

Annual Report 2021-2022



NCCT

NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE OF TORONTO

Migwetch

Thank You to Our Generous Funders, Partners & Sponsors!



You provide us with the financial resources to serve our Urban Indigenous Communities

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Ontario Trillium Foundation
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Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council TASSC
Tides Canada Foundation
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Service Canada
Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative
Stella's Place
Sunnybrook Hospital
Tangerine
Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)
Toronto Indigenous Health Advisory Circle (TIHAC)
Toronto Police, Aboriginal Liaison Unit
Toronto Public Library
Two-Spirited of Toronto
University of Toronto
Wigwamen Incorporated
WoodGreen Community Services
Women's College Hospital

NCCT June 21st National Indigenous People's Day 2022

Event Donors

AECON
Children's Aid Society of Toronto
Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)
Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment & Training
Native Child & Family Services of Toronto

Thank you to all our donors using Canada Helps On-Line Donations



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This year's report features "details" from some of the Indigenous artwork in the NCCT collection. We honour and celebrate our Indigenous artists.

 1, 17, 24, 25, 35, 36

Brian Marion: 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 32, 33, 34

Norval Morriseau: 3, 20, 21

Richard Bedwash: 8, 9, 14, 15, 22, 23, 25, 27

Janice Toulouse: 14, 15

Xavier Bergman age 12: 18

Gordon Oombash age 13: 19

John Laford: 28, 29, 30, 31

Two Journeys

Introducing Liam and Isaiah.

Liam, age 15, has been involved with the Youth Program since 2019.

When Covid 19 hit, he immediately became involved with the NCCT Youth Department as an active participant in Youth Programs, the stART (a street artistic program), games, field trips, assembling Thanksgiving and Christmas hampers, and in general engaged in a lot of much appreciated volunteer outreach.

Isaiah, age 16, has been a part of the NCCT community since he was a toddler!

He recently experienced an unfortunate family tragedy. With the encouragement of an NCCT Youth Worker, Isaiah participated in day trips such as outings to Canada's Wonderland, Healing with Horses, and the CNE, to name a few.

The Future

At the moment, Isaiah and Liam continue to be actively involved with the NCCT Youth Department and our programs and services. An NCCT Youth Worker recognized their potential as great candidates to participate in a 5-day outdoor camping trip with Boundless Camp in Palmer Rapids, Ontario.

Off they went to camp, where they canoed through treacherous rapids, farmed, portaged, and learned about survival skills in the bush! This experience not only made them stronger physically but also strengthened their independence, self-confidence and growing knowledge about Ancestral lands and Indigenous culture.

With the support of the NCCT, and our partnership with Boundless High School, the NCCT Youth Department are proud to share with you that both young men have received a two-term scholarship with Boundless High School (valued at \$25,000 each) for a total of \$50,000!

While attending Boundless High School, as boarding students, Liam and Isaiah will receive 6 high school credits each.

The NCCT and the community are proud of their individual accomplishments and wish them much success on their educational journey!





A Message from our President



Aanii, Boozhoo, Shé:kon, Tansi,

As we spent the year navigating our lives through the new, new, new normal it was certainly nice to finally enjoy the gift of gathering again. We saw the Centre come back to life with more and more of you welcomed through our doors, with the beating of the Big Drum at Thursday night socials, with the laughter of aunties echoing through the halls. The past year yet again has been filled with a lot of big changes for the NCCT and our community. Not only as we welcomed people back into the Centre, but as we saw some big shifts in our leadership here as well.

In December last year we welcomed our new CEO, Kevin Wassegijig to the team. Diving in headfirst, he has been leading the team through many transformational efforts. We have implemented some significant changes and structures to ensure the best service delivery and programs are available to our community. And this work is only beginning.

As the board looks to the future, we note that our strategic plan is overdue for a refresh. While it is still a relevant guide for our direction at the Centre, we recognize that many things have changed, and so the strategic plan should be updated. For this, we want to ensure it is done right, in a good way. In a way that includes our community and our team members in the visioning of what the NCCT is and can be for our people here in Toronto.

None of the work we do would be possible without the generous contributions of our funders, donors, and community supporters who make it all possible. Thank you

And I'm saving the best for last. So as always, a very special thank you goes out to all our incredible staff who without fail, dedicate their time, and work tirelessly in serving the Indigenous community in Toronto. Through their efforts, innovation, and collaboration, we can achieve all that we do at the NCCT. Miigwetch!

On behalf of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto Board of Directors,
Chi Miigwetch, Niawen'kó:wa, Kinanâskomitin,

Lyndsay G Brisard,
NCCT PRESIDENT





A Message from our CEO



Aanii,

I am pleased to provide my first Annual Report as Chief Executive Officer of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (NCCT). Myself, our Board and the NCCT staff continue to focus on a community-based approach that embodies leadership grounded in respect and nurturing of the best qualities of our collective Urban Indigenous peoples.

As the CEO for the NCCT, I am confident about our future, eager to put in the hard work and motivated by the momentum of our initiatives, services, programs and interactions that have been cultivated over the years.

I look forward to our journey ahead where we will create a better future for all Urban Indigenous peoples. 2021-2022 was a challenging year for many. We are emerging from a global pandemic, and collectively grieving the little ones who did not return home from institutions of assimilation and genocide. Through our collective grief and hardships, there comes hope and an opportunity for fundamental change and a path forward for healing.

This year's main action plan is the development of a 5 and 10 year Strategic Plan that will prioritize the NCCT's goals and commitments for the building blocks of positive change for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The commitments we are seeking are not new. However, they will further a better future for everyone, one that creates greater equity and prepares us for the challenges of recovery, revitalization, success and accomplishments.

This is an important time for us as First Nations people across Turtle Island. Embedded in our report are highlights of our teams' successes and accomplishments. I am proud to share that 21-22 was a year of growth and unity for the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (NCCT) families and community members.

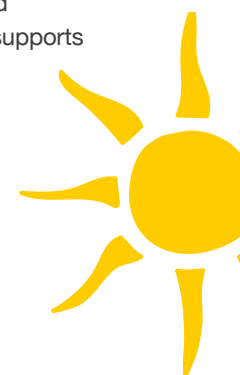
On behalf of the Indigenous community and myself, I would like to express to the NCCT staff how humbled and honoured we are by the important work our staff do in serving the Indigenous community in Toronto.

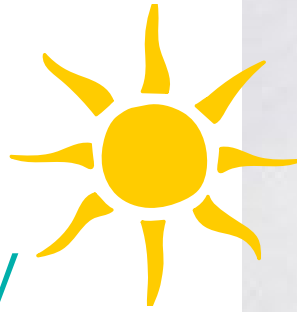
I would also like to express a sincere and special thank you to our Elders for sharing their support, knowledge, ceremonies, language and culture with the community.

In addition, a grateful thank you to our funders, corporate donors and individual donors for providing the NCCT with stable funding which supports our very important Urban Indigenous community work.

Miigwetch, Thank you,

Kevin Wassegijig
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER





Brief History

The Native Canadian Centre of Toronto is one of the city's oldest Indigenous community organizations. Founded in 1962, it offers a breadth of programmes and services based on Indigenous cultural traditions and teachings, including local Indigenous history projects.

The name Spadina – that of the street on which the Centre sits – is derived from the Anishinaabemowin word ishpadinaa, meaning “high hill” or “going up the hill.” It is the name of an ancient Indigenous trail that is partially contiguous with the current road. This legacy is honoured on street signs at the Spadina-Davenport Road intersection. (<https://www.acotoronto.ca/building.php>)

1960's In 1963 approximately 6,000 people dropped by the Centre which grew to 10,000 people the following year and more than doubled with 16,000 visitors by 1964-1965.

1970's In February 1972, the Centre was officially renamed the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. With a growing community that now reached 25,000 people, the Centre conducted a three-year search for new facilities.

1980's Saskatchewan Plains Cree artist Don McLeay carved the NCCT totem pole out of western red cedar in 1980 and designed its motifs to symbolize the gathering of many nations.

1990's He shoots! He Scores! The NCCT was a hive of athleticism during the 1990's. The NCCT's hockey, volleyball and baseball teams played against other urban teams as well as reserve teams. The NCCT team was called the Native Sons, and they were a very good team!

2000's The NCCT secured funding for its Youth Program through the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, under the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centres Initiative (UMAYC). This important program brought opportunities to our youth that assisted in the development of our future leaders.

2010's Building updates occurred. Installed a new elevator, new air conditioning and heating system and a new ceiling in the auditorium.

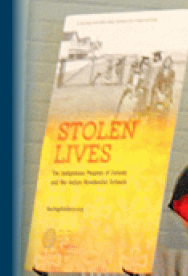
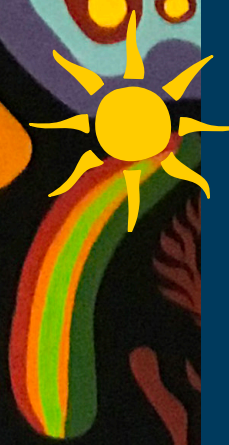
2020's First Zoom AGM Meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic!



1962



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Programs & Highlights

Mission

To empower the Indigenous community in Toronto by providing programs that support their spiritual, emotional, physical and mental well-being.

Mandate

To nurture an inclusive environment where all people respect Indigenous knowledge.

Vision

The Native Canadian Centre of Toronto is dedicated to working with all of our relations toward a better future.

Values

Wisdom, Love, Respect, Bravery, Honesty, Humility and Truth.



Building Operations

Introduction

Aanii, my name is John Miller. I am the NCCT's Building Operations Manager. I joined the team at an interesting time during the pandemic shutdowns and imminent reopening of the Centre to the public.

My role at the Centre is varied and very dynamic. I can be seen in every part of the building inside and out, whether it's operating the elevator at lunch time to managing service providers, maintaining building services to taking bookings for room hire and assisting with room set ups. Even though the pandemic created a slowdown in most industries we were still able to accomplish the completion of projects that had been planned during the pandemic period.

The building operations is greatly supported by Joel Taylor, our maintenance officer and trainee maintenance staff, Nathen Esqimaux (Manitoulin Island, ON) and LJ Howse (Conne River, NL).

Projects

Roof Upgrade

In the later part of January this year approximately 50% of the roof at 16 Spadina Road was replaced with new shingles and modified bitumen sheet. This was done in two parts with the flat section of roof above the Talking Room and Youth Room replaced with a new modified bitumen sheet system late January. The shingles on the rear of the pitched roof were replaced in May of this year.





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“Fast forward to now and even though the remnants of the pandemic linger, the doors are open and activity and the community atmosphere at the NCCT has returned. The meeting rooms have been cleared and are now hosting internal and external programs and functions.”

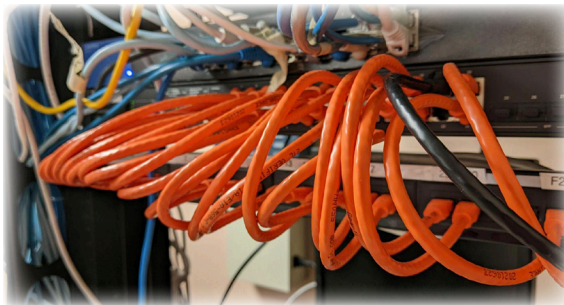
John Miller



Projects

Cat 6 Cabling

To keep up with today's technology and driven by pandemic times the building undertook an upgrade of the network cable infrastructure.



VOIP Phone Transition

Voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phone system was successfully introduced into the organization this year. The new phone system replaces the aging hardline phone system and provides extra functionality to the end user.

Utilizing the RingCentral platform end users now have the added benefits of being able to take work calls, send sms's, send and receive faxes straight from their computer, mobile phone or VOIP desktop phone if they so choose. Users can also set work schedules on their phones and receive individual and group messages from within the NCCT organization.

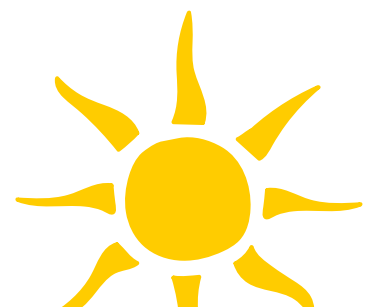


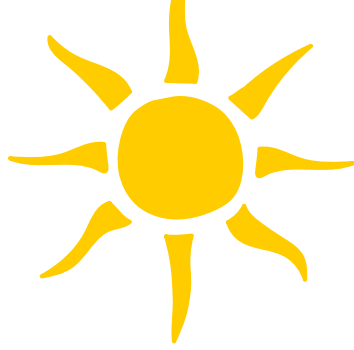
Meeting Rooms

During the pandemic meeting room activity had changed course from meeting rooms to being used as storage and sorting areas for the supply and distribution of PPE, food packs and household items to the community. Even though the NCCT doors were closed to the outside world, inside it was business as usual. NCCT and staff volunteers continued to positively soldier through to keep providing support and services to the indigenous community.

Fast forward to now and even though the remnants of the pandemic linger, the doors are open and activity and the community atmosphere at the NCCT has returned. The meeting rooms have been cleared and are now hosting internal and external programs and functions.

Since reopening the rooms have enjoyed a constant turnover of use from ribbon skirt making classes to film production locations to award ceremonies and conference meetings. With that NCCT has regained a revenue stream that was lost during the past few years.





Looking Ahead

Looking ahead, the NCCT will continue to strive to support and provide services to the indigenous community. And with that, the building it houses itself in will continue to be the home away from home. It's my duty to make sure that the building is functional and comfortable to be in.

Recently an application was submitted to the Ontario Trillium Grant for funds to upgrade some of the equipment within the Centre. If successful items such as LED lighting for the washrooms and hallways to replace the now difficult to get, aging and inefficient tube lighting. New equipment for the Youth Department, musical instruments and music mixing paraphernalia.

A new CCTV system that has surpassed its use by date and is continually requiring attention. New flooring for level 3, patch and painting water damaged ceilings left over from when the old roof was leaking.

The past year has seen a lot of moving around of staff and offices within the building, this has also provided the opportunity to create some more space by removing items that were no longer in use or old furniture that was falling into disrepair. That said the challenge remains to create more space to house the ever growing organization.

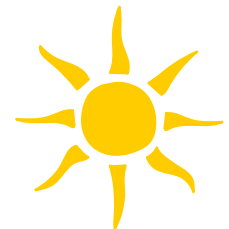
Chi Miigwetch

To the funders, staff, volunteers and the indigenous community as a whole, Chi Miigwetch.

I have enjoyed and appreciated my position here at the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto and I am looking forward to the year and years ahead applying my knowledge and experience to maintain and improve the NCCT's environment from an operational point of view. Making sure that those that come to the property for work, pleasure or help can do so in comfort and without distractions that a well resourced organization can provide.

Chi Miigwetch

John Miller
BUILDING OPERATIONS MANAGER





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“By November 2021 the number of clients using our hot lunch program had increased to over 80 seniors and more than 60 meals were handed out to other clients daily.”

Mark Cyrus



Congregate Dining & Hot Lunch Program

During Covid we faced many trying times and many changes!

Our hot lunch program continued to serve our clients through meal delivery to our senior clients by packaging lunches and having our PSWs deliver their meals. We also packaged extra meals that were handed out daily to other clients by reception and other staff at our front doors.

In October 2021, our long time cook retired and a new Chef was hired as well as a new kitchen assistant.

By November 2021, the number of clients using our hot lunch program had increased to over 80 seniors and more than 60 meals were handed out to other clients daily. Every meal was a hot homemade top quality lunch consisting of fresh products and ensuring we were meeting Canada's Food Guide.

In addition to our hot lunch program we provided a Traditional Indigenous weekend meal every Friday. This program called the Allan Slaight Seniors Food Security Program has reached great success as our numbers continue to grow weekly. This program is currently serving 55 clients which is an increase of over 20 clients since December 2021.

Program goals for 2022 - 2023 is to build a strong team moving from 2 staff to a full team of 5. We also plan on replacing old equipment with much needed new equipment to be able to meet the demand of our growing client numbers. We also have plans to utilize many of the community garden programs to provide fresh and healthy fruits and vegetables to our clients. There are also plans to grow our catering program by providing many meal options with a traditional indigenous menu.

Our kitchen and hot lunch program has had great success with many clients stating that they look forward to our hot meals and that our meals and program are the best they ever had!

Mark Cyrus
EXECUTIVE CHEF





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“As a Mohawk Language Instructor, I am very pleased with the performance of students I have from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. It amazes me with the way this group has maintained commitment to learning this very difficult language. I teach an old style of Mohawk that students speak with more Mohawk Language definitions than English.”

Sakoieta Widrick



Indigenous Cultural Program

The Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (NCCT) had a challenging journey during the pandemic. However, like all the other programs and services at the NCCT, we were able to transition our traditional knowledge sharing of workshops and trainings by using a variety of virtual platforms such as Facebook and Zoom.

Offering Indigenous Cultural Awareness learning opportunities to all who are interested is a crucial component of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Report and Calls to Action. Based on the preferences and specific themes indicated by interested participants, the NCCT continues to grow our presentations.

Presently our presentations combine Indigenous history, worldviews, Indigenous ceremonies, beading, drumming, men's groups, and Thursday Night Socials. These have been provided to colleges, private corporations, unions, and other GTA agencies.

Our Adult Indigenous Language instructors were able to smoothly transition their in person beginners, intermediate and advanced classes and instructions to Facebook and Zoom. As with many classrooms, remote learning is quite practical and we continue to offer remote learning for as long as it works for folks.

However, one element where the pandemic had a strong impact on the community was the realization of the effect that isolation had on people not seeing friends and acquaintances at our Thursday Night Socials, Women's Moon Ceremony, Men's Circle, Beading Classes, Pow Wow Dance classes and so many more activities!

Relationships whether they are close or casual are so important to the well-being of our families and friends. We were very pleased to welcome the community back to the centre and can feel the renewed energy that social reconnections and encounters are having on all our new and returning visitors.

Next Steps

We are regrouping and sacred fire will be once a month rather than every Thursday night. The reason for this change was brought about by the longing and need to reconnect with traditions and the meaning of ceremonies. We hope the community will embrace our return to traditional teachings and ideology.

Chi Miigwetch,

Ian Akiwenzie
INDIGENOUS CULTURAL PROGRAM
MANAGER





“As we entered the second year of the covid-19 pandemic our focus remained on continuing to deliver programming to staff and community members. This has provided incredible holistic learning opportunities and support for community well-being as we navigated through another year of rapid unpredictable changes and uncertainties.”

Maria Montejo



Dodem Kanonhsa'

Shé:kon Sewakwé:kon, Aanii Boozhoo, Tansi, Greetings Relatives,

As we entered the second year of the covid-19 pandemic our focus remained on continuing to deliver programming to staff and community members. This has provided incredible holistic learning opportunities and support for community well-being as we navigated through another year of rapid unpredictable changes and uncertainties.

We had a really busy year with a full range of really rich and diverse programming. We were honored to have the opportunity to host Cindy Blackstock this year. She provided a really impactful and moving presentation on “Bringing Justice to Indigenous Communities.”

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Wisdom Keepers, our Grandmothers and Grandfathers for all that they do to ensure that our unique way of life continues and that people are given the opportunity to become more aware of our stories, histories, and diverse cultural practices no matter what the circumstances are.

We admire their incredible willingness and ability to adapt, remain flexible and resilient. Miigwech/ Nia:wen/Thank you!

We also hosted Tehahenteh Miller who shared the way in which “Our Traditional Language Connects us to the Stars” and really highlighted the unique way of thinking and being of our ancestors. We also wanted to support the well-being of the people and hosted virtual circles

with Tuscarora healer Christina Porter to mark the changing seasons. We hosted conversations related to processing emotions with Diane Hill, processing grief with Liz Akiwenzie and processing our ancestral trauma with Arrole Lawrence. These are just a few examples of the incredible sessions we were able to host this past year.


In Unity,

Maria Montejo

DODEM KANONHSA' MANAGER

Next Steps

Dodem Kanonhsa' is heading into its 25th year anniversary and continues to be a valuable and unique service. We know that the pandemic has created many changes in the way that we do work and deliver programming and we are currently reviewing our program and partnership to identify ways in which we can expand and innovate the way we do the work, while still sustaining cultural integrity. We look forward to continuing to provide informative and inspiring services.





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“Delivered over 350 private Kanien’keha drop in zoom classes for children and their parent(s) and or caregivers”

Lindsay Hachey

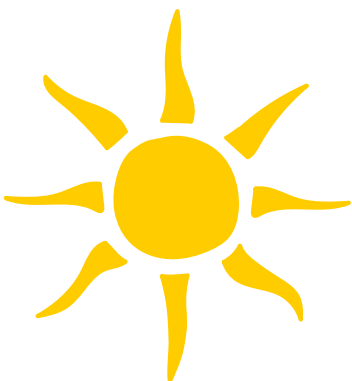
EarlyON Program

EarlyON Children's Indigenous Languages and Family Program

- Anishinaabemowin and Kanien'keha activities in new classroom over 35+ families signed up with kits delivered.
- 35+ new families signed up for both online and in person learning
- Delivered over 550 private zoom classes for parents and caregivers Anishinaabemowin and Kanien'keha
- Delivered over 350 private Kanien'keha drop in zoom classes for children and their parent(s) and or caregivers
- Delivered over 350 private Anishinaabemowin drop in zoom classes for children and their parent(s) and caregivers.
- Online and Social Media Metrics:
 - Over 1K + followers on facebook
 - Delivered over 100 Indigenous Language educational content

K'chi miigwetch / Nia:wen / Nakummek / Marcee / Merci / Thank You!

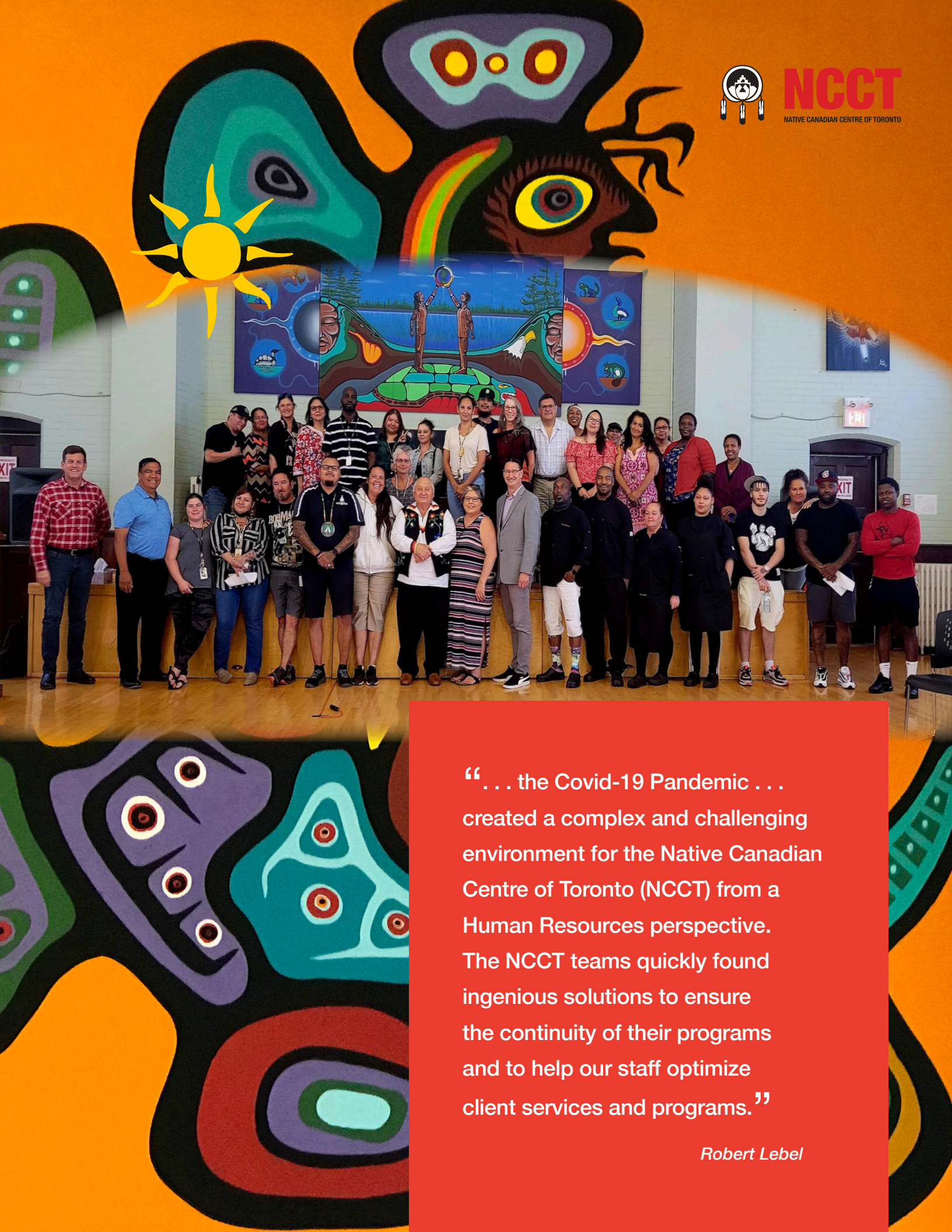
Lindsay Hachey
EARLYON MANAGER



Anishinaabemowin and Kanien'keha activities in new classroom over 35+ families signed up with kits delivered.



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“... the Covid-19 Pandemic ... created a complex and challenging environment for the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (NCCT) from a Human Resources perspective. The NCCT teams quickly found ingenious solutions to ensure the continuity of their programs and to help our staff optimize client services and programs.”

Robert Lebel



Human Resources

From a Human Resources perspective, the Covid-19 Pandemic along with multiple lockdowns enforced by all levels of government, created a complex and challenging environment for the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (NCCT). However, the NCCT teams quickly found ingenious solutions to ensure the continuity of their programs and to help our staff optimize client services and programs.

The extraordinary measures of shuttering the NCCT's doors to the public and to all the non-essential staff not only identified the challenges but also the opportunities that arose from the insights of the direction that the NCCT provided. For example, with the skeleton staff that worked on site, the NCCT ensured that community members could come to our front door to receive a warm meal every day as well as hygiene kits and warm winter clothing.

All non-essential programming successfully moved to on-line virtual platforms. Despite the pandemic, the NCCT programs and services managed to keep operating and a number of new positions and roles were created and filled:

- New Employees that started at NCCT: 17
- Existing employees moving into other roles: 9
- Employees who terminated from NCCT: 6 (not Pandemic related)

Towards the end of the fiscal year, NCCT advertised for a Human Resources Specialist with the goal of focusing on building a robust Human Resources program into the next fiscal year.

Going forward, the Human Resources Team will consist of the Human Resources Specialist and the Payroll and Benefits Administrator. Together, they will oversee strategic human resources performance indicators, including the upkeep of cloud platform Workforce Profile's,

the development of HR KPI's (Key Performance Indicators), Improve employee engagement and employee experience while working at NCCT, retention outcomes and overall organizational development strategies that will support leadership capacity, development, and Indigenous cultural knowledge growth.

Like many businesses, post-covid working conditions continue to present a broader range of working hours and remote working opportunities where suitable. Yet, despite the past challenges, it has been an amazing journey for the NCCT employees. We came together in many unexpected and drastic organizational scenarios to support, and respect each other, staff and community.

We look forward to a significant and energetic year of growth, training initiatives and career development.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Lebel,
HR SPECIALIST



Elisabeth Pohl,
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT,
HR GENERALIST



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“The Seniors Program is committed to addressing the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of Indigenous seniors, offering recreation, exercise, wellness and social activities to a growing senior population living longer.”

Christine Lynn



Seniors

The Seniors Program is committed to addressing the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of Indigenous seniors, offering recreation, exercise, wellness and social activities to a growing senior population living longer. Our program is delivered by Personal Support Workers who support seniors to live independently in their homes.

Our clients and their needs are our priority. We make every effort to assist them with challenges they face daily through the delivery of client centered services enabling them to live independently in their homes.

We continue to deliver lunches to those who cannot make it to the centre due to mobility issues. We continue to provide transportation to and from doctor appointments and provide escorts to appointments when we can accommodate the time. We also assist clients with Personal Support Workers and acquire any equipment they may need to assist them in their day-to-day activities.

The Seniors Program is happy to be delivering full services again and would like to advise that the entire Seniors Program is vaccinated to ensure our clients stay safe.

Our program would not be possible without funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Toronto Central Local Health Integration Network and the City of Toronto Community Service.

Thank you to all the seniors and the Seniors Program staff that helped guide, shape and implement the Seniors Program.

Thank you to the following agencies for their continued support: Wigwamen Incorporated, Indigenous Diabetes Health Circle, Anishnawbe Health Toronto, The Indigenous Patient Navigator Leonard Benoit, The Alzheimer's Society, Women's College Hospital, Sunnybrook Hospital and the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto Executive Director and Board of Directors.

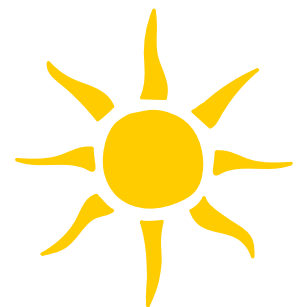
In Unity,

Christine Lynn

SENIORS PROGRAM MANAGER

Highlights

- Communal Meals Served – 43,000
- Transportation Supports – 6,400
- PSW Home Care Hours – 23,000
- Security and Reassurance Visits – 15,000





“We are currently in the **NCCT Aboriginal Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training Program** . . . I just really can’t say enough, we are just so grateful . . . for this amazing opportunity!”

Wes Havill | Indigenous Artist
wesleyhavillindigenousart.com

BESTprogram



“The **NCCT Aboriginal BESTprogram** helped me develop my company **Dream Webs** by clearly explaining the steps I needed to take to complete my business plan.”

Kelsie Young | Indigenous Canadian Artist & Spirit Talker
dreamwebsdreamcatchers.com



“. . . you have brought our communities together in such a fun, interactive and entertaining way . . . a revitalized sense of community and connections . . . have had a farther reach then I ever expected. . . will be sending our tasty treats all over Turtle Island.”

Charles Catchpole | Chargerfoods
mnopgwad.com



“. . . the vast knowledge . . . is a benefit to anyone looking for a public speaker; business and/or marketing consultant.”

Chrystal Tabobandung | RAISE Indigenous Cultural Competency Training
raise.indigenizawareness - INSTAGRAM



“. . . I’ve learned so much . . . and look forward to seeing my fellow participants’ businesses grow and flourish because of it!”

Pandora (Cassandra) Beausoleil-Wilhelm
Mulberry Design & Engravings |
mulberrydesign.ca



Cedar Basket



Next Steps

- On Sept 15th 2021 we submitted a grant application to FedDev Ontario and are currently awaiting funding confirmation so this program can continue to support our community into 2022 & beyond!
- Going into 2022 our top priority will be the continued mentorship support of the Indigenous entrepreneurs who participated in the 2021 Aboriginal BESTprogram to ensure their business continue to flourish through these uncertain times.
- Establishing a partnership with an accredited educational institution will be imperative to our programs’ continued success.
- Opening registration for the 2022 Aboriginal BESTprogram



Social Marketing Enterprises

Cedar Basket

Following a change in management, Cedar Basket has completed extensive renovations to its new location and developed a strategy to significantly increase its retail and online sales and customer engagement in the new fiscal year. Check in with any of our social media handles for updates and more!

The Youth Cedar Basket is scheduled to undergo renovations and a program/systems remodel in the summer of 2022.

Marketplace Program

Since 2018 and without falter through the pandemic, our Indigenous Marketplace Program has been providing opportunities for the local Indigenous community to explore entrepreneurial aspirations by providing business programming, website development, advisory services, mentorship support, technology access and training, online marketing tools, community event space, connections to business networks and much more!

Highlights

- **An online directory of the 79+ Canadian Indigenous businesses** our program helped start since 2018 can be found on the NCCT website at this link: <https://ncct.on.ca/programs/indigenous-marketplace/>
- **The 2021 Online Aboriginal BEST (Business and Entrepreneurship Skills Training)** program took place April 27th - Aug 30th, received 196 applications, provided training to a total of 64 participants, helping 47 of them start new businesses and the Graduation Ceremony that was live streamed via facebook on Aug 30th can be found at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/nativecentre/videos/530515288035769/>
- **The Nov 26th – Dec 5th 2021 Online Indigenous Artisan Marketplace** broke numerous show records most importantly attendance and artists generated revenue. The show being live streamed via facebook, advertisements reached 45,000 people, attracted 9,000 artist interview live stream viewers, brought 10,000 visitors

to the NCCT's website and accounted for \$130,000.00 in sales through the online stores of the 19 attending Artists. Average per artist sales of \$6,842.00 was 200% higher than the show has ever achieved before, in a year that our Indigenous Artisan community needed it the most. The Indigenous Artisan Marketplace also raised over \$10,000 in donations for the NCCT via our website/Canada helps portal during the shows Livestream Artist Interviews.

- **An online directory of the Canadian Indigenous Artisans** that took part in the 2021 Online Indigenous Artisan Marketplace along with their live streamed interviews can be found on the NCCT website at this link: <https://ncct.on.ca/indigenous-artisan-marketplace>

With kind regards,

Zechariah James,
SOCIAL ENTERPRISES MANAGER



Poetry reading with youth and special guest Chief R. Stacey LaForme of the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation Territory.



“ . . . a very important benefit is the kinship of sharing and developing new friends, which directly results in personal growth and gained work experience.”

Michael Amos



Curve Lake Pow Wow Youth Jingle Dress Dancer Averi Doxtator

Healing with Horses Experience





Youth

Youth Department

Through Outreach and Community Development the Youth Program implements a “giving back” attitude in their mentorship of the Youth.

The Youth Department is delighted to share it has been a successful 2020 – 2021 fiscal year.

The Youth Department continues to support Indigenous Youth through cultural, educational, employment and recreational programming.

In addition, the Youth Department continues to provide housing assistance to Indigenous youth through the Innovative Housing and Homes for Good program.

The Youth Department, with the advising of the NCCT Youth Advisory Council looks forward to enhancing and creating new opportunities for Indigenous Youth in the GTA.

Chi-Miigwetch (Big thank you) to our funders and partners, your continued support is highly appreciated. We look forward to working together and supporting Indigenous youth in their journey.

Thank you,

Michael Myengun Amos
NCCT YOUTH PROGRAM MANAGER

Highlights

- Completed 4-5 monthly workshops for a total of 60 this year and a total number of 2200 individuals served
- Completed 360 staff one-on-one wellness sessions serving a total of 360 individuals
- Completed 12 Awareness 101 Education Sessions serving a total of 171 individuals
- Completed 10 Special Events serving a total of 1600 individuals

Total number of individuals served = 4331



During the Pandemic, we were so grateful to Tangerine for providing weekly lunches for the community.



Minobimadizwin Children and Cultural Program “IN A GOOD WAY”

This program is focused on empowering Indigenous youth and helping them in implementing and educating them on their Indigenous cultural and spiritual perspectives.

Our current program includes elements of culture, education, Oshkabewis (Helper), and taking care of spirit through commemoration, the importance of physical fitness, and physical activities, and Addictions/Wellness Circles.

Our future programs will include collaborative work with the Youth & Elders Program, Art as a Medium for Healing, Outings, and Medicine Walks.

In total, we have over 400 youth registered with the NCCT Minobimadiziwin Children/Youth Cultural Program and we provide ongoing regular support to 120 youth who are registered to receive monthly grocery cards, in \$100 denominations, as well as monthly Activity Kits, Harm Reduction kits, Wellness Kits, Self-care kits, and Grooming kits, all in an effort to improve the well-being of our Youth.

Some of the many activities that the youth participated in included handing out lunch for the community at the centre, preparing food hampers, preparing and giving out winter kits which included blankets, sleeping bags, hats, mitts and socks, and handing out sandwiches, water, sunscreen, PPE to the homeless communities in the summer months.

Outreach and Community Development

Through Outreach and Community Development the Youth Program implements a “giving back” attitude in their mentorship of the Youth.

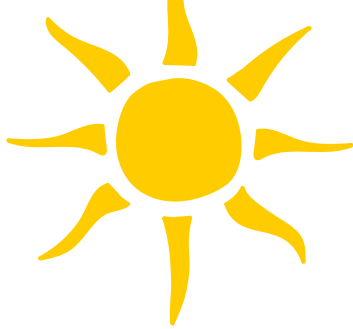
We help the youth to experience the benefits of volunteering and how in the long run, it shows them how helping others is a direct reflection of how they improve and strengthen our community. At the same time their outreach efforts help the youth individually.

For example, their volunteer work is added to their resume, and reflects positively when they apply to colleges, universities and scholarships.

Another very important benefit is the kinship of sharing and developing new friends, which directly results in personal growth and gained work experience.

Some of the many activities that the youth participated in included handing out lunch for the community at the centre, preparing food hampers, preparing and giving out winter kits which included blankets, sleeping bags, hats, mitts and socks, and handing out sandwiches, water, sunscreen, PPE to the homeless communities in the summer months.

For some of the kit deliveries the youth have travelled to the homeless encampments where as shocking as this can be it has been an eye opener, and a “reality check” to some. However, for all who participated in going to the homeless encampments, the bigger reality was seeing just how large the percentage of homeless was Indigenous.



Programs

Next Steps

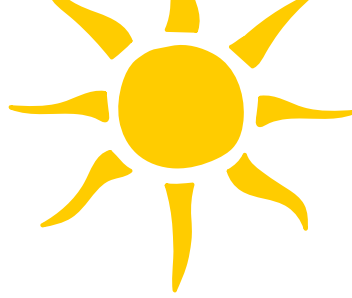
The Youth Department, with the advising of the NCCT Youth Advisory Council looks forward to enhancing and creating new opportunities for Indigenous youth in the GTA.

- Provide culturally safe programming to meet the needs of Indigenous youth in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)
- Provide cultural programming- nurture cultural identity in a safe place
- Seek Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keeper to provide knowledge exchange workshops
- Work alongside the NCCT Youth Advisory Council
- Continue to assist youth with housing needs
- Seek more training opportunities for youth
- Promote healthy lifestyle through physical activity, healthy eating, and positive mental health and well-being programming
- Continue to provide youth with relevant resources in the GTA
- Support Youth through online programming, activity kits, communication supports and grocery supports
- Expanding our Housing team with 3 new positions due to new funding.

Other Programs and Services

- Mino Maadziwin Program, Providing Cultural and Harm Reduction Programming
- Youth Cedar Basket Social Enterprise
- Youth Retreats
- Working with Traditional Medicines Bundle Making/Harvesting





Canadian Native Centre of Toronto

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31

			2022	2021
	Operating Funds	Restricted Funds (Note 3)	Total	
ASSETS				
Current				
Cash	\$ 598,681	\$ -	\$ 598,681	\$ 1,442,441
Term deposits (note 4)	2,527,191	-	2,527,191	3,009,665
Due from operating funds	-	22,301	22,301	22,301
Accounts receivable	361,092	-	361,092	179,093
Inventories	129,099	-	129,099	48,774
Prepaid expenses	52,390	-	52,390	7 189
	<u>3,668,453</u>	<u>22,301</u>	<u>3,690,754</u>	<u>4,709,463</u>
Property and equipment (note 6)	1,680,698	-	1,680,698	1,558,367
Works of art (note 2)	851	-	851	851
	<u>\$ 5,350,002</u>	<u>\$ 22,301</u>	<u>\$ 5,372,303</u>	<u>\$ 6,268,681</u>
LIABILITIES				
Current				
Accounts payable	\$ 378,990	\$ -	\$ 378,990	\$ 265,873
Due to restricted funds	22,301	-	22,301	22,301
Loan payable (note 5)	-	-	-	56,065
Deferred revenue (note 8)	1,252,938	-	1,252,938	1,663,639
	<u>1,654,229</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,654,229</u>	<u>2,007,878</u>
Long term				
Deferred contributions (note 9)	757,532	-	757,532	754 741
	<u>2,411,761</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,411,761</u>	<u>2,762,619</u>
NET ASSETS				
Capital funds	923,165	-	923,165	803,626
Operating funds	2,015,076	-	2,015,076	2,680,135
Restricted funds	-	22,301	22,301	22,301
	<u>2,938,241</u>	<u>22,301</u>	<u>2,960,542</u>	<u>3,506,062</u>
	<u>\$ 5,350,002</u>	<u>22,301</u>	<u>\$ 5,372,303</u>	<u>\$ 6,268,681</u>





Canadian Native Centre of Toronto

Statement of Operations

For the year ended March 31

	2022	2021
Grant revenue:		
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada	\$ 147,708	\$ 147,000
City of Toronto	2,217,732	1,957,592
Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle	40,812	171,155
Ministry of Community Youth Services	183,609	111,500
Ministry of Health and Long Term Care	1,523,740	1,583,101
National Association of Friendship Centres	109,115	48,805
Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council	679,862	503,542
Miziwe Biik - Aboriginal Employment and Training	96,616	84,448
Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres	16,288	92,000
Ontario Trillium Foundation	165,285	185,804
United Way of Greater Toronto	488,876	332,976
	<u>5,669,643</u>	<u>5,217,923</u>
Other revenue:		
Fundraising	41,201	196,828
Overhead recovery (note 12)	173,646	388,819
Donations and memberships	253,024	70,806
Rental income	48,742	24,901
Craft shop sales	87,540	11,329
	<u>604,153</u>	<u>692,683</u>
Total revenue	<u>6,273,796</u>	<u>5,910,606</u>
Expenses:		
Core Services		
Salaries and benefits	576,039	490,573
Office and general	98,958	274,396
Building and occupancy	143,193	108,081
Amortization	75,232	57,355
Purchased services	251,532	101,713
Transportation and travel	7,072	222
	<u>1,152,026</u>	<u>1,032,340</u>





Canadian Native Centre of Toronto

Statement of Operations Cont'd.

For the year ended March 31

	2022	2021
Programs:		
A Place for Healing Our Families	-	46
Community meal program	84,850	110,555
Craft shop - expenses	108,795	39,494
Craft shop - cost of sales	21,783	52,986
Dodem Kanonhsa - Cultural facility	149,771	145,895
Fundraising activities and community outreach	208,170	181,255
Home for Good Innovative Housing	1,100,017	791,897
Home for Good Support Services	173,410	154,845
Housing	6,314	414,073
Indigenize Our Minds	13,266	91,683
Indigenous Central Language Child and Family Program	-	33,571
Indigenous Marketplace	152,285	183,415
Mental Health and Addiction - LHINS	633,860	136,380
Mental Health and Addiction - MCYS	184,997	111,294
Minobimadziwin- Children / Cultural	658,347	396,270
Mino Maaziwin - Urban Indigenous Youth	115,018	70,078
Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Language Program	92,426	91,204
Services to seniors (note 11)	933,116	1,024,139
Special projects	89,416	129,125
Support for Student Learning Program	106,570	-
Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council - COVID-19	670,485	515,018
Toronto Urban Health Fund	105,826	102,068
Urban Partnership	-	1,540
Youth and Elder Cultural Intensives	-	5,022
Youth craft shop - expenses	45,335	63,817
Youth craft shop - cost of sales	13,233	2,517
	5,667,290	4,848,187
Total expenses	6,819,316	5,880,527
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses	\$ (545,520)	\$ 30,079





Come sit by our fire

VOLUNTEERS

NCCT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lyndsay Brisard, President
Pamela Tobin, Past Vice President
Sean Hillier, Vice President
Jessica Tabak, Treasurer/Secretary
Savanna Chiblow, Director
Camden Maracle, Director

TAAM KAADINAKIJIJK COUNCIL MEMBERS

Eileen Antone
Grafton Antone
Pauline Shirt
Dan Smoke
Mary Smoke

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Averi Doxtator
Eliza Culleton
Liam Delorme
Jahnyah Element
Nathen Esquimaux
Tristan McTague
Melissa Podnar
Alan Rogers
Micheal Whiteloon

NCCT TEAM

BUILDING OPERATIONS

John Miller, Manager
Nathen Equimaux,
Maintenance Worker
Joel Taylor, Building
Maintenance Worker

CONGREGATE DINING PROGRAM

Mark Cyrus, Executive Chef
Tammy Clark, Assistant Cook
Keesha Newman, Kitchen Assistant
Malik Townsend, Kitchen Assistant

CULTURAL PROGRAM

Ian Akiwenzie, Manager
Dawn Antone, Mohawk Adult
Language Instructor
Ninaatig Staats Pangowish,
Anishinabemowin Adult
Language Teacher
Sakoieta Widrick, Cree Adult
Language Instructor

DODEM KANONHSA'

Maria Montejo, Manager

EARLYON INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Lindsay Hachey, Manager
Dianne Bob, EarlyOn Ojibwe
Language Teacher

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Kevin Wassegijig,
Chief Executive Officer
Elisabeth Pohl, Executive Assistant
Stacey Bowe, Receptionist

FINANCE

Isiah Robin, Manager
Crystal Schuster, Accounts Payable/
Receivable

HUMAN RESOURCES

Robert Lebel, Manager
Wanda Green, Payroll & Benefits
Administrator

SENIORS PROGRAM & ADULT CASE MANAGERS PROGRAM

Christine Lynn, Manager
Karen Ashawasegai,
Personal Support Worker
Andrea Auger,
Personal Support Worker
Beatrice Daniel, Personal Support
Worker
Eliza Jackson,
Personal Support Worker
Bella Lafontaine,
Adult Case Manager
Patricia Morningstar,
Personal Support Worker
Helen Parker, Reassurance Worker
Robert Solomon, Medical Driver
Semainesh Tesfamicael,
Personal Support Worker
Kari Wrightson, Personal Support
Worker & Outreach Support Worker
Heather Young, Adult Case Manager

SOCIAL MARKETPLACE ENTERPRISES

Zechariah James, Manager
Andrea Brockie, Social Enterprise
Marketplace Coordinator
Siera Hancharyk, Cedar Basket
Assistant Manager

Clara Pelletier, Cedar Basket
Sales Associate
Sarah Whynot, Social Enterprise
Marketplace Administrative
Assistant

TRANSITION HOUSE

Vonnie Gibson, Manager
Trey Auger-Robinson,
Housing Relief Worker
Elyse Marie Galloro,
Housing Relief Worker
Niranjan Gundu,
Housing Relief Worker
Thunder Jack,
Housing Relief Worker
Kelly Johnson, Housing
Weekend Support Worker
Jared Marshall,
Housing Support Worker
Fadumo (Mona) Shire,
Housing Support Worker
Tyler Stonefish,
Housing Relief Worker

YOUTH PROGRAM

Michael Amos, Manager
Peter Andrew, Housing Caseworker
Lori Boros, Mino Maadziwin
Coordinator
Shakir Briscoe, Homes for Good
Aftercare Worker
Tanya Cozry, Homes for Good
Aftercare Worker
Anyssa Ford, Oshkaabewis (Helper)
Jeri Gogo, Youth Addictions Circle
Facilitator
Kirk Hodgson, Youth Case Manager
Gilbert Okine, Youth Housing
Stability Worker



NCCT
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