

**NDINAWEMAAGANAG
ENDAAWAAD INC.**

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2021**



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The chosen theme for Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad's 27th Annual General Meeting is "Resilience in Action". When the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in Manitoba in March 2020, I'm sure none of us would have predicted the long-term impact nor would we have recognized how imperative resilience would be. Amid the chaos, fear and uncertainty of the past year and a half that we been navigating through the pandemic we have learned that resilience is not simply a character trait allowing certain individuals the capacity to cope and "bounce back" more easily than others. In fact, resilience is much more complicated as it is not so much a matter of "having", but rather "doing". It requires conscience effort and determination. Over the past year true resilience in action has been demonstrated by our staff, youth, and our community. We have realized the importance of pausing to check in with one another to share and understand our individual experiences and to learn from one another so that we could adjust or pivot to ensure that we were not merely surviving, but truly moving our community forward. I am honored to be a member of such an amazing team!

I would like to acknowledge the incredible leadership of Kayla Stubbs who served as the Acting Executive Director until the spring of 2021. I would also like to express my gratitude to the entire Ndinawe team for their continued dedication to the youth we have the privilege of serving. Additionally, it is important that we recognize several members of our Ndinawe family who are celebrating milestone anniversaries with us this year: Seema Uddin, Joyti Sandhu, Adeolu Adetola, Ashely Broadbent, and Melissa Russell who are celebrating 5 years, Theresa Wall celebrating 10 years and Kayla Stubbs celebrating 15 years. We are so appreciative of your commitment to our organization!

I would also like to thank our Board of Directors, community partners, donors, and funders for your contribution to the ongoing success of Ndinawe. I look forward to our continued partnership in providing innovative and culturally informed programs and services to our community.

Respectfully,

Shanlee Scott
Executive Director

BOARD CHAIR REPORT



Welcome to the 27th Annual General Meeting for Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc. This year's theme is "Resilience in Action", which is quite fitting as this past year we have seen the resiliency of our youth and community as the world navigates through the ongoing pandemic. We are thankful and honored to share this important occasion with youth, staff, Board members, partners, funders, and community.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the youth who continue to guide the path and future of Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow board members; those that have been with the organization for some time, the new faces we welcomed over the past year, as well as those who have moved on from the board to pursue new opportunities. Thank you to Debra Diubaldo for the time and energy you have put into supporting Ndinawe throughout the years.

The Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Shanlee Scott to the Ndinawe family. Shanlee has been appointed Executive Director and we look forward to continuing to work alongside one another as Ndinawe continues to grow.

We would like to extend our thanks to Kayla and the Operations team, Jackie, Dustyne, Cory, and Susan, for leading the way during unprecedented times. Thanks to all our Ndinawe family for your continued support and dedication to our youth and continuing to be available to provide much needed programs and services.

I would like to express our gratitude to the many Organizations that have worked in partnership with Ndinawe throughout the year. A special thank you to the many funders who have believed in the work that Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad undertakes in the community.

In Friendship,

Jordan Bighron
Board Chair

NDINAWE SAFE HOUSE

Ndinawe's Safe House is a safe place for youth ages 11 to 17 in need of emergency shelter who might otherwise be vulnerable to negative experiences. The Ndinawe Safe House provides shelter for up to 16 youth and is place where young people can life in a positive and safe environment, where their voices are heard. The Safe House is unique in that youth can self-refer and do not need to be in care of Child and Family Services.

During the past year, our youth experienced many changes and challenges due to the pandemic, including schools being shut down and moving to an online platform and having to navigate new pandemic related processes. Safe House staff continue to provide youth with up-to-date information for youth to make the best decisions regarding pandemic related resources, including testing sites, vaccine information, and the fundamentals to reduce risk and prevent the spread. Staff tried to keep youth busy and with movies, video games, board games, computer games, painting, and cultural activities. Elders have been meeting with our youth to provide support and healing. The Safe House was able to keep youth connected to family and friends through tablets that were generously donated by Telus.

Pauline Coutu, House Manager



CHU MANITOU TANKA OYATI TIPI, SECOND STAGE HOUSE

Chu Manitou Tanka Oyati Tipi is a transitional living program that provides stable, supportive housing for youth who are significantly at higher risk for more negative outcomes than their peers due to multiple, chronic risk factors. Our focus is to support and develop youth who are transitioning to adulthood. The goals of our program are to support independence, help youth gain confidence, and needed life skills to lead a healthy independent life. This is done in an interactive and collaborative way, individualized to the youth's wants and needs. Our staff are trauma-informed, and youth have regular access to culture and Elders, all of whom ensure the youth's well-being, safety, and their security is at the forefront of our daily interactions.

Chu Manitou Tanka Oyati Tipi continues to celebrate many successes over this past year. Four youth are graduating from the program and are taking their developed skills onto the next stage of their journey. One youth graduated from high school during an incredibly challenging pandemic year where the routine school day was anything but normal. Currently we have three youth in school, four are actively working, another completed summer school and is considering Art Programs. Our program is always changing our programming to meet the needs of the youth in not only our program, but in the community as well. The youth have proven to be resilient even in our uncertain times and have continued to flourish. Having the commitment from the youth, we can continue to support them in achieving their goals. We would like to thank our community for all their support in helping our youth succeed and empowering them to take control of their goals. We wish them all the best as they move along their journey.

Tracy Sawchyn, House Manager



WAZOSON ZAGIIWAYWIN, NEST OF LOVE & CARE

Wazoson Zagiwaywin (Nest of Love and Care) program site is a safe place for youth 18 to 24 who may feel unprepared or who need additional supports navigating adult systems due to a myriad of unique challenges. Wazoson Zagiwaywin is a supportive and inclusive environment where youth can access resources that meet several immediate needs such as showers, snacks, and laundry facilities, or where youth can receive specialized supports including system navigation, housing supports, resume building, and more. Advocacy includes referrals to community resources, accessing health care and recovery services, therapy, educational supports, housing supports, and cultural programming and healing opportunities. At the Wazoson Zagiwaywin program site, youth can directly access online applications for the provincial Employment and Income Assistance program and receive support and guidance on obtaining identification and community financial literacy programs.

This past year has been increasingly challenging as new pandemic related barriers have permeated systems that were already difficult to navigate. The Wazoson Zagiwaywin program was able to continue to provide much needed supports and services to youth during these difficult times. Being able to keep our program sites doors open meant that youth had regular access to showers and other immediate needs. Staff were able to successfully house several youth and provide housing kits and start up furniture, so they were comfortable. Program staff were able to stay connected to youth who had a place of safety during the pandemic by regularly dropping off activity kits, food kits, and cultural kits. Some of our youth were able to stay connected to staff through donated cell phones with data plans from Telus. This was a huge success as we were able to stay connected with our youth to ensure they were informed and up to date on frequently changing guidelines. While the past year has been challenging, the achievements of our youth keep us motivated to continue to carry out the heart work we do.

ODE ZHIGO ODE, HEART TO HEART

Ode Zhigo Ode is a five-year community-driven and research-based program that has focused on creating a teen dating violence prevention curriculum from an Indigenous designed lens. The design and implementation of this initiative was driven by a Youth Advisory Council who reviewed and provided input on each lesson.

The project is ongoing and has faced pandemic related challenges that has required program staff to be creative in how to build relationships and support the Youth Advisory Council and different ideas on how to pilot a program that requires active participation. The team has proven to be flexible and innovative.

Our Youth Advisory Council consistently met and connected over zoom during the pandemic to review the curriculum. This group was facilitated by the Project Coordinator, Research Coordinator from the University of Manitoba, and Elder. Youth were provided with meals from local caterers on meeting nights in a true community of care model. The Project Coordinator provided additional supports through regular deliveries and drop offs to youth that included Medicine Baskets, care kits, and hygiene kits. We are now supporting our Youth Advisory Council with monthly offerings of land-based outings, as provincial restrictions loosened.

Sara McIvor-Prouty, Project Coordinator



ode zhigo ode
HEART TO HEART PROGRAM

WAHKOHTOWIN, STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM

The Wahkohtowin Strengthening Families program was a unique skills development program designed for families of youth ages 11 to 17 who are experiencing high levels of conflict, and/or family violence at both the individual and family level. The program focuses on building positive relationships among family members and develop stronger communication and conflict resolution skills. This research based project was done in partnerships with Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc., Bilal Community & Family Centre, Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc., and the University of Manitoba.

This past fiscal year was the final year of this wonderful project and due to the ongoing pandemic, many of the program activities had to immediately pivot in order to adhere to provincial guidelines. Much of the program was offered virtually via online video platforms and chat groups to adhere to social distancing recommendations and requirements. Program staff were able to continue to connect with current family participants and past participants by providing activity and craft kits, sacred medicines, grocery supports and family meals on program nights. Thank you to all of the youth, families and partners who made this program a huge success over the past five years.



CHILD & YOUTH CARE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Ndinawe's Child and Youth Care Certificate Program is a community-based, academic program offered in partnership with Red River College that provides accredited training to experiential adults to obtain a Child and Youth Care Certificate. Our program not only offers academic training, but also includes life skills training, counselling, and cultural supports to ensure students are successful in the program and transition into employment upon graduation.

2020 proved to be a challenging year for many. In the fall of 2020, the program started with 14 students due to pandemic related requirements, a decrease in participants from the usual 18 to 20. The program began with in-person learning in September; by mid-November a decision was made to switch to remote learning due to new provincial guidelines and the need to keep our students, teachers, staff, and community safe. Moving to an online learning environment proved to be quite a challenge, while students adjusted to learning online the relationship building component of the program became increasingly difficult. The isolation due to the pandemic was very hard for some of our students. Program staff worked hard to maintain relationships with students virtually, checking regularly through zoom during the school day and into the evenings. Staff were, and continue to be, dedicated to supporting our students and helping them achieve their goals and watching them succeed. We could not be prouder of all that each of our students has accomplished in a particularly challenging year.

Sam Hupe-Wells, Program Coordinator



TINA'S SAFE HAVEN - PROGRAMMING & 24/7 SAFE SPACE

Tina's Safe Haven is an Indigenous youth drop in centre which acts as a central hub in our organization's programming. It is a program site where youth can build positive relationships among their peers, connect with supportive staff, and engage in safe, healthy activities. The centre provides youth 13 to 24 years of age a safe place 24 hours a day, seven days a week, providing supports and services targeted at harm reduction, crisis intervention and stabilization. Structured daily programming is also available where youth can engage in a wide variety of recreational activities, workshops, and skill development opportunities, as well as cultural programming and traditional teachings.

Tina's Safe Haven is home to the North End Arts Centre, a place where youth and community artists can create and share. The art program includes contemporary arts/crafts, traditional crafts, pottery, videography, music recording, and dance. The North End Arts Centre is a creative outlet for everyone to enjoy.

This past year has proven to be a challenging one, but the Safe Space at Tina's Safe Haven has persevered. Throughout the pandemic Tina's Safe Haven 24/7 Safe Space has been continuously accessible for youth to access during times of crisis and when in need of a safe place.

The Cooking Program responded to the pandemic by creating approximately 3,000 food and covid kits for youth in our community. This was a big task to undertake but the team was able to deliver kits to our youth and to provide to those dropping in at Tina's Safe Haven. Our Food Services Coordinator was able to provide hands on training to one of our youth who had a passion for cooking and assisted in getting this young person employed with a city restaurant where they continue to work today.

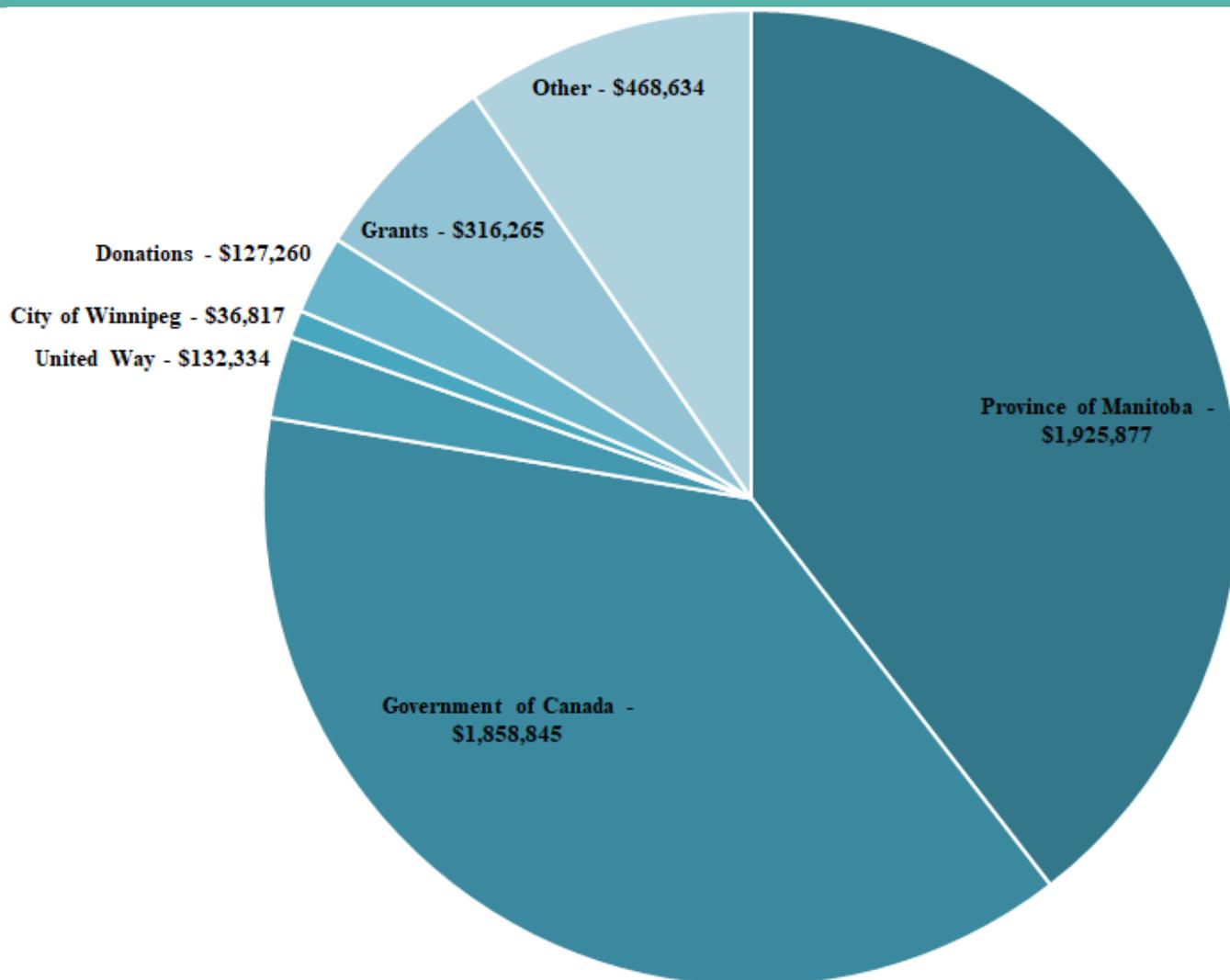
Ndinawe's Programs Coordinator is tasked with engage with youth through various exciting, creative, cultural, skills based program opportunities that are designed to inspire, develop passion, build confidence, and self expression around all aspects of their lives. Our programming has diversified during the pandemic and every obstacle has pushed the team to be creative with how we engage with youth. This year we were able to develop a brand new state of the art music studio which allows our youth to express themselves and be heard. New screen printing equipment encourages youth to wear something they have created and are proud of. We often do sharing circles and have established regular art therapy opportunities including digital art therapy. Tina's Safe Haven is a safe space that offers diverse and extensive programming in many mediums; we have been able to support our youth in trying new activities and develop passions in different areas they may not have been familiar with. We encourage youth to challenges themselves through programming and celebrate their outcomes.

We are incredibly proud of our youth and are happy to walk alongside them on their journey.

Carrie Skead, Manager, Tina's Safe Haven



FINANCIAL REPORT 2021



Funders:

- Province of Manitoba
 - Department of Families
 - Victim Services
 - Lighthouses
- Government of Canada
 - Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples
 - Public Health Agency of Canada
 - Employment and Social Development Canada
 - Reaching Home, End Homelessness Winnipeg
 - Indigenous Services Canada
 - First Nations and Inuit Health Branch
- Centre for Aboriginal Human Resources
- Canadian Womens Foundation
- United Way of Winnipeg
- City of Winnipeg
- Winnipeg Foundation
- Peter Gilgan Foundation
- The Home Depot Foundation
- Manitoba Arts Council

Thank you to our funders and private donors for your continued support of Ndinawemaaganag Endaaawaad Inc. and the youth we serve, we could not do it without you!