

2021

Defining Pathways to Reconciliation



Table of Contents

01	Introduction
02	Messages from OMSSA's President
03	Ganoozh Bimaadzwin Ogimaa
04	OMSSA Strategic Priorities
05	Measuring Progress
06	Observations
07	Next Steps
08	Conclusion
09	Acknowledgements
10	Appendix
	Speaker Summary
	OFIFC Communication
	CBC News Article

Introduction

Over 350 people from Ontario municipalities and organizations participated in OMSSA's two-day online forum – Defining Pathways to Reconciliation – which took place on October 20–21, 2021. The forum's purpose was to listen to how Ontario's social services organizations can better serve their Indigenous populations. According to the latest statistics, Ontario has the most significant Indigenous people in Canada, approximately 375,000, over 100,000 more than British Columbia, with the second-highest Indigenous population at around 270,000.

Over 80 percent of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis live in urban areas. There is a severe lack of urban services and funding for Indigenous people outside of their communities. Far too many urban Indigenous are unemployed, homeless, in substandard housing, placed in the child welfare system, and victims of violence, murder, and substance abuse and addiction.

Defining Pathways to Reconciliation's plan is based upon the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action as a guide to measuring the progress of where municipalities would like to be on the road to Reconciliation over the next ten years. The number one recommendation is that OMSSA holds a two-day forum on cultural competency. Agency staff must know and understand the history and current challenges facing Indigenous Peoples.

Besides the work needed from all levels of government to implement the TRC 94 Calls to Action, Defining Pathways to Reconciliation heard from the Indigenous leaders who already have the solutions. All that is missing is the political will and the public resolve to close the socio-economic gap between Indigenous peoples and mainstream urban Canadians.

To quote moderator Isadore Day: "This is a group effort. We appreciate you being here to work on this together. We want to be unified on and remove the barriers that will improve lives for the people who have been harmed and continue to be harmed by Canada's legacy of genocide and colonialism".



Message from OMSSA's President



Throughout the spring and summer of 2021, a significant number of deceased children were found in unmarked graves at sites of former Indian Residential Schools across Canada. These discoveries lay bare the unfathomable loss, pain, abuse and trauma that First Nations, Inuit and Metis people have experienced in Canada.

While shocking to Canadians, residential school survivors have been speaking up about these atrocities for years but Canadian society chose not to hear the truth. What children endured at those all too often barbaric 'schools' disrupted family life in unimaginable ways for generations and continues to significantly impact the lives of Indigenous people today.

For Reconciliation and healing to begin, Canadian society needs to stop looking away and fully face its past. In presentations to non-Indigenous Canadians about Reconciliation, the Honourable Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, often asks this simple question: If this had happened to you, what would you want the other people to do?

This is the question we must keep in mind as we come together with Indigenous leaders on October 20 and 21 to collectively envision where we want to be in the Reconciliation process ten years from now and discuss how to get there in the context of the relationship between the Indigenous community and municipal social services in Ontario.

There's a lot that stands in the way of change. CMSMs and DSSABs face significant budget constraints and competing priorities. We don't have the authority to make sweeping changes to social policy, or to settle constitutional issues or land claims.

But there's still a lot we can do.

In fact, our sectors are uniquely positioned to contribute to change because we serve those urban Indigenous people who need social supports more than most Canadians. Why? Because of the ongoing intergenerational impact of residential schools, the 60s' scoop, the child welfare millennial scoop and Canada's overall legacy of systemic racism and colonialism.

In this context, every encounter between Indigenous people and our systems matters.

As human services professionals, we can prioritize equipping ourselves and our staff with the skills and knowledge to ensure that Indigenous clients and employees feel safe, valued and respected.

We can also partner with Indigenous communities to advocate for sustainable funding and policy change – even when it's difficult, risky or requires ceding power.

We can look for opportunities to build strong, flexible, reliable and innovative service delivery partnerships with local First Nations, Metis and Inuit organization because these organizations understand their communities best and how to foster healing and cultural reconnection.

In the era of life stabilization, there's also a lot that we can learn from Indigenous organizations that will benefit all clients. For example, case managers in First Nations communities are experts in how to deliver more holistic, more trauma-informed, and more client-centered services without letting government regulations stand in the way.

Many non-Indigenous Canadians like to point out that they aren't responsible for the actions of previous governments and churches – and that's fair. But we are answerable to the present, and we are absolutely responsible and accountable to future generations.

What we do today matters.

Cathy Cousins,
OMSSA President

Ganoozh Bimaadzwin's Ogimaa

Address from Bimaadzwin Leader



Bimaadzwin – which means “life” or “good path” in Anishinaabe – was incorporated in July 2018 by former Ontario Regional Chief Isadore Day. The driving purpose of Bimaadzwin is to Advance Our Nations through Nation Building.

We are the land. There is much work to be done with government, business, and society to improve outcomes in all areas – economic, health, governance, and justice.

Bimaadzwin is here to assist our Peoples in doing the work necessary to begin building better lives now, and to create a legacy of prosperity for our children. This forum captures the journey on the pathways to Reconciliation. It is a tool meant to help share, sustain and grow our efforts. Reconciliation is truly a national process that will require tremendous efforts by all Canadians—and across all orders of government.

“At the end of the two days, we are going to come together to continue this work and talk about how we could turn reconciliation into a process for municipalities -- tools and mechanisms and models that could be developed for municipalities.”



OMSSA Strategic Priorities

The Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) is a non-profit association whose members are collective of Ontario's Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) and District Social Services Administration Boards (DSSABs). Supporting, connecting and advocating for our members across Ontario, we help them to achieve their collective mission of delivering the best human services outcomes for Ontario's communities.

1

POLICY AND ISSUES MANAGEMENT

Proactive policy leadership with members and government on the design and implementation of human service programs, grounded in the expertise of our members.

2

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Provide accessible, relevant and inclusive education and professional development, knowledge transfer and events responsive to the needs of members.

3

ENGAGEMENT AND MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Facilitate member sharing; leverage their expertise and resources to advance their interests; and keep them engaged and informed through two-way communications.

4

PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

Strategically convene our partnerships to expand our capability and to enhance the work of our members.

5

CAPACITY BUILDING

Create and sustain a resilient and responsive organization able to meet member needs.

Measuring Progress

In order to understand the profound, pain, loss and intergenerational trauma that First Nations, Metis and Inuit people have experienced as a result of residential schools, the 1960s' scoop, the child welfare millennial scoop and Canada's overall legacy of racism and genocide – knowing the historic impacts is the first step in working towards Reconciliation.

Awareness and an empathetic understanding is required when we come together to discuss Reconciliation, and remember that Reconciliation is about people – the people who have been harmed and those who need to make the changes. It's the responsibility of all Canadians to contribute to changing the systems, policies and attitudes that continue to oppress and hold Indigenous people back.

Reconciliation is about working together to improve our relationships but what does working together actually mean and require of us? Below are some key requirements necessary towards measuring progress when we choose to walk the path towards Reconciliation.

Requirement	Activity / Project	Data / Outcome
History – acknowledge the trauma	Regular information sessions and workshop series offered – new and seasoned staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 2 of Strategic Priorities – Education • This can occur through awareness, insight and appreciation of historical events
Cultural Competency	Exposure to cultural practices and traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No.5 of Strategic Priorities – Capacity Building • The building of trusting and respectful relationships
Renewed commitments to justice, dialogue, and relationship-building	Strategies, objectives, action matrix, assigning resources, ensuring clarity and senior executive support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. 1 & 4 of Strategic Priorities – Issues Management Partnership & Collaboration • All levels of participation

Our survey results have let us know that many agencies are making large strides in their movements forward on the path of reconciliation. A comprehensive culture-based framework for participants to create an organizational vision for reconciliation and an action plan for developing cultural awareness is taking place in many of OMSSA's constituent's workplaces.

Steps Taken So Far...

Survey respondents let us know what their agencies have implemented, highlighted below are some of the best practices:



How does your municipality or organization engage Indigenous communities and/or organizations?

74
Individual Responses

- 256 years has passed between the 'birth' of Canada/Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, to the current dates/issues
- 44 cycles of government have passed with no resolution to Indigenous issues in Canada
- Misinformation is the basis for bias/ racism in Canada when it comes to monetary obligations of the Crown
- Many programs on reserve are not funded appropriately as compared to off-reserve

By establishing a new and respectful relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, we will restore what must be restored, repair what must be repaired, and return what must be returned.

- TRC Final Report

Observations

- What is needed right now is “Reconcili-action”. There has already been too much consultation which has resulted in consultation fatigue and burn-out. If we are ready for meaningful change, let’s push through and get it done.
- For Indigenous organizations, the biggest challenge is lack of funding, and recruitment and retention of staff. At the same time, there is a lot of passion in the people that work for Indigenous communities.
- For Indigenous organizations as well, the challenge on the ground is ensuring that we educate the community properly in terms of our service models. The challenge is not to repeat the horrific stories of the past – removing children from their homes and communities never to be seen again.
- Depending upon the municipality, the homeless population ranges from 30 to 90 per cent Indigenous. Overall, the funding resources that are allocated to the Indigenous homeless are less than five per cent. This is a gross inequity.
- There is a big difference between cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, and cultural competency. Staff need to learn cultural competency. Cultural competency is understanding and knowing some of the history and legislation, the laws and how that applies to First Nations. Cultural competency is the ability to apply your knowledge towards problem solving, teaching, coaching on an organizational level and with the individuals that we serve.
- Cultural competency also includes reaching out to your neighboring communities in the spirit of Reconciliation.
- It will take at least 20 years to achieve true Reconciliation where Indigenous communities break out of the cycles of poverty, homelessness, over-representation in the child welfare and justice system. Reconciliation will be achieved only when parity is created with the rest of society and First Nations have control of their lands and not under the oversight of governments.
- Reconciliation happens on the ground at each agency and organization – OMSSA should provide cultural competency training as well as advocate and challenge current policies and legislation at the provincial level.
- OMSSA Members have an opportunity to be a model for the rest of the country to lead Reconciliation in terms of the process and networks, relationships, and developing support for life stabilization.
- In order to begin Reconciliation in social services, there must be change management and shifting attitudes of non-Indigenous staff. There must also be resource sharing in terms of municipalities rethinking property tax revenue sharing to include Indigenous service and housing.
- Reconciliation ultimately involves relationships and responsibilities.

Suggested Next Steps

Throughout this forum many service providers, managers, and senior leadership displayed a willingness to work with Indigenous leaders and organizations to create better cities by acknowledging and addressing the experience and needs of the growing urban Indigenous population, strengthening government to government partnerships and learning from the past. While the actions are diverse and the journey at various stages of progress, paths are being forged toward Reconciliation and the honouring of the TRC's Calls to Action.



Action or Commitment

OMSSA work with organizations like OFIFC and ONWAA to organize a forum on cultural competency



Action or Commitment

OMSSA advocate for appropriate funding for organizations as well as advocate for policy and legislative changes (ie. common assessment tool).



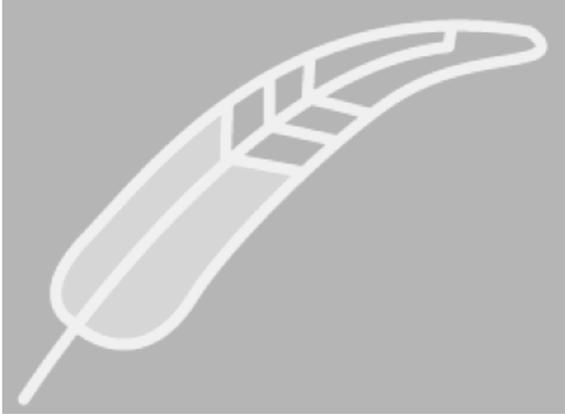
Action or Commitment

To strengthen OMSSA's DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) commitment to all clients, partners, and Ontario's social service workforce, the association also sets out a commitment to establish and maintain an Indigenous policy and Reconciliation action plan.

Reconciliation requires that a new vision, based on a commitment to mutual respect, be developed. It also requires an understanding that the most harmful impacts of residential schools have been the loss of pride and self-respect of Aboriginal people, and the lack of respect that non-Aboriginal people have been raised to have for their Aboriginal neighbours. Reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem; it is a Canadian one. Virtually all aspects of Canadian society may need to be reconsidered.

– TRC Final Report

Conclusion



Recognizing that there is not a defined path for Reconciliation.

- There is the expertise and the willingness to start defining this pathway
- Coordination and bringing people together is being brought forward through two eye seeing organizations – OMSSA.



Shaping and clarifying what is Reconciliation?

- Establishing and sustaining hope for future engagement
- Continuing this journey now and into the future
- Open dialogue and forum's to discuss relevant feelings, thought and attitudes



Service providers making sure to make Reconciliation standard part of training new hires and continual updates

- Reconciliation Data Sets
- Identifying – What is and What is not working
- Relating back to those informal relationships

"The road we travel is equal in importance to the destination we seek. There are no shortcuts. When it comes to truth and reconciliation we are forced to go the distance"

– Justice Murray Sinclair – Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Acknowledgements

Thank You to our Planning Committee:

- (Chair) Jennifer McPhee, OMSSA
- Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres
- Doug Ball, OMSSA
- Stuart Beumer, County of Wellington
- Colleen V. Brunelle, County of Wellington
- Isadore Day, Bimaadzwin
- Tania Dickson, Bruce County
- Jennifer DiDomencio, City of Hamilton
- Jennifer Dockstader, Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre
- Bryan Hendry, Bimaadzwin
- Shelly Hill, City of Hamilton
- Rob Kirsic, OMSSA
- Marlene Kwandibens, Bimaadzwin
- James Lapierre, City of Toronto
- Aaron Ly, Partnerships and Engagement Professional
- Christie MacDonald, Bruce County
- Justin Marchand, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services
- Sheila McMahon, United Native Friendship Centre
- Mike Nadeau, District of Sault Ste. Marie Social Services Administrative Board
- Heather Pelky, Bimaadzwin
- Lianne Sauter, AMO
- Henry Wall, Kenora District Services Board

Contact

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Appendix

Speaker Summary



Jessica Anderson
Executive Director, North Hastings Children's Services

Ms. Anderson is the Executive Director of North Hastings Children's Services (NHCS). As the central provider of licensed educational, social, family and child services to 7 municipalities, NHCS partners with the local Algonquin First Nation and over 20 agencies to enhance the wellbeing of children and families. Ms. Anderson has a professional background in corporate, government and non-profit agencies, and a proven track-record in organizational change, program integrity, operational effectiveness, finance, legislative compliance, regulations, policies and reporting. She has served on the Quinte Health Care Board of Directors, as well as a key member of several health and family advisory boards.



Chantelle Bryson
Municipal and Indigenous Lawyer

Chantelle is a sole practitioner with two decades of experience working with municipalities, First Nations and related institutions in the areas of good governance, Indigenous and human rights, labour and employment, land use planning and environmental law, and general administrative law before a variety of tribunals and all levels of court. Most recently, Chantelle was a Member of the Ontario Municipal Board and counsel to the Office of the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth at the Seven Fallen Feathers Inquest in Thunder Bay, Ontario.



Chief Laurie Carr
Hiawatha First Nations

In 2004 Laurie was elected as a member of the Hiawatha Council and served for 3 years. In 2007, she was elected as Hiawatha's first female Chief and served until 2010. From 2010 to 2017 Laurie worked at the Chiefs of Ontario as the Southern Ontario Non-Insured Health Benefits Navigator and 1 year as the Acting Social Director for the First Nations in Ontario. In 2017 Laurie was re-elected as Chief and continues to serve her First Nation in this role.

In her role as Chief, Laurie's responsibilities include: Intergovernmental Affairs; Negotiations; Core Consultation; Legal/Financial matters; Political matters; Williams Treaties and other Treaty Relations; and Policing.

Laurie is also the Chairperson for the Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services (DBCFS). Through Hiawatha's Provincial Territorial Organization (PTO), the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI), Laurie sits on their Chief's Council and holds the Portfolio for Social and as an alternate for the Health Portfolio.

Speaker Summary



Isadore Day
Chief Executive Officer, Bimaadzwin

Isadore Day is the former Chief of Serpent River First Nation and a former Ontario Regional Chief over the span of 15 years involved in First Nation leadership. Isadore was the Chair of the Assembly of First Nations' Chiefs Committee on Health and established the AFN Task Force on Cannabis.

He is the Founder and CEO of Bimaadzwin where his main focus is on Nationhood rights and Sovereignty; and specifically, the improvement in First Nation health, social, economy conditions of current and future generations. Isadore is emphatic that the Indian Act is colonial oppression and at the root of what must change in all First Nations – he vows to maintain and refine his life's mission to be focused on reconstituting Indigenous Nations on Turtle Island. He works with all levels of government and industry, as well as numerous associates to ensure the economic development and autonomy of First Nations.



Jennifer Dockstader
Executive Director, Fort Erie Friendship Centre & OFIFC President

Jennifer is from the Oneida of the Thames Nation, Bear Clan, and a citizen of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. She is a strong believer in her people, her Indigenous traditions, and that there is no higher honor than to be of service to the people.

Jennifer is the Executive Director for the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre. Starting this role in 2014, she has worked to facilitate local paradigm shifts about Indigenous people and build a stronger community. She believes in the Vision and Mission statement of the Organization To Enhance All Aspects of Native Life While Extending Friendship to the Community and Together for a Stronger Tomorrow. A proud mother, Auntie, daughter, sister, granddaughter and friend Jennifer believes in the strength of women no matter which role they take in society.



Ken Doherty
Principal Consultant, Our Heritage Consulting

Since his retirement, Ken has consulted with Not-For-Profit organizations, small businesses, municipalities and related associations on governance, organizational development, business plans, First Nations relations, strategic planning, cultural planning/ mapping, and report writing. He is also a regular contributor to Ontario Out of Doors.

Originally an aspiring history teacher, Doherty brings 38 years of municipal experience as: Museum Curator and Director, Library CEO, and finally as Director of Community Services for the City of Peterborough. Throughout his career, Ken presented at conferences, workshops, and university/ college classrooms on municipal support of culture, museum studies, community partnerships, First Nations relations/ repatriation, Age-Friendly communities, Municipal Government 101, and Sustainability.

Speaker Summary



Gahnegiyohs:ta Shelly Hill, MA Lead
Six Nations, Ontario, Manager, Indigenous Relations, City of Hamilton

Shelly is from Six Nations of the Grand River, Ontario. She has worked and lived in the urban communities most of her career obtaining a Master of Arts (M.A.) Degree focused on Leadership from Trinity Western University, BC. Shelly works with the City of Hamilton leading the implementation of Hamilton's first Urban Indigenous Strategy responsible for building relationships with the community Indigenous leaders and individuals, promoting Indigenous cultures and programs, engaging the broader Hamilton community and treaty territories, collaborating with various Indigenous organizations, advancing public education initiatives, facilitating city-wide community dialogue and advancing the recommendations of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report, Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Calls to Justice at the local level.



Elder Shirley Horn

Known for her significant advocacy work, Shirley Horn has worked tirelessly for her people. She co-founded the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association in 1981, an organization that has been a leader on the national level about the issue of residential schools. Horn was Chief of her own community, the Missanabie Cree First Nation for 10 years, and has also been a member of the Missanabie Cree Elders' Council. When Shirley was five years old, she was taken from her home and sent to St. John's Indian Residential School. Two years later, she was transferred to Shingwauk Indian Residential School where she remained for six years, once attempting an escape when she was 11 years old. In 2005, she returned to the site of Shingwauk - now home to Algoma University - on her own terms to enrol in the Bachelor of Fine Arts Program. Six years after graduating with honours, Shirley returned once again to the site of Shingwauk Indian Residential School, this time as the first ever chancellor of Algoma University.



Joanne Isaac
Manager, Community and Labour Market, Toronto Employment and Social Services, City of Toronto

Joanne Isaac is a Manager, Community and Labour Market at Toronto Employment and Social Services (TESS) with the City of Toronto. Joanne has worked in social services for several years and has extensive experience in the areas of mental health and social supports, workforce development and community engagement. In her current capacity as the Indigenous Lead for TESS and working under the guidance of Indigenous People, Joanne's work is focused on strengthening TESS's relationships with its Indigenous communities, ensuring the delivery of Indigenous cultural competency training for all staff within the division, and re-affirming TESS's commitments to advancing truth and reconciliation. Joanne also works collaboratively with the City of Toronto's Indigenous Affairs Office and Indigenous leaders including the Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC) to establish strategic and thoughtful approaches to meeting these commitments.

Speaker Summary



Justin Marchand
Chief Executive Officer, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services

Justin is Métis and was appointed Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) in 2018. Prior to that, he held the titles of Director of Corporate Operations and Programs Delivery Manager and has been with OAHS since 2009. Justin has 20 years of progressive experience in a broad range of sectors including two publicly listed corporations, a large accounting and consulting firm, and a major crown corporation, and holds numerous designations across financial, operations, and housing disciplines.

Justin believes that Housing is a fundamental human right and that when Indigenous people have access to safe, affordable, and culture-based Housing this provides the opportunity to improve other areas of their life.



Tobie Mathew
Program Manager, Toronto Early Learning and Childcare Services, City of Toronto

During the course of her 25-year career, Tobie has led a variety of initiatives creating a significant impact in advancing the work of equity and inclusion. She has held roles internationally and within provincial and municipal governments working in rural communes in Vietnam, in rural Alberta supporting Indigenous communities, and more recently at Toronto Public Health and Toronto Children's Services. Currently, Tobie oversees the management of directly operated childcare in Scarborough that serves over 400 diverse families and their children.



Micheal Miller
Executive Director, Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario
Micheal Miller is an Oji-Cree from Mattagami First Nation in Treaty 9 territory. His 25-year career has focused on the social development of indigenous communities. He has served as the Executive Director at Aboriginal Legal Services (ALS) in Toronto. Prior to joining ALS, he served as the Housing Director for the Cochrane District Social Services Administrative Board, and he played a critical role in opening the Living Space homeless shelter in Timmins. He also served as the Executive Director at Kunuwanimano Child and Family Services and led the agency to become a mandated Children's Aid Society. He also spent the early part of his career in the Employment and Training field. Micheal holds a Master of Business Administration

Gertie Mai Muise
Executive Director, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres

Speaker Summary



Benjamin Murray
Co-Founder, Earthling Art Collective

Benjamin 'Planbstrick9' Murray – a multidisciplinary artist, producer, facilitator, mentor and director who comes from a background of both settler and Indigenous heritage. Their family on Turtle Island comes from Sipekne'katik first nation; Mi'kmaw tribe, a part of the Wabanaki confederacy. Their work as a facilitator of creative and therapeutic programs in Indigenous communities led them to solely found Earthling Art Collective in 2016 in an attempt to fill in holes in existing social networks within the creative and therapeutic community. Continuing this work into 2021, Benjamin is now the Co-director of Giinawind collective space, an Indigenous-led space that features a tattoo parlour, an art gallery, a workshop space, as well as a full multimedia production studio open to the public. Benjamin is also a creative consultant and producer for AGENCY, a systems change coalition led by BIPOC young leaders seeking to resolve existing issues in granting services as well as issues facing BIPOC creatives in all sectors.



Trish Nadjiwon Meekins, MSW RSW CYW CCH
Cross-cultural Educator, Human Resources Consultant, Social Worker

Trish is a registered social worker and holds a Master's in Social Work in the Indigenous Field of Study. Trish uses various methods of healing such as energy healing and hypnotherapy to assist people with bringing all 4 parts of self together, so that we may roll with the ebbs and flows of life, with a newfound perspective that can be practiced daily. Trish currently has her own practice as a wholistic therapist, as well as a trainer in Indigenous cultural awareness. She is a teacher, trainer, facilitator, and mediator. Most recently, Trish has completed her Human Resources certificate from York University and uses her wholistic approach as well as policy to assist organizations with running their business/programs effectively.



Suzanne Obiorah
Director, Gender and Race Equity, Inclusion, Indigenous Relations and Social Development,
City of Ottawa

Suzanne Obiorah is the Director for the new Gender and Race Equity, Inclusion, Indigenous Relations, and Social Development Service at the City of Ottawa. She has worked in health and social services for 19 years. Her work has focused on leading health equity initiatives, creating a low barrier culturally competent programs, advocacy for a regional mental health strategy to support Black residents in Ottawa and planning for the integration of equity frameworks tied to accountability.

In her role at the City, she's responsible for the Indigenous Relations portfolio, where she is guided by Indigenous Relations Staff and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition to address priorities they've identified will contribute towards Ottawa being a welcoming place for Indigenous Peoples.

Speaker Summary



Tim Ominika
Community Based Researcher, Thunderbird Partnership Foundation

Aanii, my name is Tim Ominika, I am from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory – Located on Manitoulin Island Ontario, my Anishnaabe name is Msko-Ngik (Red Otter) and Ma-iigan Doodem(the Wolf Clan). I am also an elected official in our community serving my Fourth Term. I practice our cultural and traditions in which I carry a strong sense of self, family focus in which is reflected in my morals values and beliefs.

I have been working in the area of Opioid Dependency and Harm Reduction for the past 11 years, I currently working with Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, where I hold the position Community Based Researcher assisting with a National Research Project.

I graduated from Police Foundation 2001, Received BA in Law and Justice 2004.

In 2012 I received Harm Reduction certificate from York University, 2011 I received Opioid Dependency Treatment Certificate from University Of Toronto.

I also sit on CAMH Opioid Internal Network Advisory Committee – and was a part of developing Making the Choice, Making it Work Treatment for Opioid Addiction, Methadone Maintenance Client Hand Book, I also was on the Indigenous Engagement Advisory Committee with Sudbury District Health Unit.

Sarah Stevenson
Director, Integrated Social Services, Kenora District Services Board

Sarah Stevenson is the Director of Integrated Social Services with the Kenora District Service Board. Sarah oversees a team that is responsible for the delivery of employment and social assistance programs, child care and early years programs and housing and homelessness programs in the Municipalities of the Kenora District. The Kenora District encompasses Treaty Areas 3, 5 and 9, 47 First Nation Communities, 9 Municipalities and 4 Unincorporated Areas. KDSB's partnerships are different in every community as no community is alike. KDSB has developed partnerships with Indigenous Friendship Centres, Ontario Native Women's Association affiliates, Metis Nation of Ontario affiliates, Indigenous Health Authorities, Tribal Councils, Chiefs Advisory Councils, First Nation Communities and Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services. In 2016, KDSB through Board Resolution formally accepted the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action. Sarah is a second generation, survivor of the McIntosh Residential School legacy. She brings life experience to her leadership role within KDSB.



Elder Ada Tinney
Elder, North Hastings Children's Services

Ada Tinney is an Elder of the Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini Algonquin First Nation and belongs to the Martin Clan .Ada's long history of teaching the North Hastings community about Algonquin culture has played a key role in the creation of the Algonquin Inòdewiziwin EarlyON Child and Family Centre and the partnership model with North Hastings Children's Services.

Ada continues to have a presence as an Algonquin Elder in all the North Hastings Children's Services programs for children, youth and families. She builds and maintains positive relationships with Indigenous Elders and Knowledge keepers from various communities across Canada. In 2017 she received a Canada 150 Award for Service to County and Community. She is a member of the Elders Circle Committee of Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini Algonquin First Nation and she serves on the Public School Board Indigenous Education Committee and the ODEY Algonquin Women's Business Network Advisory Group. She is a member of the Shawashkong Ikwe Singers and Drummers and is an artist that works with a wide variety of mediums.

Speaker Summary



Staci Williams
Training Associate Manager, Ontario Native Welfare Administrators Association

Staci has been involved in Social Services for over 20 years. Prior to joining ONWAA, she was a First Nation Ontario Works Administrator for 10 years. Staci joined ONWAA in 2008 and has been coordinating and delivering culturally appropriate training, support and resources to the First Nations. Staci is the lead for training development and delivery. Staci's flair for networking and her endearing nature have made her a recognizable and in-demand facilitator across the province, and more recently, facilitating sessions across Canada. Staci is a proud member of Migisi Sahgaigan located in Treaty 3 Territory.



Henry Wall
OMSSA Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, Kenora District Services Board

Henry has been the Chief Administrative Officer of the Kenora District Services Board (KDSB) since November 2014. He started his Public Sector career in Northern Ontario nearly ten years ago. Prior to joining the KDSB, Henry worked as the Treasurer for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout for nearly seven and half years. Henry is focused and has worked hard to bringing stability to the delivery of Housing, Human Services and Emergency Services in the Kenora District. During his term, KDSB has become a fully integrated organization that is focused on providing full wrap around services and supports for families; the organization has grown from being a Service Manager and housing provider of safe affordable housing to administrating Emergency Homeless Shelters, and developing Supportive and Transitional housing.

Henry's leadership philosophy is simple: with strong vision, collective-forward thinking and engaged employees, any organization can achieve great things.

Appendix OFIFC Communications

We need to look at all the good work that Friendships Centers have been doing since the 1970s.

What they have been doing is based upon Reconciliation.

CommUNITY Week of Healing & Reconciliation

September 27 - October 1
Anamiewigummig, The Kenora Fellowship Centre
208 Water Street

"Living together, learning together, healing together"

All community members are invited to visit the sacred fire and join the conversations and daily events in recognition of the first national day for Truth and Reconciliation



For more information contact:
kenoramovingforward@gmail.com or call Elauna (807) 407-9131



Join us July 1st, 2021 Oh, Canada?

Kenora events honouring residential school victims and survivors

10AM - WALK IN HONOUR OF CHILDREN LOST TO RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL AND TO HONOUR OUR SURVIVORS
Waseegizhig Nanaandawe Iyewigamig
Meeting point: Harbourfront Pavillon
Ending Point: C.J Residential School Memorial Site 237 Airport Rd.

11AM - 1PM - OH CANADA?
Kenora Moving Forward
Location: Orange shirted Bear on the Harbourfront.
Awareness Activities

NOON - 5PM - BANNER PAINTING
Hosted by Dakota Shebagegit
Location: Seven Gens field
Family friendly banner painting

4PM - 9PM - WE ARE STILL HERE
GCT3 Wiisokotatiwin residential school survivors support program
Location: Anicinabe Park
Drumming 5-7; BBQ sponsored by Kenora Chiefs Advisory & GCT3 Kaakewaaseya Community Justice; Walk of Sorrow participants arrive in Kenora late evening

Kenora Chiefs Advisory
COMAHABATONG

GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3

- Covid protocols apply -
Please do not attend if experiencing symptoms

Program Announcements

Reading 4 Healing Book Club

Indigenous Healing & Wellness

LEARN, GROW, HEAL
ENGAGE WITH INDIGENOUS STORIES & DISCUSS

Every other Wednesday • 7-8pm • via Zoom • Join our FB group!

Contact
Healing & Wellness Coordinator Emily
healingandwellness@nechee.org • 807-468-5440

Red Eagle Newsletter—Ne-Chee Friendship Centre—February 2021 Page 5

Need help attending your court appearance?
Don't have access to a phone or internet?

POP UP COURT ROOM

EVERY THURSDAY
8:30 - 2:00
Ne-Chee Friendship Centre Event Space
326 2nd Street South

“There’s been a lot of good work done by a lot of people for a lot of years.”

Appendix

CBC News Article

Portage Avenue urban reserve to include cannabis shop, pain clinic

Winnipeg's 2nd urban reserve will include retail, office space and apartments

[Kristin Annable](#) - CBC News - Posted: Aug 08, 2018 2:35 PM CT | Last Updated: August 8, 2018



A rendering of the proposed retail development at the new urban reserve at 1075 Portage Ave. (Ayshkum Engineering, Tower Engineering)

A retail cannabis shop, restaurant and pain management clinic are some of the planned retail tenants for a 14,000-square-foot urban reserve on Portage Avenue, Peguis First Nation officials announced at a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday.

"It is long overdue," Peguis Chief Glenn Hudson said of the deal that has been five years in the making. "This city and this country is based on developments and I think with First Nations it is no different."

The development at 1075 Portage Ave., located adjacent from the RCMP's D Division headquarters, will be the second urban reserve in the city.

Long Plain First Nation opened Winnipeg's first urban reserve in the St. James area. It was designated an urban reserve in 2013, and a Petro-Canada gas station officially opened there in 2015.



Peguis Chief Glenn Hudson, along with Mayor Brian Bowman and other First Nation leaders, break ground on a new urban reserve in Winnipeg. (Kristin Annable / CBC News)

An urban reserve is land within or near a municipality that is set apart by the federal government for the use and benefit of a First Nation. There are currently seven urban reserves in Manitoba, with future urban reserves also planned by Peguis at the former Kapyong Barracks, Assiniboia Downs, along with a strip mall at 620 Manitoba Ave. in Selkirk.

Feast Café Bistro, which is currently on Ellice Avenue, has been approached to move in along with a clinic run by Mississauga-based The Clinic Network — a group of clinics geared toward treating pain with cannabis.

A six-storey office building is planned for the second phase of the development and the third phase will include the creation of two apartment complexes, with about 48 suites per building.

The entire project is about a \$30-million investment, Hudson says.

Mayor Brian Bowman celebrated the new development, calling it a "historic day" for the city. He noted that the Indigenous people will soon encompass 25 per cent of the population of Winnipeg.

"We cannot afford on both a human level, as well as an economic development level, not to seize the opportunity that comes from a growing and beautiful Indigenous community," he said Wednesday.

A municipal development and services agreement (MDSA) with the reserve was approved by Winnipeg city council in July. The agreement means the city enters into a five-year agreement with the First Nation in exchange for a reduced service fee.

- **Peguis First Nation set to open Winnipeg's 2nd urban reserve**

The First Nation, located about 150 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg, will pay 80 per cent of municipal taxes, with compensation available from the province for the difference for the first five years of the agreement.

Bowman says he is still waiting to hear whether the province will provide the other 20 per cent.

Source: CBC/Radio Canada. (2018, August 8). Cannabis shop, pain clinic to open at Urban Reserve on Portage Avenue | CBC News. CBCnews. Retrieved November 18, 2021, from <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/pot-peguis-urban-reserve-1.4777946>.

