



MA MAWI WI CHI ITATA CENTRE
We all work together to help one another.

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

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*Vision to Legacy –
40 Years of Indigenous
Led Change*



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year's theme, "Vision to Legacy," honours Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre's forty-year journey. It is a reflection of the original vision sparked by a small group of Indigenous activists who came together seeking an Indigenous-led solution to the challenges Indigenous families faced within a non-Indigenous child welfare system. Through their advocacy and commitment to self-determination, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre was established to deliver culturally grounded, community-based services for Indigenous children and families.

Today, over four decades later, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre stands as one of the largest Indigenous-led family service organizations in Canada, with over 200 Indigenous staff supporting more than fifty programs across nineteen sites. Our continued growth is a testament to our responsiveness to the evolving interests and needs of the community.

Our newest, nineteenth location, currently under renovation, represents an exciting step forward. In response to the lasting impacts of the recent pandemic and the rising cost of food, this site will house a community-based grocery initiative. The project will offer families dignified access to healthy food options at no cost, reflecting our commitment to food sovereignty and Indigenous community care. The site is scheduled to open in early 2026.

As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations, we are hosting a community event at our 445 King Street location in conjunction with this Annual General Meeting. In addition, we are proud to announce the launch of our first-ever gala, taking place, this fall as a celebration of our collective accomplishments and shared future.

To the many individuals who have contributed to Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre over the past forty years, including Board members, staff, volunteers, community partners, and funders, your commitment and shared vision have brought us to where we are today.

Ekosani. Miigwetch. Thank you.

Tammy Christensen
Executive Director



1. Tammy Christensen and Katie Whitford, December 2024
2. The Board Members Visiting Wi Che Win Team, Spring 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

As we mark 40 years of Indigenous-led service, we honour a powerful legacy rooted in vision, resilience, and community. The Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre was created by our people, for our people, an act of sovereignty and love in response to colonial systems that fractured families and undermined Indigenous strength. That early vision, to restore our ways of knowing, caring, and being together, has a legacy that transforms lives.

This year's theme, Vision to Legacy, is a powerful reminder of what happens when Indigenous leadership guides systems of care. We acknowledge with deep respect the generations of Elders, staff, youth, and families who have shaped our path. From crisis response to cultural revitalization, from land-based healing to child and youth empowerment, every program at Ma Mawi continues to reflect the values passed down by those who walked before us.

As Chairperson, I am proud of the relationships we have deepened, with governments, funders, and most importantly, with the community we serve. These partnerships are not just transactional, they are rooted in trust and shared commitment. Our staff, many of whom live the realities they respond to, continue to lead with heart, purpose, and cultural strength.

This year also marked the beginning of a conversation with the Search Institute, as we explore frameworks that align with Indigenous principles. We remain cautious and discerning in this work. Any future collaboration must honour ceremony, sovereignty, and our sacred ways of raising children. We are committed to assessing these possibilities with care, ensuring that any framework we adapt strengthens, not replaces, our cultural foundation.

I would also like to acknowledge my fellow members of the Board of Directors. Their time, wisdom, and deep commitment to the community have been a steady source of strength. Together, we carry the responsibility of stewarding this legacy with humility and purpose, always guided by the voices and visions of the people we serve.



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend heartfelt gratitude to our staff, volunteers, partners, and community members. Your dedication is the reason our vision became a legacy, and why that legacy continues to grow.

Miigwetch / Ekosani,

Gary DeLaRonde

Chairperson, Board of Directors

2024-2025

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY CARE SITES & SENIOR PROGRAMMING

- Community Care Sites Support over 4,000 participants each month through individual and family programming. They have seen regular engagement in the sharing circle programs that are being hosted. The Larsen Community Care site continues to establish relationships with new community members.
- There is a steady increase in attendance week over week in the senior's program. Saturday programming went from 35 participants to some weeks welcoming 70 individuals.

SPIRIT OF PEACE

- Moved to a new location that has a dedicated program space to ensure sessions are delivered in a meaningful way for individuals and families to reconnect with cultural identity, build self-worth, and learn healthy ways to express themselves. By using traditional practices like drum-making, beading, and storytelling, we create safe, culturally grounded spaces that support healing and help prevent family violence in a way that feels familiar and empowering.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Expanded programming at Gaamamoding Meema located at 363 McGregor as well as increased the number of Youth Mentors working within the site. The facility also received new equipment including skateboards and mural in the skateboard park.
- The Sacred Seven youth council attended the Canada We Want conference in Toronto where they helped to develop Bills ensuring the rights of youth in Canada are upheld. They also got to meet the Prime Minister of Canada.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

- Delivered 11 different training courses across multiple sessions, covering critical topics such as suicide awareness, harm reduction, trauma-informed care, First Aid & CPR, and vicarious trauma.
- Provided specialized training opportunities for staff, including sessions on neurodiversity, relationship building, and additional relevant subjects.



1. Christmas Hampers, December 2024
2. Seniors Sat Orange Shirt Day, September 2024
3. Pride, June 2024

VOLUNTEERS

- Strengthened services through the invaluable contributions of volunteers who dedicated numerous hours supporting the community across our various sites and during community events.

NAGIJEUNG ABINOOJIIK & HOME-BASED CRISIS INTERVENTION

- Nagijeung Abinoojiik works closely with North End families through advocacy, cultural connections, and holistic wraparound supports. This year, efforts began to expand to 24-hour weekday coverage. Together with Home-Based Crisis Intervention, the team supports youth through mentoring and recreational activities while building trust and cultural pride.

AMOOWIGAMIG

- Amoowigamig has established meaningful relationships with the community and have created a sense of pride. Participants care for their space and hold regular community clean-ups creating a sense of ownership and responsibility of the space and each other.

ASTUM API NIIKINAAHK

- Through the meaningful support and mentorship one resident made the personal choice to go back to school and work towards obtaining their high school diploma. Some residents have also taken the opportunity to obtain their food handlers certificate and share their gift of cooking with their neighbours and staff.



1. Youth Pow Wow, March 2025
2. Volunteer Appreciation, April 2024
3. Spring Solstice, March 2025



WI CHE WIN - HOUSING FIRST

- Wi Che Win supported 221 relatives through housing support in a holistic and culturally safe environment. 36 of these participants achieved housing for the first time.
- Wi Che Win ensures there is ongoing support by establishing meaningful connections and friendships amongst participants that are grounded in traditional cultural activities and outings that create a strong sense of community and support.

YOUTH CARE HOMES

- Our five Youth Homes remain rooted in Indigenous knowledge and ways of being. Youth are supported through programming that includes life skills, land-based teachings, and cultural practices guided by the Seven Sacred Teachings. Team members receive training in trauma-informed care, harm reduction, and attachment-based practice to better support youth healing journeys.

FAMILY & CARE PROGRAMS

- Care Homes Program (Eagle Horse Society, CLOUT, Ozosunon) Care Home families took part in seasonal cultural activities, including feasts, craft nights, strawberry picking, and the annual Children's Christmas Party. Recruitment of Care Providers remains ongoing, with three applicants currently moving through the licensing process.
- Mino Bimaadiziwin teachings and Wellness Groups continue to support and strengthen our Care Provider network.

EMPOWERMEN

Engaging Men and Boys to Prevent Sexual Exploitation

- 1,258 Youth from 12 schools, MYC, Indigenous and youth agencies in Winnipeg, Thompson and Selkirk.
- Engaged with over 210 men in online discussions on the impacts of exploitation/trafficking and creating solutions for healthier masculinity.

YELLOW SHAWL

- Yellow Shawl continues to support the independent living of youth aging out of the foster care system.
- Participants have prioritized connecting to culture and spirituality through traditional teachings and ceremony as a way to foster their personal growth in a positive manner. Each home is nurtured to meet the needs of the youth residents in ways that foster their individuality and personal journey.



1. Grey Buffalo Grandfather Wellness Lodge, September 2024
2. KFB Gala, June 2024



FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING

- The Family Group Conferencing (FGC) Team continues to walk with families to support reunification and strengthen parenting.
- Now operating from a home-like setting, FGC has added a new "Safe At Home" program focused on preventing family violence.
- Together with Spirit of Peace, FGC supports the cognitive, social, and emotional development of children by creating safe, culturally responsive supports for parents.
- New staff include an Intake Worker, Navigator, Cultural Helper, and Family Group Conference Facilitator.

GREY BUFFALO GRANDFATHER WELLNESS LODGE

- Hosted 37 external groups with a 100% year over year increase in revenue. Have also added a full time Caretaker of the Land to ensure the wellness lodge and grounds are ready to welcome our guests.

2024-2025

FINANCE REPORT

SOURCES



Provincial	59.8%
Federal	20.2%
End Homelessness	5.6%
United Way	4.4%
Winnipeg Foundation	2.0%
City of Winnipeg	3.4%
Other	4.6%

EXPENSES

Personnel	49.6%
Program	27.7%
Operating	22.5%



MIIGWECH TO OUR 2023-2024 CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

DONORS

Adam Hanson
Alan Dalkie
Alex Stearns
Anastasia Fyk
Andee Penner
Andrea Penner
Andrew Froese
Angelina Wolfe
Anne Bigelow
Anthony Beach
April Krahn
Arial Komarniski
Ashley Alberg
Ashraf K
Bertram and Audrey Unger
Bethany Phillips
Brad Regehr
Bradley Abells
Bryan Baisarowicz
Caitlin Buchel
Cam Hutchison
Carla Bouchard
Carly Leggett
Carly Peters
Carol Hibbert
Carolyn Regehr
Cass Kolt
Cathy Frankow
Celine Hilmerich
Charlotte Dyck
Charmaine Manalang
Christa Brubacher
Christine Caligiuri
Claire Belanger
Corey Thiessen
Courtney Clark

Deborah Yeboah
Dieko Oyegunle
Dominic Lloyd
Donald & Elaine Peters
Donna Munro
Douglas G Meakin
Eden Klein
Elise Neufeld
Els de Gussem
Elspeth Sangster
Emily Krutzelmann
Emily Schwartz
Emily Wiebe
Emma Carey
Erin Childs
Erin Josephson-Laidlaw
Erin Wilcott
Evelyn Torwart
Funmi Owoade
Gio Guzzi
Grant Heather
Harvy Frankel
Irene Shumada
Jack Warren
Jaida Albrechtsen
James Jansen
Jane Mychasiw
Janet Racz
Janis Thiessen
Jennifer Cobb
Jenny Kidder
Jessica Reiniger
Jessica Stafford
Jill Klassen
Jordan Braun
Joshua Cheng
Joshua Creado

Julia Schroeder
Julie Lumsden
Kali Samagalski
Karen Ballinger
Kari Feilberg
Kathryn Joy Winchell
Kemunto Matini
Ken Mularchuk
Kira Sagan
Kiran Dhillon
Kristin Drewes
Kristy Rydz
Laura Brown
Lauren Bortolotti
Leah Sandals
Linda Enns
Lindy Clubb
Lori Ricard Bell
Machteld van Aggelen
Manpinder Dhillon
Marie Bouchard
Marilou McPhedran
Mary Jane Robidoux
Maureen Peniuk
Megan Moorhouse
Mehtab Dhillon
Michael Abon
Michael Fernandes
Michael Martens
Michel & Emma Durand-Wood
Micheline Manning
Michelle Kannwischer
Michelle Taylor
Naomi Gebru
Nicole Herpai
Nikky Scott
Orlagh O'Sullivan

Pamela H Dupuis
Pascale Latulippe
Patricia Thille
Paul Gehrs
Peter Hawkins
Rachael Alguire
Rachel Mitchell
Rachel Shnier
Raeanne Wysocki
Rick Sawyer
Roberta Fast
Royce Nowatzki
Ruth Cameron
Ryan & Jennifer Gibson
Ryan Schimnowski
Sabrina Demetrioiff
Sandra Cohen
Sandra Delaronde
Sara Dyck
Sara Penner
Sarah Deckert
Sarah Lugtig Riezebos
Shashikant Seshia
Sheila Hryclik
Sheryl Muzyk
Steve Boyko
Susan Portelance
Susan Tessler
Sylvie LaFleche
Tessa Harvey
Todd Phillips
Tony Payment
Victoria Cloutis
Walter Roberson
Wendy Boyd
Yael Abrego

MIIGWECH TO OUR 2024-2025

PROGRAM & OPERATIONAL FUNDERS

Anonymous Foundation

Bell MTS/Bell Canada

Building Safer Communities

Canada Post

Canadian Red Cross

Canadian Women's Foundation

City of Winnipeg

End Homelessness Winnipeg

Harvest Manitoba

Indigenous Services Canada

Mastercard Foundation

MB Association of Women's Shelters

New Horizons for Seniors Program

Peter Gilgan Foundation

Red River Co-op

Sport for Social Development

TD Bank

The Winnipeg Foundation

United Way of Winnipeg

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Women and Gender Equity Canada

Capital Funders

Government of Canada

Building Safer Communities

Canada Summer Jobs

Canadian Heritage

Crown-Indigenous Relations & Northern Affairs

Indigenous Services Canada

Sport for Social Development

Women & Gender Equity Canada

Province of Manitoba

Department of Families

Gender Equality MB

Housing, Addictions, & Homelessness

Manitoba Justice



Front Cover

1. AGM, June 2024
2. Youth Pow Wow, March 2025
3. Anti Bully Walk 2024
4. Youth Pow Wow, March 2025

Back Cover

1. Tipi at Grey Buffalo Grandfather Lodge, May 2024
2. Youth Pow Wow, March 2025
3. Christmas Hampers, December 2024