

**Ontario Municipal Social Services Association – 2019 Leadership Symposium  
Thunder Bay, Ontario - May 15, 2019**



**Presented by: Elena Abel, City of Ottawa and  
Marc Maracle, Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition**

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Water is Life – Métis artist Christi Belcourt/Community Mural behind Wabano

# Introductions

- Name
- Municipality
- Indigenous population
- Relationships with Indigenous partners



# A Bit About Ottawa...

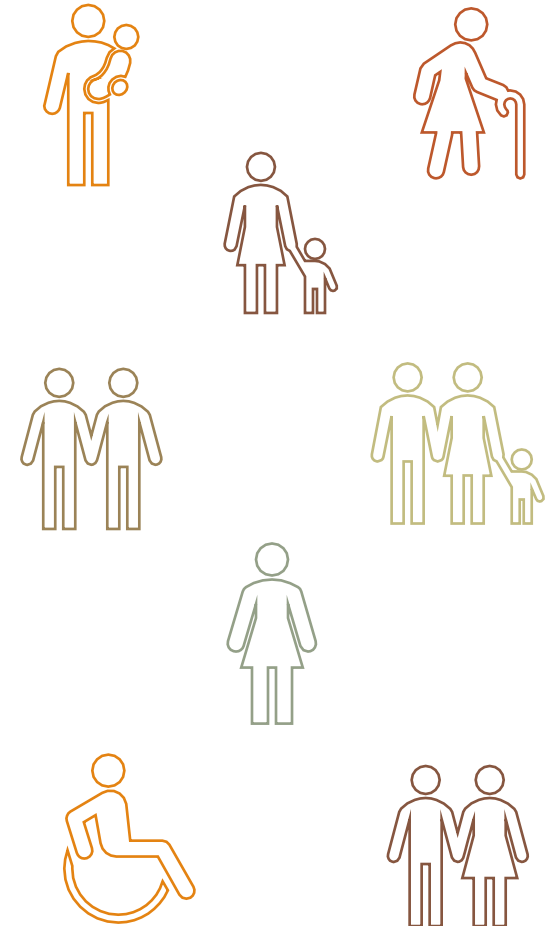
- Ottawa-Gatineau is a prime destination for First Nations, Inuit and Métis
- Ottawa 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest growing urban Aboriginal population
- Census 2016 reports 38,120 Aboriginal people live in national capital (22,955 in Ottawa alone)
- Border city – Gatineau residents
- Urban Aboriginal experience marked by growing generational population that only knows urban environment

Telling the Truth - Métis artist Mique Michell – TR1BE - Trinity Church mural



# Unique to Ottawa: Diversity

- Algonquin Territory: Kitigan Zibi and Pikwakanagan First Nations
- Census reports Ottawa has a wide variety of First Nations ancestry, predominantly: Algonquin, Cree, Ojibwe, Mi'kmaq, Mohawk.
- Growing number self identifying as Métis
- Inuit community



# Unique to Ottawa: Inuit Community

- Large Inuit population (1,280 Census 2016)
- Service point for health care
- Stay in Ottawa
- Growth rate of Inuktitut increasing
- Multiple Inuit specific services, but all Indigenous organizations are inclusive.



Tungasuvvingat Inuit

*Akausivik Inuit*

Family Health Team

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Tunganarniq, or “fostering good spirits by being open, welcoming and inclusive, Inuit youth from Cape Dorset. Byward Market



# Unique to Ottawa: National Organizations

- Home to Indigenous and non Indigenous Governmental orgs
- Professional Organizations
- Social Service Organizations
- Political decisions – highly informed community members
- Employment/education opportunities



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INUIT TAPIIRIT KANATAMI



MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL  
RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES MÉTIS



Native Women's  
Association of Canada  
L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada



Ottawa



## About Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

### FORMATION

Formed by front line delivery organizations in **2001** as a means of presenting a unified voice on behalf of Ottawa's Indigenous Community.

In response to issue of homelessness.





## About Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition



### Mission:

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



*Ottawa*



Wabano



Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre

Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health

Makonsag Aboriginal Head Start

Minwaashin Lodge

Madawan Management Development Inc.

Koki Mino Miikan Nosawadoon

Kagita Mikam

Tewagan Transition House

Gignul Housing

Tungasuvingat Inuit



Tewegan HOUSING FOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH



# About Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

## Mandate

The OAC **advocates** at the community, municipal, provincial and federal levels and seeks to **educate and raise awareness** on Aboriginal issues and the unique circumstances of Aboriginal people and their interests in Ottawa.

Ultimately we seek to **increase the positive and healthy choices available** to Aboriginal community members and their families across a wide and diverse range of considerations, whether it is health or housing or education to employment and training or access to cultural activities.



Elder Jim Albert



“It’s all about relationships”

# Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Guiding Principles

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



# Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Relationship Streams

1. Municipality – AWC
2. United Way
3. Federal
4. Provincial
5. School Boards
6. Employment & Training



# OAC ACCOUNTABILITY

5

# of OAC meetings per year

2

# of Community Forums per year

200

# of attendees at community forum



Ottawa

THE OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITIONS  
SEMI-ANNUAL

## Community Forum

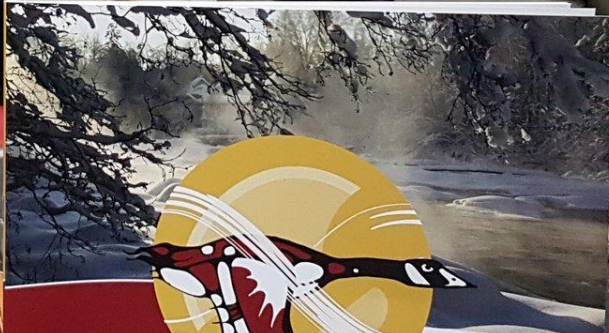


WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26  
5:30PM-8:30PM

110 LAURIER AVE W,  
OTTAWA, ON

RSVP at [www.oacsept2018forum.eventbrite.ca](http://www.oacsept2018forum.eventbrite.ca)

CATERED DINNER • GUEST SPEAKERS •  
LOCAL INDIGENOUS ENTERTAINMENT • DRAWS & PRIZES!



**OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION**  
hosts the  
**ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY FORUM**  
Thursday, February 1, 2018

Funded by:  
Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada



**OTTAWA ABORIGINAL COALITION**  
hosts the  
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**Dinner & Co.**

# Aboriginal Working Committee

- Formal relationship
- Established in 2007
- Reports to Community and Protective Services Committee
- Stronger link to Council on urban Aboriginal issues
- Work with other levels of government and business to influence policies that impact Indigenous community

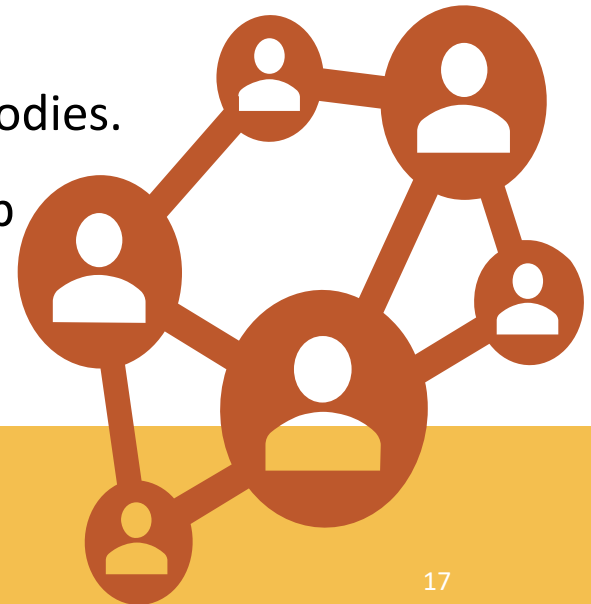




# Aboriginal Working Committee

## Responsibilities

- Provide a forum to address issues of concern and ensure urban Indigenous needs are considered when developing policies
- Find ways to be more inclusive and responsive to Indigenous community needs
- Engage broadly and identify opportunities to better coordinate community services
- Build new partnerships and support the activities of community agencies
- Identify and prioritize issues and work collaboratively
- Bring forward urgent issues for advocacy to governing bodies.
- Advise on training for City of Ottawa staff and leadership



# Aboriginal Working Committee Composition

Maximize integration and coordination of services including the following:



- Community and Social Services
  - Partner Stakeholder Initiatives
  - Housing Services
- Recreation, Culture and Facility Services
- Service Innovation and Performance
- Transportation Services
- Planning, Infrastructure and Econ. Dev.
- Emergency and Protective Services
- Office of City Clerk (City Archivist)
- Crime Prevention Ottawa
- Ottawa Police Services
- Ottawa Public Health
- Ottawa Public Library
- Ottawa Carleton District School Board
- Ottawa Catholic School Board
- United Way
- Local Health Integrated Network
- Members of the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

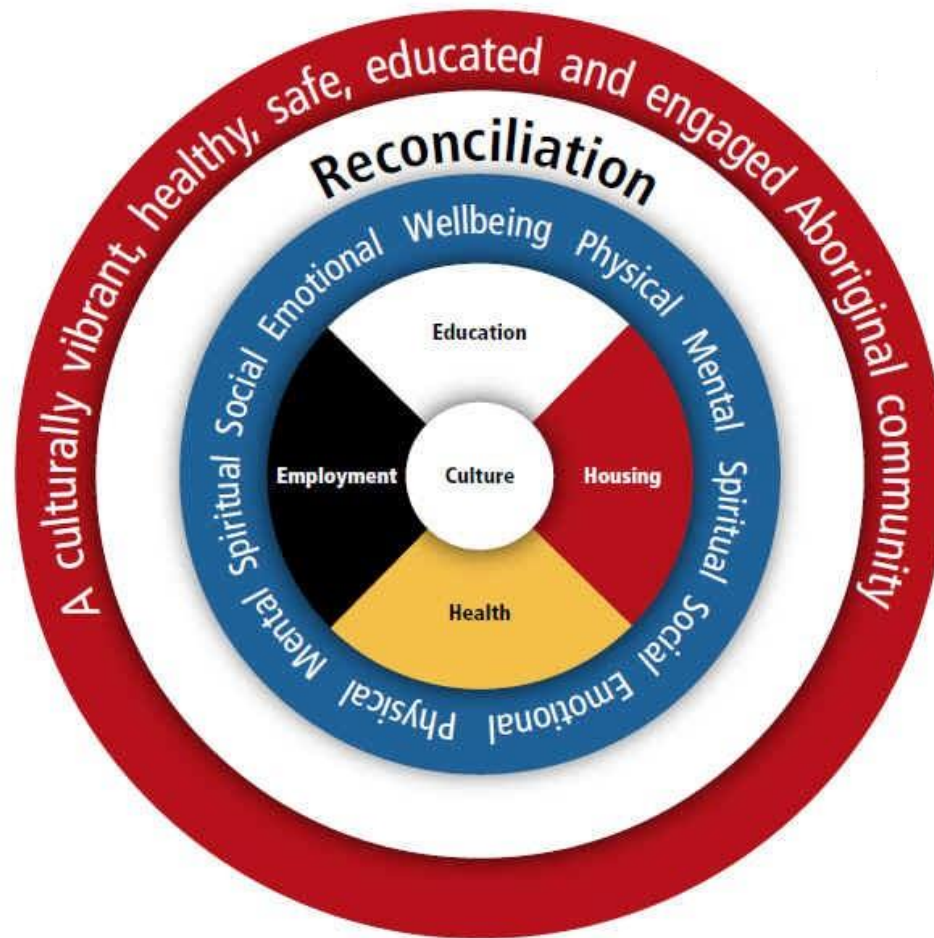


# Aboriginal Working Committee

- Technical Group meets 3-4 x per year
- Senior Leadership Group meets 1x year
- Strategic Plan presented annually to Community Protective Services Committee
- Listening Circles



# Evaluation Model



# City of Ottawa Proclamation National Indigenous People's Day

Since 2008



Ottawa



# Aboriginal Awareness Day

**Established in 2010**

**Full day of Cultural Awareness activities**

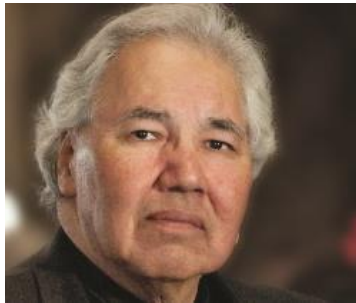
**Developed in partnership with OAC**

**Attended by over 200 staff**

**Keynote speakers:**



2015  
Chief Dr. Robert Joseph  
Ambassador Reconciliation  
Canada & AFN Elders Council



2016  
Senator Murray Sinclair  
Chief Commissioner of TRC



2017  
Cindy Blackstock  
First Nations Child  
and Family Caring  
Society



2018  
Marie-Ève Bordeleau  
Commissioner of  
Indigenous Affairs,  
City of Montreal



2019  
Natan Obed  
President Inuit Tapiriit  
Kanatami (ITK)

# Reconciliation:

*“Achieving reconciliation is like climbing a mountain — we must proceed a step at a time. It will not always be easy. Remember, reconciliation is yours to achieve. We owe it to each other to build a Canada based on our shared future, a future of healing and trust.”*

*Justice Murray Sinclair*

*December 15, 2015*

- Finding each other
- Identifying Issue/Challenges
- Continuum
- Time
- Finding/Maintaining Safe Space
- Facilitation of the Process

The logo for the City of Ottawa, featuring a stylized blue and green wave above the word "Ottawa" in a blue serif font.



# Reconciliation as Ongoing Journey

## Health

- Creation of Urban Indigenous Health Strategy
- Includes CHEO, Ottawa General, Royal Ottawa, CHCs, Inner City Health, Akausivik Inuit Family Health, Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health
- Led by Ottawa Public Health and Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition
- Video Series
- Indigenous experiences of discrimination in health care
- Report with recommendations

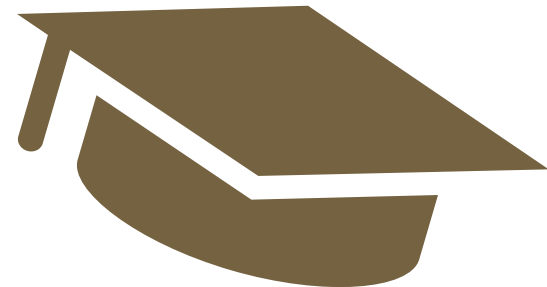




# Reconciliation as Ongoing Journey

## Education

- Engagement with School Boards
- Wanted teachers and administrators to see value in our children and community
- Increasing educational attainment
- Agency Tour
- Invitation to School Boards to join OAC Education Committee
- Invitation to school boards to join AWC
- Increase awareness of Elders/traditional teachers as community resource



# Statement of Reconciliation: March 28, 2018

Recognizes the significance of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the deep and lasting traumatic impact of Indian Residential Schools.

This gross injustice requires ongoing efforts to learn about IRS, acknowledge this history and its legacy and begin a shared journey of reconciliation.

Acknowledge that urban community grapple with the legacy of IRS, and we commit to support and deliver real change, working together with Aboriginal leaders.

Declared commitment to learn from TRC, and ensure the aspirations of Aboriginal people are fully acknowledged in policy, and in the great cities we seek to build.

Stand together in commitment to a new equal partnership; based on truth, dignity, and mutual respect.



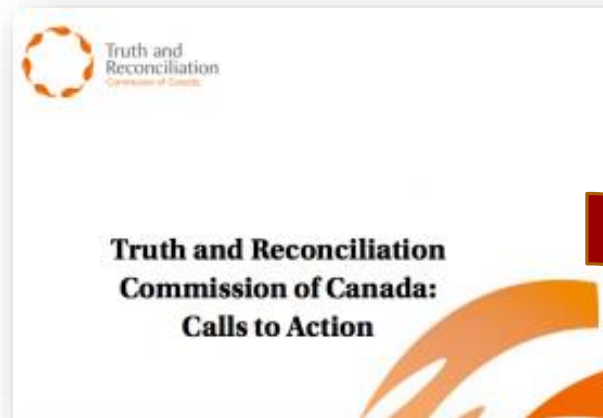
# Municipal Response to TRC Calls to Action:

In 2015, TRC released its findings and the 94 Calls to Action directed at all levels of government, private sector and Canadians as a whole.

In 2016, Ottawa City Council directed CSS to work with partners to review and report back on options for action on municipal activities.

In 2017, staff worked in collaboration with local Indigenous service providers and community members to develop a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP).

In 2018, the City of Ottawa's Reconciliation Action Plan was approved. The plan addresses the TRC Calls to Action and confirms the City's commitment to reconciliation.



# Reconciliation Action Plan

Input and feedback from the Indigenous community was obtained through:

- Meetings with Elders
- A meeting with the local First Nations
- Presentations to and engagement with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Community at OAC Community Forums

14 Actions in the areas of

- Culture
- Employment
- Children's Services
- Education and Awareness Building



# City of Ottawa Commitment

- City Manager
- Senior Leadership Team
- Performance
- Embedded in corporate culture
- Political Support    Mayor Chiarelli  
                                 Mayor O'Brien  
                                 Mayor Watson
- Street renaming
- Flag raising

On June 21, 2018, Mayor Jim Watson hosted a ceremony to permanently raise the flags of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council and the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation at Ottawa City Hall.

The flags will fly in perpetuity outside City Hall in Marion Dewar Plaza, inside Andrew Haydon Hall, which houses Council Chambers, and in the Mayor's boardroom.



# Challenges

- Inclusivity
- Identifying champions
  - Community
  - Municipality
- “Not the usual suspects”
- Trusting community to be an active partner
- Working through coalition-like arrangements
- Planning
  - Annual
  - Strategic
- Taking right amount of time
- Measurement
- Feedback/Reporting
- Celebration

## Relationship Continuum



# OPPORTUNITIES

- Do more together
- Collective I/A
- Collaboration
- Relationship Continuum and Time
- Planning with Purpose and Intention
- Let Community Lead to identity issues, challenges and opportunities
- Cross sectoral Learning



Meegwetch  
Níá:wen  
Qujannamíik  
Nakurmíik  
Thank you  
Mercí

