



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

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Weaving 40 Years of Community Heart and Vision Forward



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This October, Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre will mark forty years of service! This remarkable milestone is reflected in this year's theme "Weaving 40 years of Community Heart and Vision Forward," which beautifully captures the essence of Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre's journey and the collective efforts of those who have contributed to its success.

It is truly inspiring to reflect on the growth of the organization and the dedication and impact of the many, many individuals who have been part of Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre over the last 40 years, from board members to staff, volunteers, partners, and funders. Your commitment to our vision of a safe, healthy, happy, and interdependent community is truly commendable.

I look forward to the many celebrations to be held over the next year to honor and acknowledge the journey that Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata has been on as we chart a course for the future, guided by the lessons learned and the vision of those who paved the way.

This year and into the next, we have been focused on reviewing and updating program manuals as well as developing and implementing quality assurance processes to ensure we are maintaining the highest quality of programming and continuing to meet the needs of our community.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible work of the staff and volunteers for your dedication and commitment, the board for your ongoing leadership and expertise and our partners and funders for your continued support. Together, we are making a difference!

Here's to many more years of impactful service and collaboration, as Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre continues to weave the threads of community heart and vision and enriching the lives of those we serve.

In Friendship,

Tammy Christensen

Executive Director



1



2



3

1. FGC Coordinator lights smudge with youth, July 2023
2. Marion McKenzie and Tammy Christensen, June 2023
3. Staff and community members medicine picking, July 2023
4. Board members visiting Wi Che Win team, Spring 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Our journey has been guided by the wisdom of our Elders and the strength of our community. Over the past four decades, we have built lasting relationships with federal, provincial, and municipal partners, always rooted in our traditions and values. These partnerships have enabled us to provide consistent and culturally appropriate care to our people.

This year, our focus has been on ensuring that the care we provide is of the highest standard. We are reviewing, revising, and developing our program manuals to ensure that everyone who walks through our doors receives the same quality of care, whether they are just joining us or transitioning between programs. This work is essential to honor the trust our community places in us.

In addition, we are in the process of developing a comprehensive quality assurance review process. While we are still at the beginning stages, this will help us continually improve our services, ensuring they remain effective and culturally relevant. This commitment to excellence is fundamental to our mission of serving our community with respect and integrity.

The involvement of our board members has been a highlight this year. Their visits to our various sites have deepened our understanding of the daily work being done and the challenges faced by our staff. These visits remind us of the importance of staying connected and grounded in the realities of our community.

As we reflect on 40 years of Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata, we remember our motto, “we all work together to help one another.” This spirit of togetherness is visible every day in the dedication of our staff and volunteers. We are proud of the relationships we have built and the positive impact we have had on the lives of so many.

Looking ahead, we are excited about exploring new opportunities to build relationships with other organizations. By working together, we can continue to grow and enhance our services, ensuring that we meet the needs of our community in meaningful ways.



To our dedicated staff, I extend my deepest gratitude. Your commitment, resilience, and the warmth you bring to your work are the heart of our success. I hope you all find balance and fulfillment in your work and home lives, and know that we are honored and proud to have you as part of our team.

In closing, this year is a time of celebration and reflection as we honor 40 years. Let us continue to walk this path together, supporting one another, and building on the strong foundation laid by our ancestors. Together, we will navigate the future with the same dedication and spirit that has always guided us.

Migwetch/Ekosi,

Gary DeLaRonde

Chairperson, Board of Directors

2023-2024

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY CARE SITES

- Supported over 3,350 people every month with support services, recreation services, and emergency supports like essential food aid provided in partnership with Winnipeg Harvest.

SENIORS PROGRAMS

- Welcomed 35-45 seniors each Saturday at McGregor Community Care Site, offering crafts and activities designed to reduce isolation and foster a strong sense of community.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER DRIVE

- In collaboration with BellMTS, distributed holiday food hampers and Christmas gifts to 200 families, effectively fostering joy, enhancing community ties, and offering financial support during the festive season.

SPIRIT OF PEACE

- Expanded programming to support 1,792 individuals with preventive workshops and counseling against domestic violence.
- Integrated Narcan/Naloxone training into program and hosted a drug awareness event with 62 participants.
- Youth Facilitator enriched Truth and Reconciliation day gatherings with cultural performances, engaging over 1,000 students in reconciliation efforts as part of our Spirit of Peace program.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Hosted leadership workshops funded by the Kenny Foundation, engaging 50 youth participants in land-based teachings and skill-building activities.
- Hosted over 400 people at our Annual Community Powwow at Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre.

TRAINING

- Offered 12 unique training courses over multiple sessions that included suicide awareness, overdose prevention, trauma informed care, First Aid & CPR, vicarious trauma and more.

VOLUNTEERS

- Enhanced services with the support of volunteers who dedicated countless hours to community events and outreach efforts.



1. Holiday Hamper Drive with BellMTS, December 2023
2. Community Clean-up, June 2023
3. Mr. and Miss Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre 2023-2024, April 2023

NAGIJEUNG ABINOOJIIK

- **Supported 79 families** with critical resources and support. A notable success involved assisting a mother with securing safe housing and facilitating reunification with her children after they had been apprehended.

HOME-BASED CRISIS INTERVENTION

- **Strengthened collaboration with Nagijeung Abinoojiik** and re-established vital school partnerships to bolster family support.
- **Facilitated family healing and connection through cultural activities** such as ceremonies, beading, and dream catcher making, particularly supporting a family grieving the loss of a parent.

AMOOWIGAMIG

- **Expanded operational hours** from 10 hours a day to 16 hours a day supported by additional funding from the Winnipeg Foundation and City of Winnipeg.
- **Hosted two community celebrations for unsheltered relatives** that included food distribution, community cleanup, smudging, and ceremonies.

ASTUM API NIIKINAAHK

- **Constructed an on-site sweat lodge** for ceremonial use, made possible by the generous contributions of our donors, enhancing our cultural and spiritual offerings.
- **Five residents completed the Ma Mawi Volunteer orientation**, now contributing to area maintenance, gardening, and cooking activities.



1. Sacred 7 Youth Council, June 2023
2. Ma Mawi staff and immunizers at Vaccine Clinic, December 2023
3. Youth Event to Honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, September 2023



WI CHE WIN - HOUSING FIRST

- **Supported 197 individuals** with compassionate care, offering holistic services and sustainable solutions for long-term housing stability.
- One individual joined the program in June 2023, secured housing and necessary IDs by September, upgraded their math skills, and was accepted into a college plumbing program. Another secured housing while enrolled in a welding course, successfully completed their training, updated their resume with our support, and landed a welding job in a northern area.

YOUTH CARE HOMES

- Engaged in frequent cultural events and activities including a **comprehensive 8-week training in child and youth care completed by all Team Leads and Care Planners.**
- **Circle of Care was designated as an emergency placement** resource for Child and Family All Nations Response Network (ANCR), enhancing capacity to provide immediate care.

CARE HOMES

Ozusunon, CLOUT, Eagle Horse Society

- **Recruited three new Care Homes**, enhancing service capacity across programs.
- **Enriched children’s lives with a events and seasonal activities** that included Santa Clause breakfast, family BBQ at Kildonan Park, and a cultural event day featuring a feast and Elder-led teachings.
- **Bolstered care provider skills** with a grief and loss workshop and attachment training.

EMPOWERMEN

Engaging Men and Boys to Prevent Sexual Exploitation

- **Hosted national conference** “Prosecuting Demand: Deterring Sex Buying and Exploitation” featuring 25 speakers from various organizations, including justice departments and law enforcement agencies across Canada. Event attracted 145 delegates, including police officers, advocates, and notable community leaders.



1

1. Medicine Picking, July 2023
2. EmpowerMen Conference, March 2024



2

YELLOW SHAWL

- **Participants engaged in a rich array of activities**, from cultural events like powwows and traditional crafts to educational outings and workshops, fostering both personal and community growth.

FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCING

- **Supported an average of 29 families monthly** through weekly group activities like cultural teachings, medicine picking, and crafting, enhancing community support networks.
- **Successfully reunified 22 children** with their parents and progressed 80 children toward reunification within the next 3-6 months.
- **Showcased FGC programs nationally** at the Beyond Neglect Learning Series, Manitoba Child Care Conference, and other events, presenting to a broad audience.

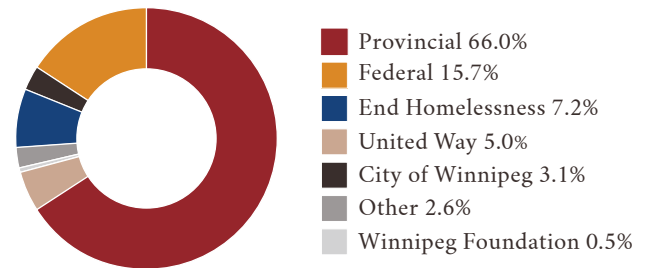
GREY BUFFALO GRANDFATHER WELLNESS LODGE

- **Hosted 32 groups** providing facility space and lodging for community and organization wellness retreats, promoting land-based healing and holistic well-being.

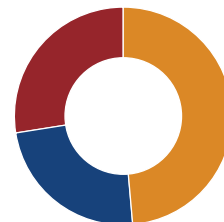
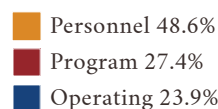
2023-2024

FINANCE REPORT

SOURCES



EXPENSES



MIIGWECH TO OUR 2023-2024

CIRCLE OF SUPPORT

DONORS

Bradle Abells
Riley Allard
Robin Allen
Assiniboine Credit Union
Holly Bair
Karen Ballinger
Raini Barrett
Anthony Beach
Gavin Betker
Anne Bigelow
Carla Bouchard
Wendy Boyd
Steve Boyko
Jordan Braun
Brook McIlroy Indigenous
Design Studio
Elisabeth Braul
Laura Brown
Didier Brunelle
Caitlin Buchel
Judith Burch
Kathy Burgetz
Gary Burkett
CAF Canada
Ruth Cameron
Margaret Campbell
Cargill Limited
Chaeban Ice Cream Ltd.
Charities Aid
Foundation Canada
Cibinel Architecture Ltd
Elisabeth Choi
Lindy Clubb
Central Cheer Inc.
Coca-Cola Canada
James Cochrane
Sandra Cohen
Yoni Coodin
Stephanie Cooper
Credit Union Central of MB
Sabrina Demetrioff
Elizabeth Dillon
Donate a Car Canada
Marta Donnelly
Kristin Drewes
Michel Durand-Wood

Emma Durand-Wood
Charlotte Dyck
Ecole Ness
Ecole St. Avila
Beth Emmons
Linda Enns
Kari Feilberg
Michael Fernandes
First Unitarian
Universalist Church
Deyra Fontaine
Harvy Frankel
Carlee Friesen
Kathleen M Garrity
Paul Gehrs
GEM Clinic
Ryan Gibson
Jennifer Gibson
Good Fortune Barbershop
Lesley Grant
Marie Gregorashuk
Santo Guarani family
Malcolm Gyde
Harwood Design Builders
Peter Hawkins
Carol Hibbert
Shan Holmes
Hope Mennonite Church
Cam Hutchison
Intercity Autobody
InterGroup Consultants Ltd.
Sylvia Jansen
jaymez
Gisèle Poirier John Cole
Kelly Johnson
Erin Josephson-Laidlaw
Torie Kenyon
Kilter Brewing Company Ltd.
James Kirk
Rebecca Kirk
Eden Klein
Wendy Kopeschny
Samuel Koshy
Marc Kuegle
Crystal Laborero
Carly Leggett
Jennifer Linnemann

Orly Linovski
Dominic Lloyd
Sandra Loewen
Loris Loewen
Manitoba Teachers' Society
Manitoba First Nations
Education Resource Centre
Manitoba Law
Students Association
MC College
Michael Martens
Elizabeth A. McKean
Devin Mcmanus
Marilou Mcphedran
Douglas G Meakin
Madeline Mitchell
Viola Mirochnick
Moon Dips
Michael Morris
Rod Murphy
NavCanada
Elise Neufeld
Melissa Novecosky
Orlagh O'Sullivan
Parkwest Projects
Rae Anne Paxton
Tony Payment
Maureen Peniuk
Avery Penner
Kathy Penner
Simone & Allan Penner
Coralee Penner
Walter Peters
Barbara Peters
Olivia Peters
Donald Peters
Elaine Peters
Todd Phillips
Bethany Phillips
Susan Portelance
Tricia Prosser
Julie Puckrin
Jillian Quinlivan-Hall
M Kathleen Quinn
Janet Racz
Bradley Regehr
Robertson College

Mary Jane Robidoux
Lavonne Ross
Kira Sagan
Elsbeth Sangster
Richard Sawchuk
Martha Sawchuk
Sarah Sue Design Inc
Chantal Sartoris
Rick Sawyer
Julia Schroeder
Emily Schwartz
Mary Scott
Shashikant Seshia
Rachel Shnier
Irene Shumada
Maya Simpson
Samahra Singer
Muriel Smith
Skymed Two Ontario Inc
Rennie Smith
Staffmax Staffing
Alex Stearns
St. Mary's Academy
Rachel Sutherland
Christina Sweeney
Tegan Taylor
Hiwot Tefera
Joanna Thich
Patricia Thille
Tower Engineering Group
University of Winnipeg
Students
Bertram Unger
Audrey Unger
United for Change
West Perimeter Auto Service
Stephanie Whitehouse
Katharine Wiebe
Emily Wiebe
Cathy Wierckx
Erin Wilcott
Jake Wolfe
Raeanne Wysocki
Michele Yanks-Rice
Julia Zacharias
Carly Zulich

MIIGWECH TO OUR 2023-2024

PROGRAM & OPERATIONAL FUNDERS

Anonymous Foundation

BellMTS

Canadian Red Cross

Community Service Recovery Fund

Canadian Women's Foundation

City of Winnipeg

Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak

Building Safer Communities

Operating Budget Grant

End Homelessness Winnipeg

Harvest Manitoba

Government of Canada

Canadian Heritage

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs

Employment and Social Development

Indigenous Services Canada

Women and Gender Equality Canada

Kenny Family Foundation Fund

Mastercard Foundation

Peter Gilgan Foundation

Richardson Foundation

Province of Manitoba

Building Sustainable Communities

Department of Families

Gender Equality MB – Gender Based Violence Program

Healthy Child Manitoba

Housing, Addictions and Homelessness

Indigenous Reconciliation Secretariat

MB Justice - Lighthouses

MB Mental Health and Community Wellness

MB Status of Women Secretariat

Urban Green Team

Rogers Communication Canada Inc.

The Winnipeg Foundation

United Way of Winnipeg

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Front Cover

1. Administrative Professionals Day, April 2023
2. Brokenhead Wetland Interpretive Trail tour, October 2023
3. Community Powwow hosted by Youth Programs, April 2023
4. Larsen Care Site Open House, March 2024
5. Community Cleanup, June 2023

6. Youth Assembly, June 2023

7. Family Fun Day, August 2023

8. Community Cleanup, June 2023

Back Cover

1. Smudging vaccine clinic, November 2023

2. Holiday Party, December 2023

3. Senior Christmas Hampers, December 2023

