosted the annual *Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Celebration* at the *Royal Canadian Legion Branch 5* on March 23, 2023. At this same time, the *Xavier Michon Memorial Award* was presented to Trista Penagin from *St. Ignatius High School* and Jordan Storm from *St. Patrick High School* for their academic achievement, leadership and community involvement. Congratulations to Trista and Jordan!



# CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

The 50th Annual Children's Christmas Party was held at the Heritage Centre on November 26, 2022. TBIFC had a Christmas ornament made to celebrate this long-standing community event for the last 50 years. Many children and families have passed through our doors and participated every year. Today, we see many of these individuals working in our community and having children of their own. It has been a wonderful scene watching our children and youth grow over the years.

The celebration included traditional drumming, a puppet show, art activities, photo booth, fish pond, gifts, brunch and visit from Santa. Over 225 community members attended the event.



# RECOGNITION

## AWARDS, TENOR, & VOLUNTEERS

### 2022 OFIFC Tenure Award

- ▶ 10 years - Tamara Spence (Volunteer)
- ▶ 5 years - Derek West (Volunteer)
- ▶ 5 years - Tammy Squitti (Volunteer)
- ▶ 5 years - Marco Pasinelli (Staff)

**Thunder Bay Indigenous  
Friendship Centre was  
supported with 40  
volunteers during  
this year!**





## **Jeannette Corbiere-Lavell Award**

Each year the Ontario Native Women's Association is pleased to present this prestigious award in recognition of one of our founding members to an Indigenous woman who best displays the qualities and depth of commitment towards the Indigenous Women's Movement.

### **Roseanna Hudson**

Roseanna has worked with the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre for thirty-five years and is deeply committed to the promotion of and access to justice. She has made a measurable impact over these years as program developer, community leader, and as an outspoken passionate advocate for justice issues. Roseanna has worked tirelessly to make many contributions dedicated to justice and for the benefit of Indigenous persons.

The Indigenous Community Council Program was one of the first alternative justice programs in Thunder Bay to provide services to youth and adults charged with a criminal and provincial offences. In recognition of Roseanna's exemplary performance as a leader and innovator in building and advancing justice for Indigenous peoples, she was promoted to the Justice Services Program Manager.

In 2014, Roseanna received the Ministry of Attorney General's Victim Services Award for her exceptional achievements on behalf of victims and victim services in Ontario. Roseanna has been a trailblazer in our community and has opened the doors for other agencies and activists to advocate for the unique needs of Indigenous justice. Today, we see those same persons working in our organizations with their families, contributing back to our community.



# MIIGWETCH

Rooted in culture and guided by the Seven Grandfather Teachings, the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre is committed to strengthening our community. **Chi-Miigwetch to our funders, donators, and community for your support and generosity.**

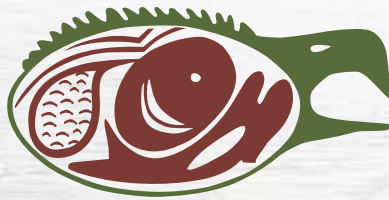
With your help, we are able to address the distinct needs in the areas of justice, health, education, employment and training, and poverty. We will continue to strive in providing Indigenous people with enriching life journey supports, community based services, and cultural programs.

## FUNDERS

- ▶ Ministry of the Solicitor General
- ▶ Department of Justice Canada
- ▶ Public Health Agency of Canada
- ▶ Ministry of Attorney General
- ▶ Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development
- ▶ Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
- ▶ Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres
- ▶ Service Canada
- ▶ The District of Thunder Bay Social Services Administration Board
- ▶ Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services
- ▶ Community Housing Transformation Centre
- ▶ Ontario Health
- ▶ Superior Shores Gaming
- ▶ Donations







**Thunder Bay Indigenous  
Friendship Centre**