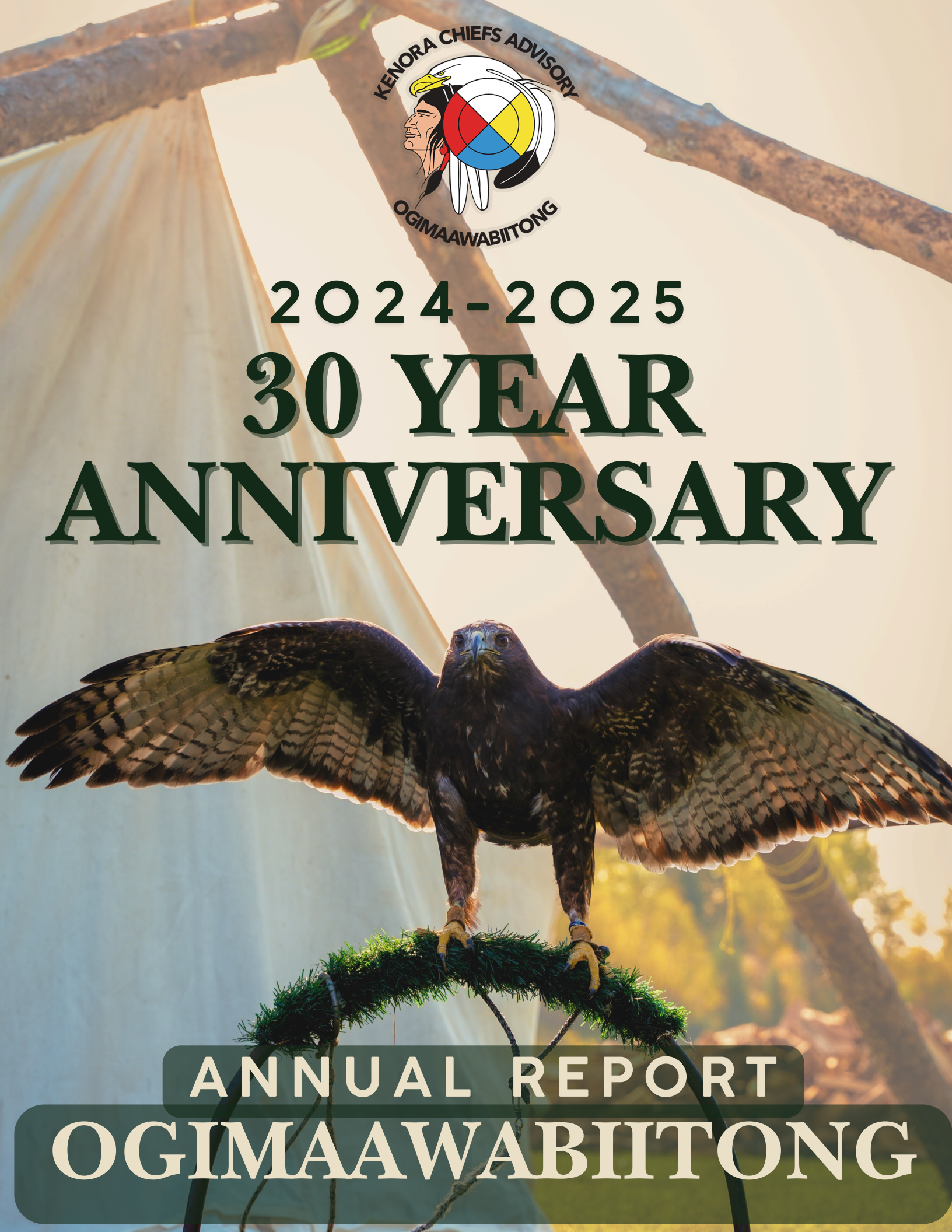
KENORA CHIEFS ADVISORY

OGIMAAWABIITONG

2024-2025

30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY



ANNUAL REPORT

OGIMAAWABIITONG

KENORA CHIEFS ADVISORY

OGIMAAWABIITONG

OUR MISSION

Ogimawabiitong - Kenora Chiefs Advisory is committed and dedicated to providing culturally appropriate health and social services which address the needs and enhance the wellbeing and capacity of community members in our affiliated First Nations.





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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Naotkamegwanning First Nation (White Fish Bay)

Northwest Angle #33 First Nation

Asubpeechoseewagong Netum Anishnabek (Grassy Narrows)

Niisaachewan Ansihinaabe Nation (Dalles)

Shoal Lake #40 First Nation

Wabaseemoong Independant Nation (Whitedog)

Washagamis Bay First Nation

Wauzhushk Onigum Nation (Rat Portage)

KCA Elders Council

KCA Youth Council

Executive Director
Jennifer Dreaver

Director of Strategy and Innovation
Stefanie Bryant

Strategy and Innovation

Board Administration & Communications Public Relations Manager
Abbie Siroishka

Senior Advisor
Joe Barnes

Chief Financial Officer
Colt German

Chief Operating Officer
Gillian Lunny

Human Resources

Director of Human Resources
nicole casey

Executive Assistant Administration
Brooke Morrell-Bulmer

Executive Assistant to COO
Vanessa Lucky

Community Health & Cultural Services

Director of Community Health & Cultural Services
Veronica Fobister

Data Management & Intake, Operations Administrations

Data/Intake Services Manager
Martina Ogemah

Environmental Public Health

Director of Environmental Public Health
Garry Tang

Health Prevention & Promotion

Director of Health Prevention & Promotion
Jocelyn Goretzki

Mental Health & Addictions

Director of Mental Health and Addictions
Melody Bernard

NBDS*

Director of NBDS
Michelle McMahon

Primary Care

Medical Director
Jillie Retson

Director of Primary Care
Victoria Barnes

Treatment & Healing Services - Binesi Waziswan

Director of Healing & Treatment Services
Abdel Habaka

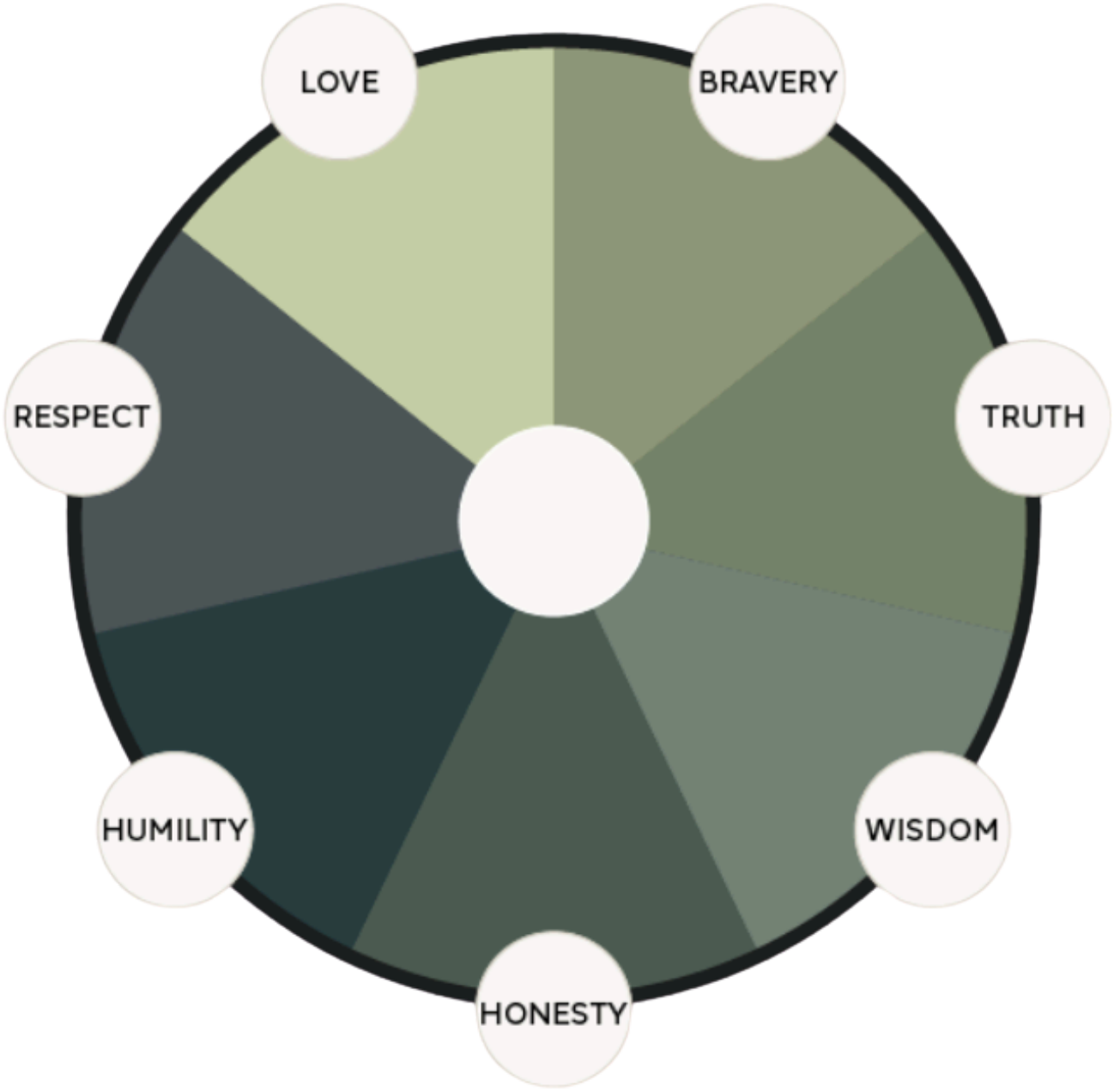
Youth Land-Based Program

Director of the Youth and Family Wellness Camp
Katie Root

*Development Services for Children and Youth - Niigaaning Bimaadiziwin



SEVEN SACRED TEACHINGS



CODE OF ETHICS

Kenora Chiefs Advisory shall maintain a culture which recognizes and values ethical conduct through the 7 Sacred Teachings. Culture is at the center of the work we do, and is identified as an important determinant of health and wellbeing. We work to enhance service coordination across systems, and deliver culturally safe services to create a pathway towards healing and wellness for First Nation communities. We invite you to visit our website for more about how we express our Code of Ethics.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MEMBERSHIP

Chief Lorraine Cobiness (President), Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation
Chief Waylon Scott (Vice-President), Wabaseemoong Independent Nation
Chief Chris Skead (Secretary-Treasurer), Wauzhushk Onigum Nation

Board Members:
Chief Darlene Comegan, Northwest Angle #33 First Nation
Chief Gary Tom, Naotkamegwanning First Nation
Chief Kevin Redsky, Shoal Lake #40 First Nation
Chief Sherry Ackabee, Asubpeeschoseewagong Netum Anishinabek (Grassy Narrows)
Dolores Sinclair, Amber Sinclair, and Brenda Chartrand (shared proxy), Washagamis Bay First Nation



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MESSAGE

I am pleased to provide remarks on behalf of Ogimaawabiitong - Kenora Chiefs Advisory's 2024-2025 body of work. This year's work is marked by a 30-year milestone as an organization, incorporated since 1995. Kenora Chiefs Advisory (KCA) was born out of the vision of all the Kenora Area Chiefs of the day, who saw a need for strength and unity together to drive systemic change during a time when addiction and trauma had led to a period of intense suffering and loss in many communities. As one of eight Chiefs of the Board, I have been privileged to spend several years helping to guide the organization to take a strong role in serving Anishinaabeg in the Kenora area, particularly in health and wellness. I have always, and will continue to represent my membership, in advocating and supporting the delivery of quality programs and services to all communities served by KCA.

Miigwech to my fellow Chiefs and board members for your devoted time both at home and to the organization, commitment to board meetings, nation-to-nation advocacy with governmental partners, committee work, and in sharing in the governance of the organization. Miigwech to KCA's leadership team, management and staff for all your hard work.

This year, the Board established a resolution directing KCA to lead in developing a fully integrated continuum of care in mental health and addictions. Our Board recognizes and aligns with the Treaty #3 nation level's recognition of an ongoing drug crisis and the overwhelming grief and loss that comes. With that, the board and leadership team began with standing up a steering committee, as well as focused engagement with grassroots membership. Continuing to dialogue on what is working and not working in the quest to support the healing of our friends and family, as well as ourselves, is vital.

KCA is doing our part to better understand how to respond, support and address the ongoing crisis alongside First Nations, families and individuals, based on Anishinaabe cultural values and understandings of wellbeing. This work will remain ongoing, as we know the challenge of addiction, its root causes and ongoing harm will take time to heal, both on an individual and collective basis. Among the total work of Kenora Chiefs Advisory, this report will highlight the results of an internal review of KCA's mental health and addictions programs and services to inform ongoing quality improvement

Acknowledgement to our cultural staff, shkabes, knowledge carriers, and members of both the Elder and Youth Councils for actively guiding the organizations work, and for devoting your time regularly to staff learning, healing and program development.

This year represents the breath before beginning transitional changes to the governance and structure of Kenora Chiefs Advisory. KCA's Board, true to our roots, has always supported the development and advancement of initiatives in the area. This year we continue to see the growth and development at the Makate Waagamichiwanang Gakinaa'amaatiwin Youth & Family Wellness Camp. I also recognize the tremendous charity work taken off via the Ma'mo'weh Wii'soo'ka'tiwin Foundation, a separate but affiliated entity devoted solely to philanthropic investment in support of the Youth & Family Wellness Camp. These visions began around the Chiefs table at Kenora Chiefs Advisory.

--Chief Chris Skead, Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Directors

CONTINUUM OF CARE IN MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS

Background

On March 17, 2024, the KCA Board of Directors approved a resolution to support the creation of a holistic and culturally appropriate continuum of care, which integrates Anishinaabe healing approaches with conventional best practices to address the mental health and addiction needs of our member First Nations. KCA, alongside its communities and partners, is committed to addressing ongoing crises in a collaborative way.

Project Overview

To develop a continuum of care that is responsive to the needs of our members, KCA is conducting a thorough review of the current state, service gaps, and promising solutions. This is accomplished by engaging with our communities to learn from local knowledge, experiences, and insights about the challenges within our current system and changes that can lead to more positive experiences for Anishinaabe people. Service data, literature, input from care providers, and best-practice resources supplement community direction. Combined, this information allows us to envision a holistic system of care that will be effective in both the prevention and treatment of mental health and substance use challenges across the lifespan.

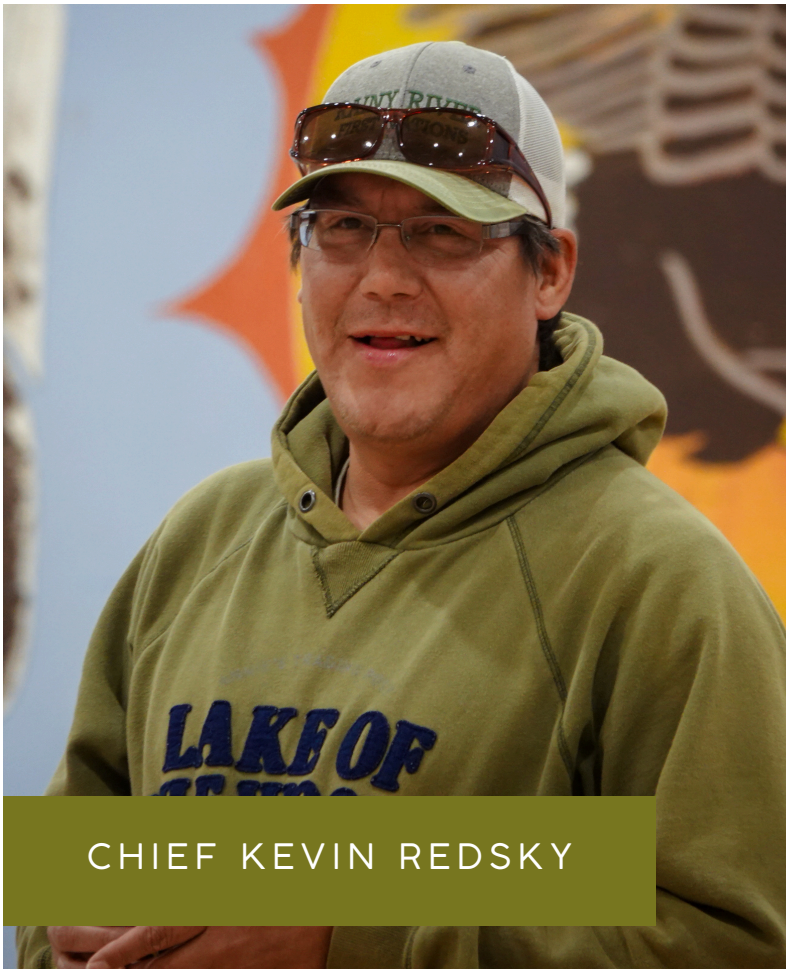
THE FOLLOWING VISUAL OUTLINES THE FIVE PHASES INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING A HOLISTIC CONTINUUM OF CARE:

1. **CURRENT STATE**
2. **GAP ANALYSIS & BEST PRACTICE RESEARCH**
3. **ENVISIONING A HOLISTIC CONTINUUM OF CARE**
4. **ADVOCACY**
5. **PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION**

Community Engagement

KCA is working with affiliated First Nations to determine community priorities in mental health and addictions. In 2024, KCA staff were supported by Chief Kevin Redsky to work with a circle of community representatives to complete engagement in Shoal Lake #40. Miigwech to the community for hosting us for a 2-part discussion.

Chief Redsky, and proxy Dave Paul representing Northwest Angle #33 spearheaded the development of a Steering Committee, made up of Board, Elder and Youth Council representatives, and staff to oversee the initiative. The approach to engagement is to establish mental wellness circles in each community. These circles consist of community representatives who can speak to the needs and priorities of their respective communities regarding culturally safe mental health and addiction services and supports.



CHIEF KEVIN REDSKY

CONTINUUM OF CARE CONTINUED

An initial (not comprehensive) analysis of available service data and feedback from engagement to-date emphasize the following key themes relating to gaps in service:

SUBSTANCE USE SUPPORTS

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT GAP IN SERVICES AVAILABLE IN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES ARE RELATED TO SPECIALIZED SUBSTANCE USE INTERVENTIONS AND CARE.

FAMILY HEALING SUPPORTS

CLIENTS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES HAVE IDENTIFIED A PRESSING NEED FOR FAMILY HEALING SUPPORT TO ADDRESS THE INTERGENERATIONAL IMPACTS OF TRAUMA AND ADDICTION.

GRIEF AND TRAUMA SUPPORTS

CONTINUOUS GRIEF AND TRAUMA SUPPORT SERVICES ARE CRUCIAL FOR HELPING INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES COPE WITH LOSS.

CULTURAL AND LAND-BASED PROGRAMS

EMPHASIS ON ACCESS TO CULTURAL AND CEREMONIAL PRACTICES. WE HEAR FROM OUR CLIENTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF LITERALLY BEING ON THE LAND WITH THEIR COUNSELOR OR CARE COORDINATOR, AND THE BENEFIT OF ACCESSING LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES FOCUED ON WELLNESS. FOR PREVENTION, EARLY INTERVENTION, AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE CHALLENGES. SERVICES ROOTED IN ANISHINAABE CULTURE ARE KEY TO A HOLISTIC CONTINUUM OF CARE.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

We invite you to review the 2024-2025 Annual Report of Kenora Chiefs Advisory. When I reflect on Kenora Chiefs Advisory's year, my thoughts are drawn to the image of Shawanoong Banaise'Seek, the Grandmother Drum who walks alongside us. She presides over all staff, she knows our hearts, our intentions, and we are always mindful of reciprocity in the love, care and offerings we make in kind to her. Kimiwanaapo'o is the vision of our service delivery model. Our helping nature, our duty to respond, to provide support and partnership across all we do. Our Chiefs have set these values in motion since 1995 through consistent direction.

Relationships between Kenora Chiefs Advisory staff, including myself, and First Nations staff, families, and individuals we serve remain of highest importance. I am committed to promoting good communication and seeking ongoing feedback, and quality improvement.

This year, the organization embarked beyond the timeframe identified by our current Strategic Plan, 2019-2024. We have continued our focus on priorities and activities outlined in KCA's Operational Plan for 2024-2025. Our goal is to provide quality, reliable and accessible care under our client based services such as primary care, mental health and addictions, and children's developmental services. Similarly, we have focused on defining clear indicators and benchmarks to support clear expectations across all programs and services. We have also spent time conducting internal reviews in the area of mental health and addictions, as well as building a scorecard for measuring our successes, and tracking challenges and gaps in how we deliver care.

This year saw the establishment of a strong administrative backbone at Kenora Chiefs Advisory, welcoming new leadership in Finance with the hiring of a Chief Financial Officer. In tandem, a robust, capable Human Resources team supported and led by a Director. Rebuilding these teams after loss of retention, and turnover continue to allow us to advance outcomes such as strengthening occupational health and safety mechanisms to ensure a safe workplace environment, reporting and contract management, while also allowing for more elevated roles that require capacity such as continuing to act as the fundholder for the All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team on behalf of the Kenora geographical area.

Some key program highlights include:

- Taking part in leading physician negotiations on behalf of the OHT area,
- Launching Anti-Racism Training (Cultural Safety) for staff from Lake of the Woods District Hospital, and Kenora Chiefs Advisory,
- Supporting a community's evacuation through our Social Emergency Manager (SEM), and
- Nurturing key partnerships in the delivery of mobile crisis and youth outreach to advance key priorities in disrupting human trafficking.

'Our Strengths are our People' has been the by-line for the past 5 years. I have learned tremendously from those words, and deepened my understanding of the strengths, and gifts that exist and are embodied by community members, Anishinaabeg. On behalf of the staff at Kenora Chiefs Advisory, we look forward to ongoing learning and being a partner to you in Mino Bimaadiziwin.





IN MEMORY, LYNN SKEAD, WAUZHUSHK ONIGUM NATION

Elder Lynn Skead was an active member of the Elders Council, and a strong voice at many planning and engagement tables. Lynn particularly supported several Anishinaabe staff through their spiritual journeys, and personal development. She gently guided all staff on many occasions about protocol, and often conveyed messages and reminders towards caring for sacred items. She shaped and guided us with kindness, humour and wisdom for years.

Lynn's dedication to seeing improved change and better futures for the youth in First Nation communities will be remembered. Her guidance will be something all of us at Ogimaawbaiitong continue to carry with us moving forward. We will honour her through our work. Lynn's legacy rests with the Lodge she mentored our cultural staff to carry and which remains in the care of Ogimaawabiitong for everyone's healing.

ADVISORY COUNCILS

Kenora Chiefs Advisory has two separate but interconnected advisory councils that provide key guidance on advancing strategic and operational goals and directives, as well as supporting organizational initiatives, sharing input on proposal development, and special projects. Council members ensure that our work is culturally safe, leveraging both their lived experience, and community-based knowledge. The councils are comprised of a representative from each of the affiliated First Nation communities that Kenora Chiefs Advisory serves. These representatives are ultimately appointed by the Chiefs of their First Nations, with an open recruitment process based on interest. Additional criteria for membership are outlined in the respective Councils' terms of reference.

PHOTOS FROM THE 2024 YOUTH HEALING GATHERING








YOUTH COUNCIL

A youth-led advisory body that provides a space for First Nation youth to strengthen and hone their voices, build leadership skills, and take an active role in providing input on programs, services, and initiatives at Kenora Chiefs Advisory.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP
(AS OF MARCH 31ST 2025)

RACHAEL CAMERON-NIISAACHEWAN

SHYANNE COBINESS-NIISAACHEWAN

AVERY MEEKIS-SHOAL LAKE #40

STEPHEN PAYPOM-WASHAGAMIS BAY

CARTER CARPENTER-WABASEEMOONG

LEXX PAUL-GRASSY NARROWS

CHAYNA LOON-GRASSY NARROWS

HARMONY SCOTT-NORTHWEST ANGLE #33

CHLOE SKEAD-WAUZHUSHK ONIGUM

DAMON SANDY-NORTHWEST ANGLE #33

Highlights from 2024-2025 include:

- Updated terms of reference, and work plan, 2024-25
- Ongoing recruitment saw new council members appointed, and staff support reviewed and updated
- Youth led the planning and delivery of a Youth Healing Gathering in October 2024. 47 participants attended from across affiliated First Nation communities. The purpose of the gathering was to provide a safe space to promote support and healing for youth attendees to build their knowledge bundles through sharing and promoting access to culture and traditional teachings through ceremony, presentations, smaller group sessions, and program booths.







FIVE YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDED THE CHIEFS OF ONTARIO (COO) COMMUNITY WELLNESS CONFERENCE IN TORONTO IN 2024, JOINING MEMBERS FROM OTHER YOUTH COUNCILS ACROSS ONTARIO TO LEARN AND DISCUSS HOW WE CAN IMPROVE COMMUNITY WELLNESS IN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES.

OUR REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDED: SYDNEY FLETT, WAUZHUSHK ONIGUM, RACHEL CAMERON, NIISAACHEWAN, SHY LOON AND LEXX PAUL FROM ASUBPEESCHOSEEWAGONG (GRASSY NARROWS), AND CARTER CARPENTER, FROM WABASEEMOONG.

CARTER CARPENTER WAS ALSO A PANELLIST AT THE CONFERENCE AS PART OF THE ONTARIO FIRST NATION YOUNG PEOPLES COUNCIL AND EXTENDED THE INVITE TO THE CONFERENCE TO OTHER MEMBERS OF KCA'S YOUTH COUNCIL.

OGIMAAWABIITONG IS PROUD OF OUR YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR HELPING REPRESENT OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR REGION, AND OUR YOUTH. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THEM AS STRONG ADVOCATES AND ROLE MODELS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES!



ELDERS COUNCIL

Kenora Chiefs Advisory is guided by the wisdom and leadership of our Elders. Many carry traditional responsibilities, are Knowledge Carriers, and all have lived a life. Each have been called forth, and accepted the role to sit with Kenora Chiefs Advisory as a member of this advisory council. The Council meets monthly, where various programs, services and individual staff may ask time with them for consultation and direction.

Traditional protocols of tobacco first are always observed. The role of the Elders are to guide the organization in a good way. There may be teachings offered when appropriate, signals when to undertake further direction in the Lodges are often common. They ensure that decisions and actions are connected to traditional knowledge and principles of community well-being. Elders are highly regarded within the organization — their voices ensure that we move forward with integrity, respect, and purpose.







COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

(AS OF MARCH 31ST, 2025)

MERV COPENACE- NIISAACHEWAN ANISHINAABE NATION
GEORGE LAND- WABASEEMOONG INDEPENDANT NATION
IDA SKEAD- WAUZHUSHK ONIGUM NATION
GWEN REDKSY- SHOAL LAKE #40 FIRST NATION
ALLAN WHITE- NAOTKAMEGWANNING FIRST NATION
ANDY WHITE-NAOTKAMEGWANNING FIRST NATION
AGNES PAUL- NORTHWEST ANGLE #33
LUANNE KAVANAUGH- ANIMAKEE WA ZHING #37
VACANT - WASHAGAMIS BAY



ELDER SUSAN FOBISTER FROM GRASSY NARROWS WAS HONOURED IN 2024 FOR HER RETIREMENT AND 10 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE ELDERS COUNCIL.

A CELEBRATION TOOK PLACE DURING WIIGWAS ELDER SENIOR CARE'S FALL FEAST CELEBRATION ON OCTOBER 29 WITH COMMUNITY MEMBERS, STAFF, RESIDENTS, OUR ELDERS, AND KCA'S GRANDMOTHER DRUM, SHAWANOONG BANAISE'SEEK.

IN ADDITION, WE ALSO CELEBRATED ELDER LILLIAN HENRY'S RETIREMENT FROM THE ELDERS COUNCIL AT OUR FALL FEAST IN SHOAL LAKE #40.

KCA SENDS A HUGE MIIGWETCH TO BOTH ELDERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT ON COUNCIL, AND WISH THEM THE VERY BEST.





WITH LILLIAN'S RETIREMENT WE PROUDLY WELCOME GWEN REDKY TO THE ELDERS COUNCIL REPRESENTING SHOAL LAKE #40.

SHAWANOONG BANAISE'SEEK

'KOHKUM DRUM'



SHAWANOONG BANAISE'SEEK IS A GRANDMOTHER/KOHKOM DRUM. HER NAME MEANS SOUTH EAGLE WOMAN. SHAWANOONG BANAISE'SEEK IS REVERED AND SERVES AS A FOUNDATION FOR OGIMAAWABIITONG. SHE OFFERS GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION TO ALL PRESENT WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION'S SPHERE, AND SHE CREATES A SAFE AND RESPECTFUL SPACE. SHE IS A SACRED CONDUIT CONNECTING ALL PARTICIPANTS TO HELPING SPIRITS THAT GUDIE OUR WORK THROUGH OGIMAWABIITONG. BY BEING PART OF GATHERINGS AND CEREMONIES, THE DRUM FOSTERS UNITY, SAFETY, AND SPIRITUAL BALANCE AMONG ALL ATTENDEES. SHE EMBODIES THE SPIRIT OF PROTECTION, CLARITY, AND TOGETHERNESS – REMINDING US OF OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES TO EACH OTHER AND TO ALL CREATION.

ADMINISTRATION





THIS PAST FISCAL YEAR, KCA WAS ABLE TO BRING IN $5,473,958 IN NEW FUNDING FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES TO SUPPORT INITIATIVES SUCH AS PRIMARY CARE, HUMAN RESOURCES, CULTURAL SERVICES, THE KCA YOUTH AND FAMILY WELLNESS CAMP, THE KCA POW-WOW AND FALL HARVEST, AND THE HIRING OF A HOST OF SUMMER STUDENTS.

KCA's Administrative team supports all facets of the organization, ensuring continuity and support for all KCA employees, clients, and their families.

This past year, KCA welcomed Nicole Casey, Director of Human Resources and Colt German, Chief Financial Officer, to the team. These changes to our administrative structure enabled a host of developments in the areas of fiscal management and organizational growth.

This past fiscal year was full of opportunities to enhance employee experiences, attraction and retention strategies and staff wellbeing. KCA launched its first internal staff survey geared toward enhancing employee wellness and satisfaction. Using this feedback, the management team devised a plan for improving in areas where staff indicated improvement was needed and some really exciting initiatives were born.

Other exciting Human Resource developments include transitioning to a paperless system for personnel files, enhancing the onboarding and offboarding process for transitioning employees, ongoing capacity building within the Human Resources team and the development of internal workflows to streamline recruitment and records management systems.

KCA's Finance department focused on process improvement, digital transformation, and increased efficiency/capacity.

The Finance team has also supported the Wellness Committee in rolling out the long-time employee recognition awards and wellness subsidy programs. This collaboration ensures that KCA continues to support the health and well-being of its staff.



OFFICE MANAGER, ALICE PEMMICAN RECIEVEING HER 10 YEAR SERVICE AWARD

FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION:

Assets	2025	2024
Current		
Cash	2,619,532	209,556
Accounts Receivable (note 3)	2,902,853	3,026,771
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	-	17,348
	5,522,385	3,282,875
Capital Assets (note 4)	18,658,199	10,335,112
Due from Wiigwas Elder and Senior Care (note 5)	2,220,938	2,609,997
	26,401,522	16,198,784
Liabilities		
Current		
Accounts Payable and Accruals (note 7)	5,664,822	2,733,434
Deferred Revenue (note 8)	922,287	343,212
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt (note 10)	1,789,856	167,988
	8,376,965	3,250,634
Long-Term Debt (note 10)	3,464,177	1,515,744
Deferred Contributions Related to Capital Assets (note 9)	4,811,417	1,805,673
	8,275,594	3,321,417
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	(6,690,121)	975,397
Invest in Capital Assests	16,439,804	8,680,554
	9,748,963	9,655,933
	26,401,522	16,227,984



FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS:

	2025	2024
Province of Ontario	18,666,185	14,475,516
First Nation and Inuit Health	11,153,358	11,593,880
Other Revenue	5,348,394	2,306,213
Centre of Addictions and Mental Health	702,201	704,900
Own Source Revenue	646,580	681,550
Deferred Capital Funding Revenue	-	55,354
Deferred from Prior Year	349,212	1,520,979
Deferred to Subsequent Year	(916,287)	(349,212)
Surplus repayable	(52,190)	-
	35,897,453	30,909,180
Expenses		
Administrative (recovery)	-	12,384
Advertising and Promotion	318,983	335,480
Amortization	726,410	680,615
Bad Debts (recovery)	-	309,947
Bank Charges and Interest	229,047	136,111
Computer	46,578	2,599
Honoraria	691,601	426,035
Insurance	293,853	231,476
Office Supplies	89,682	62,487
Professional Development	216,129	502,201
Professional Fees	1,537,916	1,139,544
Property Tax	98,890	59,247
Rent	493,355	609,868
Repairs and Maintenance	373,593	306,778
Salaries and Benefits	21,842,805	17,076,233
Supplies	2,849,532	3,345,940
Telephone	233,301	35,686
Travel and Meetings	1,732,472	1,850,497
	31,774,147	27,123,108
First Nation Flow Through	4,030,276	3,620,671
Total Expenses	35,804,423	30,743,779
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	93,030	165,401

OPERATIONAL PLAN 2024-2025

OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES

Target 1: Improved Local Relationships and Communications

Target 2: Programs Tailored to the Needs of Communities and Community

EMPOWERMENT

Target 3: Effective Partnerships and Collaboration

Target 4: Client Safety and a Healthy and Safe Work Environment

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Target 1: Social Services Delivery

Target 2: Systems Approach to Health Services

Target 3: Client Centered Approaches to Well-Being

Target 4: Awakening Youth



CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, GILLIAN LUNNY



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JENNIFER DREAVER CELEBRATES 10 YEARS AT KCA 2015-2025

STRATEGY AND INNOVATION

Kenora Chiefs Advisory's Strategy and Innovation team works primarily alongside executive and senior management staff to support project management, program development, and evaluation of programs and services. This team may also be accessed directly by First Nations for support in proposal writing, business case development, policy writing, and research. In 2024/2025 this team was comprised of three full time staff providing strategic advancement in priority areas of KCA's operations, including major projects and board initiatives.

The following provides an overview of key activities led by the Strategy and Innovation team in 2024-2025.

MAJOR PROJECT: ANTI-RACISM & CULTURAL SAFETY CURRICULUM

The Kenora Chiefs Advisory developed and finalized the Anti-Racism and Cultural Safety (ARCS) Health-System Curriculum, funded by the provincial Anti-Racism Anti-Hate Program.

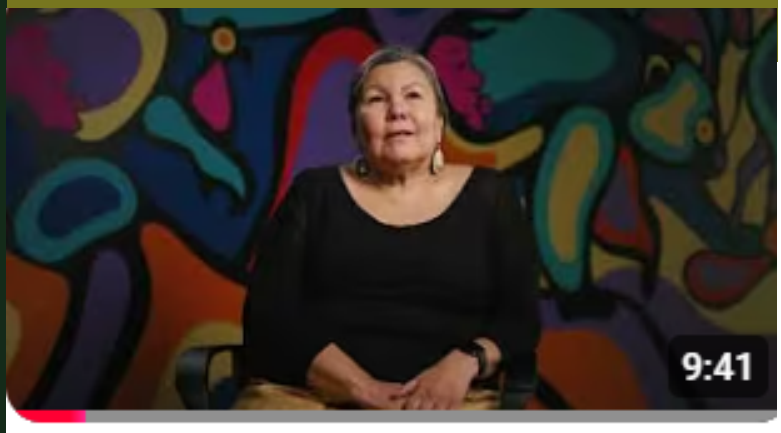
Sherry Copenace was hired as a consultant to develop the content of the curriculum which was completed January 2024. To inform her work, she led engagement sessions with each of KCA's eight member communities and KCA's Elder and Youth Councils. The Strategy & Innovation team then spent the spring and summer adapting the content into teaching and learning resources, including cultural competency videos, discussion questions, activities, and a fulsome list of supplementary resources.

The S&I team facilitated 4 sessions in Fall 2024, with plans to continue throughout April – June 2025 and eventually hire a Cultural Trainer. A total of 69 participants were trained (partially or full): 42 from LWDH and 27 from KCA. These sessions were facilitated by Stefanie Bryant, Jennie Hissa, and supported by Elder LouAnne Kavanagh. Although cohorts were small, engagement has been strong and post-training feedback was predominantly positive. The curriculum will be integrated into new hire orientations and ongoing staff training at both KCA and LWDH, with plans for continuous updates and expansion.

MAJOR FUNDING:

- The Youth & Family Wellness Camp received $3,000,000 under the Enabling Accessibility fund to build an indoor riding arena for its Equine Program.
- The Primary Care team was awarded $480,000 by Ontario Health North to support the training, and hiring of 4 Personal Support Worker (PSW) positions.
- The Sports & Recreation team was awarded $160,000 by Sport Canada's Sport for Social Development fund to support sports programming for girls and non-binary youth, as well as a Sports Summit.
- Human Resources was awarded $100,000 over two years by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation to support cultural and trauma-informed staff onboarding, and training across KCA.
- The Family Wellbeing team was awarded $400,000 over 4 years by Indigenous Services Canada for its Family Violence Prevention Program.

The S&I team, in collaboration with KCA staff, was able to secure $5,473,958 in the 2024-25.



KCA Presents: Anti-Racism and Cultural Safety Training

CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO AND THE REST OF THIS SERIES ON OUR YOUTUBE PAGE



SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Every child has the right to identity **(anishinabewin)**, language **(anishinaabemowin)**, and traditional healing **(miinigoosiwin)** that nurture pride and belonging. They hold the right to a good life **(minobimaatiziwin)**, rooted in the land **(Anishinaabe akiig)** and supported by a healthy lifestyle **(anishinaabechigewin)**. Education **(kinamaatiwin)**, spiritual name **(Anishinaabe ishinikaasowin)**, and clan **(ododemun)** connections strengthen their sense of purpose. Above all, Anishinaabe children have the right to protection, family **(gutsiimuh)**, and a life of balance, wellness, and cultural strength.

SHARED BY JOLENE FONTAINE-ANISHINAABE CULUTRAL LIASON


CCM
TRIGGER
XNAPPER



YOUTH AND FAMILY WELLNESS CAMP

AT THE MAKATE WAAGAMICHIWANANG GAKINAA'AMAATIWIN YOUTH & FAMILY WELLNESS CAMP EVERY SEASON BRINGS NEW GROWTH, NEW TEACHINGS, AND DEEPER COMMUNITY CONNECTION. GUIDED BY OUR ELDERS, THE SCARED TEACHINGS, AND LAND-BASED LEARNING, EACH SEASON REFLECTS OUR SHARED JOURNEY TOWARD HEALING, CULTURAL REVITALIZATION, AND YOUTH EMPOWERMENT.



"Horses, meeting new friends, swimming and great memories made. Thank you for having a safe place for my 5 children to meet new people and have so much fun, that's all they talk about :) and can't wait for next year!"

-Client testimonial



SPRING
SEASON OF RENEWAL AND BUILDING

Spring 2025 was a time of renewal and community collaboration. The Camp came alive with the construction of two sacred lodges — the Teaching Lodge and Sweat Lodge — both built through ceremony, collective effort of community members, and guidance from Knowledge Keepers.

The Washagamis Bay Teaching Lodge hosted weekly school visits, welcoming students for hands-on land-based learning — from trapping and birchbark teachings to bear grease making and wild rice processing. Students expressed excitement to “come back and try it at home,” showing how teachings are extending beyond camp boundaries.

The medicine and vegetable gardens expanded this season, symbolizing both physical nourishment and the growth of new knowledge. Each seed planted represented the community’s shared commitment to health, sustainability, and learning from the land.

YOUTH SURVEYS SHOWED OVER 90% FELT SAFE, SUPPORTED, AND EXCITED TO RETURN NEXT YEAR, WITH “MAKING NEW FRIENDS” AND “LEARNING SOMETHING NEW ABOUT THE LAND” AS TOP EXPERIENCES.



SUMMER SEASON OF JOY, CONNECTION AND GROWTH

Summer 2024 marked a major milestone — the first year of offering Summer Camp at the Youth & Family Wellness Camp. Over 6-weeks, 300 youth from across our founding KCA First Nation communities came together for four weeks of Day Camp and two weeks of Overnight Camp.

Campers engaged in meaningful land-based learning and experiences:

- Cultural teachings
- Equine Therapeutic Services
- Sports and Outdoor Education
- Baseball
- Wellness Activities





FALL
SEASON OF GATHERING AND GRATITUDE

Fall at the Youth & Family Wellness Camp was a powerful reminder of the strength that comes from community, tradition, and working together.

Shortly after, the Camp proudly celebrated the Soft Opening of the Field of Dreams Baseball Diamond, marking another milestone in our commitment to sport and recreation. We welcomed over 80 participants for a day of friendly play, cultural connection, and community spirit. The event brought together youth, families, and community teams, celebrating how sport continues to be a pathway for leadership, teamwork, and healing.

Fall was a season of gratitude — one that reminded us of the power of gathering, honouring stories, and learning from one another.

FROM A YOUTH CAMP PARENT EVALUATION FORM: PLEASE DESCRIBE THE BIGGEST HIGHLIGHT FROM YOUR CHILD(REN)'S EXPERIENCE THIS SUMMER

"MAKING NEW FRIENDS, BEING BRAVE AND PLAYING DIFFERENT SPORTS THAT I NEVER PLAYED AND HANGING OUT WITH MY COACHES. SWIMMING, LUNCH AND BASICALLY EVERYTHING."



WINTER
SEASON OF REFLECTION AND CONNECTION

Winter brought together over 1000 youth from both local and community schools in celebration, learning, and ceremony. The Winter Celebration - Biboon Odaminowin spanned two days of dog sleighing, Equine Stable Visits, Sliding, Sweat Teachings, Archery, Cedar Tea Teachings and connections around the fire. Land-based teachings continued through the cold months — from Full Moon Ceremonies, Men's and Women's Teachings, and Sweat Lodge Orientations, to Falconry demonstrations. The Camp also hosted Community Christmas gatherings where families came together to share food, laughter, and gifts. These celebrations embodied the spirit of kinship that defines the Camp year-round.



LEADERS-IN-TRAINING (LIT) & THE SACRED TEACHINGS



The LIT & Sacred Teachings Program at the Camp started in the new year, and empowered youth in grades 7–12 through hands-on learning rooted in the Seven Sacred Teachings: Truth, Humility, Respect, Love, Honesty, Bravery, and Wisdom.

Survey feedback showed that students consistently reported:

- **Feeling safe and supported in the camp environment.**
- **Gaining leadership, teamwork, and confidence skills.**
- **A stronger connection to culture and land-based knowledge**

Through these teachings, young leaders are emerging with confidence, cultural pride, and a renewed sense of identity.

ONE YOUTH SHARED: "I LEARNED TO BE BRAVE, TO SPEAK UP, AND TO HELP OTHERS — THAT'S WHAT LEADERSHIP MEANS TO ME."

RIGHT TO PLAY



TO PROTECT, EDUCATE, AND EMPOWER CHILDREN TO RISE ABOVE ADVERSITY USING THE POWER OF PLAY- MISSION STATEMENT FROM RIGHT TO PLAY CANADA

The Right to Play team delivered a total of 582 community programs, reaching more than 10,200 total participant experiences across nine KCA First Nations. Programs ranged from sports and recreation, equine-assisted learning, cultural teachings, and land-based education, to leadership and wellness workshops. Activities were hosted both on-site at the MWG Youth & Family Wellness Camp and within community settings, supporting year-round engagement and access to meaningful opportunities for youth and families.

32 community events--community tournaments, seasonal celebrations, and cultural gatherings. These gatherings provided spaces for intergenerational learning, healing through movement, and community pride, blending recreation with teachings from Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and cultural facilitators.

CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



OUR YOUTH IN TRANSITION WORKERS PROVIDED PROGRAMMING FOR OVER 60 YOUTH TO HELP THEM GAIN PRACTICAL LIFE SKILLS, CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE, AND PEER SUPPORT.

The Child and Youth Mental Health team comprises a Substance Use Counselor, a Therapist, Youth in Transition Workers, Youth Outreach Workers and Child and Youth Case Managers who provide support through psycho-education, outreach activities, as well as direct client service. This team is highly mobile, and travel often to meet children, youth and families in homes, schools, offices and outdoor spaces.

Highlights:

A Child and Youth Mental Health Therapist was hired in December 2024. Even in the short tenure, Madi has already made significant impacts in the lives of the youth she is working with.

In response to a growing need for 2SLGBTQQIA+ specific supports (approximately 12% of current child and youth clients identify as unspecified gender), staff received training and participated in conversations about equity, identity, allyship and how to better serve, support and celebrate diversity in our communities.

THE YOUTH OUTREACH WORKER (YOW) PROGRAM SUPPORTED YOUTH WELLNESS, LEADERSHIP, AND CULTURAL CONNECTION THROUGH SCHOOL-BASED INITIATIVES, COMMUNITY EVENTS, AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING, REACHING OVER 200 YOUTH, AND 300 FAMILY MEMBERS.

"SO MANY OF MY STUDENTS ARE BENEFITING FROM HAVING HOPE [CASE MANAGER] IN THEIR LIFE" - ST. THOMAS AQUINAS GUIDANCE COUNCILLOR

BINESI WAZISWON



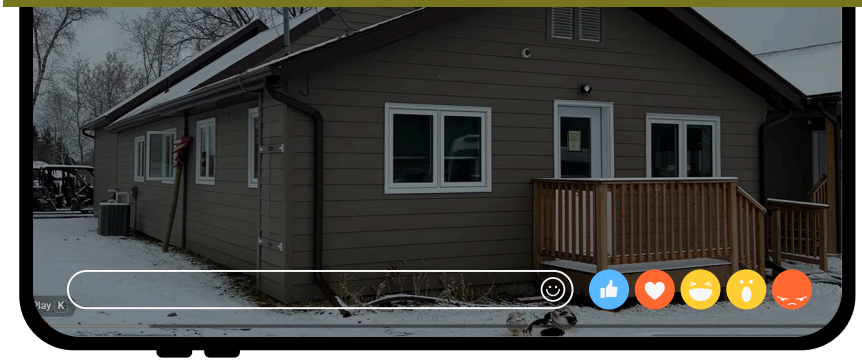
Binesi Waziswon is a KCA operated live-in treatment program that provides a safe, caring, and supportive environment for children 12-17 years of age. This Step-Up/Step-Down program is the only one of its kind in Northwestern Ontario.

This year Binesi Waziswon was licensed by MCCSS which led to expanded operations and services. The program added psychiatry and psychotherapy to a host of services that include a licensed teacher, and a culture based treatment model.

"I WENT TO BINESI TO BETTER MY MENTAL HEALTH AND MY ADDICTION WITH AOD. AT FIRST I DIDN'T LIKE THE FEELING OF GETTING BETTER, BUT WHEN I MET THE PEOPLE WHO WERE ROOTING FOR THE LOST SOULS HAD ME FIND THE GOOD IN PEOPLE. BEING AT BINESI MADE ME REALIZE LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL AND WE CAN GET THROUGH IT. WHAT HELPED ME MOST AT BINESI IS THE PEOPLE AROUND ME, AND THE SUPPORT THAT WAS GIVEN WHEN NEEDED. THE STAFF AND THE AMOUNT OF ACTIVITIES AND ROUTINE TO FOLLOW IS ONE OF THE MAIN STRUCTURES THAT KEPT ME IN SHAPE. WHAT I LEARNED AND LIKED BEING AT BINESI WAS HOW MUCH I WAS BEING HEARD AND HELPED WITHIN THE FIRST FEW DAYS. THE COUNSELLORS, YOUTH WORKERS, AND SCHOOL TEACHER ARE THE MOST SUPPORTIVE AND HELPFUL PEOPLE YOU CAN MEET. OVERALL, THE ANIMALS AND HOME IS A GOOD ENVIRONMENT TO TRY TO GET BETTER FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS. RELAPSE IS A PART OF RECOVERY." - FORMER BINESI WAZISWON CLIENT

THERE WERE 43 UNIQUE YOUTH OVER 52 TOTAL ADMISSIONS IN 2024/25. THE MOST COMMON MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS WERE: SELF-HARM AND SUICIDAL IDEATION, COMPLEX TRAUMA, GRIEF & LOSS, CHALLENGES WITH COPING AND EMOTIONAL REGULATION.

BINESI'S HOUSE HAS VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL! CHECK IT OUT



"I WENT TO BINESI TO FIGURE MYSELF OUT MORE AND TO HEAL FROM PAST EXPERIENCES. IT HAS HELPED ME IN MANY WAYS LIKE TO CHALLENGE MY ANXIETY, TO BE MORE OPEN WITH PEOPLE, AND TO TRY NEW THINGS. I LIKED HOW THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO LIKE ARTS & CRAFTS, GOING FOR WALKS, OR…JUST TALKING WITH PEOPLE THAT WERE THERE. I MOSTLY LIKED ALL OF THE STAFF THAT WERE THERE AND DIDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH ANY OF THEM…WHAT HELPED WAS THE COUNSELLING THAT WAS OFFERED TO ME AND THE FEELING OF BEING UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED [FOR] WHO I AM." - FORMER BINESI WAZISWON CLIENT



STAFF HONOUR PINK SHIRT DAY FOR ANTI-BULLYING



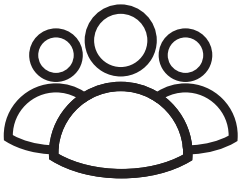
JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE BEAR WITNESS BBQ HOSTED BY 'NBDS'



MOBILE CRISIS RESPONSE

KCA's mobile crisis is a partnership with Treaty Three Police and the Ontario Provincial Police focusing on t youth who are going through mental health crises.

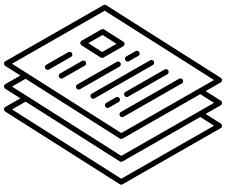
YOUTH MOBILE CRISIS 2024-2025



88
UNIQUE CLIENTS



312
WELLNESS CHECKS



253
REFERRALS OUT



155.5
HOURS TRAVELLED

"THE PROGRAMS DELIVERED BY KCA UNDER JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE HAVE BEEN A VITAL RESOURCE IN ADDRESSING THIS NEED (MENTAL-HEALTH RELATED CALLS FOR SERVICE). THESE SERVICES PROVIDE CULTURALLY INFORMED CARE ROOTED IN THE VALUES, LANGUAGE, AND TRADITIONS OF THE ANISHINAABE PEOPLE. THEY ENSURE THAT CHILDREN AND YOUTH RECEIVE TIMELY MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT WHILE REDUCING THE STRAIN ON EMERGENCY SERVICES SUCH AS THE POLICE, WHO ARE TOO OFTEN THE DEFAULT RESPONDERS IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISES".

JOE GERVAIS, TREATY THREE POLICE

ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WEEKLY EMPOWER HER AND EMPOWER TO EMPOWER SESSIONS HAD 50 YOUTH PARTICIPANTS PROGRAM OUTREACH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS HAD 300 PARTICIPANTS

The Anti-Human Trafficking Program empowers youth and communities through culturally grounded education, awareness, and prevention initiatives focused on human trafficking, personal safety, healthy relationships, and gender-based violence; equipping youth and families with tools to recognize and prevent exploitation while fostering community safety. Through a host of partnerships and collaboration, this past fiscal year our program facilitated weekly EMPOWER Her and EMPOWER to EMPOWER sessions, program outreach and community engagement sessions.



OF THE YOUTH SEEN BY OUR YOUTH OUTREACH WORKER AT THE HUB 91% IDENTIFIED AS FIRST NATION

72% WERE AT RISK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

85% WERE SUCCESSFULLY CONNECTED TO SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

KENORA YOUTH WELLNESS HUB

"My experience at the Kenora Youth Wellness Hub has been an absolute blast. I've grown in many ways over the years of being a youth. I have worked up the courage and confidence to run my own programming for the youth such as beading, self-care and cooking. I have also joined the Youth advisory Council as I would like to be an advocate for youth."
- Brionna

1372 youth accessed services at the YWH this year. The main reason for coming were mental health and substance use counselling, education supports, employment and housing supports, accessing sexual health clinics, food security, and cultural teachings.

A Youth Outreach Worker was added to the team this year. This role is dedicated to connecting youth in community settings who are at risk or high-risk and may face barriers to access with traditional services such as land-based programming and one-on-one support. Since the inception of this program, calls for service to police involving these youth have dropped significantly.

This past fiscal year was marked by our Grand Re-Opening after exciting renovations, as well as youth stepping into leadership roles by joining KCA's Youth Council.

PROVIDED DAILY MEALS AND SNACK BAGS, ENSURING THAT 237 YOUTH HAD ACCESS TO FOOD





THE ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ WAS A SUCCESS AGAIN THIS YEAR. 109 BACKPACKS FILLED WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES WERE PROVIDED TO YOUTH IN KENORA AND FROM SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES.

KENORA YOUTH WELLNESS HUB

GRAND RE-OPENING!







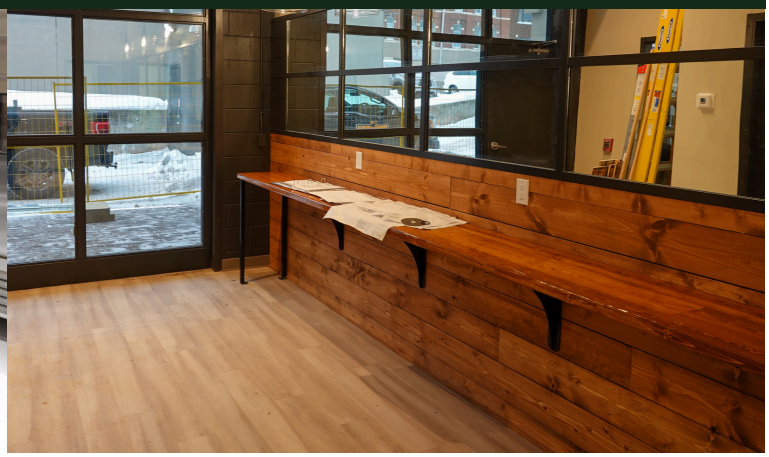


97.7% OF THE 209 CLIENTS WHO SOUGHT CLINICAL SUPPORTS IDENTIFIED AS FIRST NATION

KENORA'S COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE & KCA

Did you know? KCA owns the building that houses the Community Justice Centre on 33 Main Street in Kenora. See pictures from a kitchen renovation project this year. Stay tuned for future updates on what's in store here!





WE ARE A PROGRAM PARTNER ALONGSIDE GA-NAA-NA-GA-DA-WAA-BA-DANG (COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTRE), AND GRAND COUNCIL TREATY #3. WE PROVIDE YOUTH AGED 12-24 WITH MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SUPPORT WHILE NAVIGATING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

OUR DEDICATED, ON-SITE SUBSTANCE USE COUNSELLOR IS A REGISTERED SOCIAL WORKER THAT SUPPORTED 70 CLIENTS THIS YEAR. 44% ACCESSED A TREATMENT FACILITY FOR SUBSTANCE USE AND MENTAL HEALTH. OF THESE SUB-SET OF CLIENTS, 52% PRESENTED IN CRISIS SITUATIONS AND WERE DIVERTED FROM HOSPITAL. CULTURAL CONNECTION IS CENTRAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM. MANY CLIENTS ACCESS LAND-BASED PROGRAMMING, AS WELL AS THE EQUINE PROGRAM AND SWEAT LODGE AS A PART OF THEIR OVERALL RECOVERY. WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROMOTING A CLIENT PATHWAY LINKING ACCESS TO THE MWG YOUTH & FAMILY WELLNESS CAMP'S COMPLEMENT OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

HEALTH PROMOTION

The Health Promotion team provides education and awareness in the areas of Anishinaabe diabetes education, nutrition awareness, healthy relationships, and bullying and anger management awareness, with emphasis on returning to the traditional teachings. This past year, our programming such as community gardening, Sweat Lodge Teachings, ribbon skirt making, Well Baby Clinics and community kitchens reached over 1600 participants.



NIIGAANNING BIMAADIZIWIN DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (NBDS)

STAFF AT A RESOURCE FAIR IN SHOAL LAKE #40

Our mission is to support children and youth in achieving their fullest potential, mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. In partnership with FIREFLY, vital clinical services are provided exclusively in First Nation communities.



SUPPORTING ADULTS



VIDEO SHOWCASING THE TEACHING LODGE CONSTRUCTION BY OUR CULTURAL TEAM.

CHECK IT OUT, AND OTHERS ON OUR KENORA CHIEFS ADVISORY SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

ADULT CASE MANAGMENT

Adult case management services focus on supporting adults with direct mental supports, building capacity within themselves, and connecting them to cultural opportunities through referral/linkages to access comprehensive assessments, psychological/ psychiatric consultations when necessary, supporting treatment applications, and community linkages.

This past fiscal year, the Adult Case Management team supported clients in our affiliated communities, facilitated referrals and linkages to external supports and supported with a host of community Crisis and Social Emergency responses. The majority of clients seeking support in our communities at present are struggling with issues such as trauma/PTSD, substance use, suicidality, depression and anxiety.

In most cases, support from Adult Case Management was delivered in the form of seeking solutions to relationship issues including, domestic violence, family breakdown and parenting difficulties and occupational needs such as education, employment and life skills. In addition to directly supporting clients in our affiliated communities, our team also took on initiatives such as facilitating IRS sessions and the Kaatagoging initiative this past fiscal year.

Additional efforts were dedicated to enhancing existing partnerships and forging new ones with community partners to better serve our clients. These partnerships and a strong referral system are the cornerstone of the case management model.

MIN-O-QWE-KE-GA-BWE'IN SOCIAL SERVICES INITIATIVE (MSSI)

KCA works with communities to support their Ontario Works designation. The relationship between First Nations and the KCA-MSSI program is defined by service agreements. Over this past year, program priorities included providing training sessions in all communities and facilitating client focus groups to gather program feedback and to get direction on program planning over the next two years. The team also participated in updating local OW policies to ensure they aligned with First Nations unique needs. MSSI also provides ODSP Case Management and Employment supports to eligible clients in our member First Nations communities. Staff offer individualized support including assistance with ODSP applications, coordination of financial assessments, and referrals for supportive services including psychological assessments.

Some common barriers to accessing this program include difficulty obtaining medical documentation, limited access to primary care providers, and transportation. To help address these barriers, staff implemented strategies including providing home visits, facilitating direct communication with local health providers, and offering plain language ODSP information session in communities.

"AS CHIEF OF NAOTKAMEGWANNING, I HAVE SEEN THE DIRECT AND POSITIVE IMPACT THAT THE MSSI PROGRAM HAS HAD ON OUR COMMUNITY. THE TEAM HAS WORKED ALONGSIDE OUR MEMBERS WITH EMPATHY, RESPECT, AND CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING—HELPING INDIVIDUALS NAVIGATE COMPLEX SYSTEMS LIKE ODSP AND ONTARIO WORKS, AND ADVOCATING FOR EQUITABLE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORTS."

CHIEF GARY TOM



PHOTO – LEFT TO RIGHT: BARRY HENRY, JASON WILLIAMSON, TAMMY SKEAD, MARY HENRY, AMY SIMONS, RHONDA FISHER, SHARLYN HOUDE, BRENDA FREEL, GARY BEARDY, KEIYANAH BIRD, JENILEE WILLIAMS, AND MELANIE COPENACE.

OGIMAAWABIITONG (KENORA CHIEFS ADVISORY) IS HONOURED AND THANKFUL TO BE ABLE TO COORDINATE AND COMPLETE A HELPFUL TWO-DAY TRAINING PROGRAM ON 'FACILITATION FUNDAMENTALS' IN PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR PARTNER COMMUNITIES AND SHOONIYAA WA-BIITONG.

KCA'S OUR MIN-O-QUE-KE-GA-BWE'IN SOCIAL SERVICES (MSSI) TEAM, AS WELL AS SHOONIYAA WA-BIITONG STAFF, COMPLETED THE TRAINING FOR OUR FAMILY WELLBEING AND ONTARIO WORKS COMMUNITY PROGRAMS, ALONGSIDE LEADERSHIP FROM A NUMBER OF OUR PARTNER COMMUNITIES.

COMMUNITIES INCLUDED SHOAL LAKE #40 FIRST NATION, NAOTKAMEGWANNING FIRST NATION, NIISAACHEWAN ANISHINAABE NATION, WABIGOON LAKE OJIBWAY NATION, WAUZHUSHK ONIGUM NATION, AND GRASSY NARROWS FIRST NATION.

OUR TRAINEES EMBARKED ON AN AMAZING JOURNEY WITH THE WINNIPEG TRANSITION CENTRE, REFINING THEIR FACILITATION SKILLS AND ENHANCING THEIR ABILITY TO ENGAGE, SUPPORT, AND INSPIRE THE INDIVIDUALS THEY SUPPORT.

CHI MIIGWETCH TO SHOONIYAA WA-BIITONG FOR SPONSORING THIS REGIONAL TRAINING, AND TO OUR PARTICIPANTS FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND ENTHUSIASM IN LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER TO BUILD CAPACITY!

HEALTH PROMOTION

Key health promotion initiatives for adults this past fiscal year focused on diabetes education and prevention, gambling addictions awareness and cultural services. 37 diabetes education sessions were held and reached 471 participants. 4,421 Treaty #3 First Nation community members participated in problem gambling and responsible gambling programming through addictions support groups, sharing circles, workshops and online webinars on gambling and gaming.

SOCIAL MEDIA POST OF A PARTNER EVENT WITH GTC3 FOR DIABETES AWARENESS



And the Mental Health and Wellness Promoters provided workshops and presentations, Online Challenges and hide workshops, providing access to culture and connection for members of our affiliated communities.

16 PEOPLE FROM COMMUNITIES WERE TRAINED TO OPERATE OPTOMED CAMERA FOR RETINOPATHY SCREENING, WITH ON-GOING MENTORSHIP AND SUPPORT FROM THE ADEP TEAM

458 SCREENS WERE DONE FOR RANDOM BLOOD GLUCOSE, BLOOD PRESSURE, A1C, FOOT, EYE AND MENTAL HEALTH. 66 REFERRALS WERE MADE AS A RESULT OF SCREENING.

SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND WELLNESS PROGRAM

This past fiscal year, the Social, Cultural Wellness team focused on expanding client retention and post custody programs. This year we were able to help 294 clients. Partnerships were a major focus; we established partnerships with Del-Art Manor, Safe Bed Program, Morningstar Centre, Kenora Supportive Housing and Migisi Treatment Centre to provide culturally based programming.

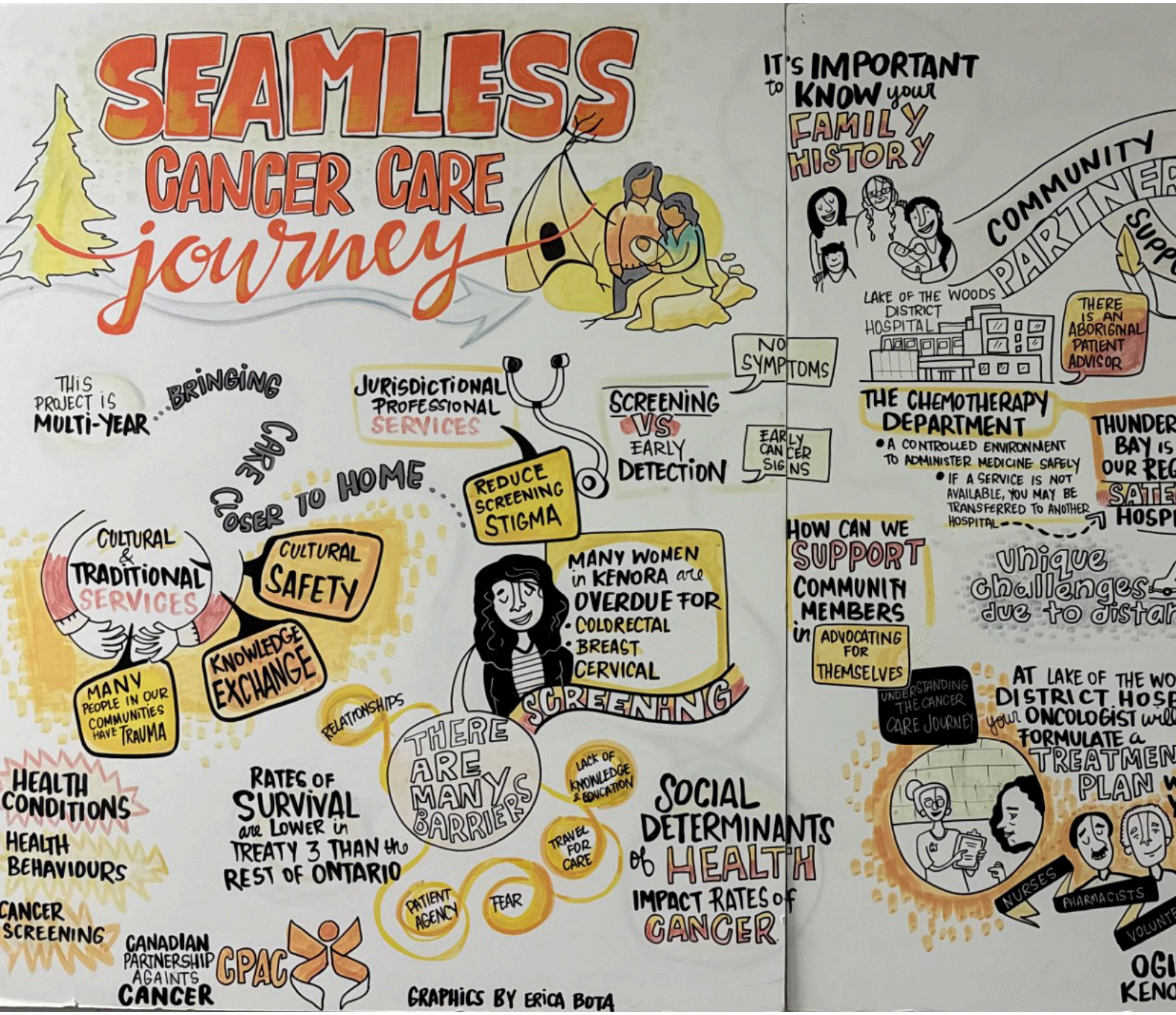
The Community Reintegration Program assisted 45 clients with their attempts to reintegrate into the community post incarceration.

Services provided included case management, supporting mental wellness and healing, facilitating connection to the land and providing cultural support. Visits to the Makate Waagamichiwanang Gakinaa'amaatiwin Youth and Family Wellness Camp and participating in cultural activities as Bug Lake Healing Camp were central to this work.

"A PLACE WHERE I CAN BE MYSELF COMFORTABLY. TAKES MY MIND OFF MY MOST DEPRESSING THOUGHTS. HELPS ME FEEL LIKE THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR ME OUT THERE." -- CLIENT TESTIMONIAL



HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY





PRIMARY CARE

In 2024/25, the KCA Primary Care team delivered service across seven First Nations (eight community sites). Teams of physicians, nurse practitioners, primary care nurses, and administrative assistants worked side by side with community staff, and patients to ensure continuity of care—from regular clinic visits to after-hours support and ER diversion efforts. Registered Nurses also provided health promotion initiatives and supported public health through immunization, and communicable disease treatment and management.

In addition, our Integrated Primary Care team brings together diverse expertise to provide wraparound services. The team includes a pharmacist/clinical diabetes educator, dietitian, foot care nurses, and the soft launch of Personal Support Workers (PSW); all of whom play vital roles in both education and direct client care.

CANCER CARE

This work centres on education, awareness and better accounting for the number of cases in our affiliated communities and has expanded to include political advocacy.
The First Nations Client Registry and Cancer Screening Education initiatives target enhanced tracking of breast, cervical and colorectal cancer screening across KCA's affiliated community in tandem with educating community members about the importance of screening, early detection and traditional medicine.

As the Regional Indigenous Cancer Lead for Treaty #3 Territory, KCA is also supporting research projects (e.g. Cultural Safety in Cancer Screening Communication) and providing education for health care providers and community members through participation on a host of committees addressing inequities in the cancer continuum in our territory.

Our Goal: Build a sustainable Primary Care model in First Nations (close to home), working seamlessly with community-based staff providing care in partnership with patients, taking a wholistic approach.



This past year, we began work to learn how to host a traditional medicine "pharmacy" with ongoing support and guidance from the Elders Council.

HIGHLIGHTS 2024/25

DELIVERED ONGOING PRIMARY CARE SERVICES ACROSS SEVEN FIRST NATIONS (EIGHT SITES)

HOSTED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS TO GUIDE PRIMARY CARE PRIORITIES

ADDED TWO-FOOT CARE NURSES TO THE TEAM

STRENGTHENED ER DIVERSION AND AFTER-HOURS COVERAGE

ADDED PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKER SERVICES TO OUR PROGRAMS

CONTINUED COLLABORATION TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

In 2024/25, The Integrated Primary Care Team brings together diverse expertise The team includes a pharmacist/clinical diabetes educator, dietitian, foot care nurses, and PSW services added this year, all of whom play vital roles in both education and direct client care.

- The pharmacist provides diabetes education, medication reconciliation, and clinical teaching.
- The dietitian provides nutrition education, individual assessments, and training for providers.
- The foot care nurses provide preventative care and client education to reduce complications.

Nursing provided by kca continues to improve the health of individuals, families, and entire communities through health promotion, disease prevention, and equitable access to care. Nurses collaborate closely with each community to ensure care delivery reflects local priorities and respects community direction.

1. HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

FUNDED THROUGH INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA, THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES NURSING AND CASE MANAGEMENT IN PEOPLE'S HOMES. EACH COMMUNITY DETERMINES HOW THE HOME CARE PROGRAM WILL BE DELIVERED. NURSES ASSIST WITH ACUTE AND CHRONIC CARE, REHABILITATION, AND EDUCATION FOR CLIENTS AND FAMILIES.

IMPACT: HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE SERVED SIX FIRST NATIONS SITES IN 2024/25.



DIRECTOR OF PRIMARY CARE, VICTORIA BARNES

2. PRIMARY CARE NURSING

PRIMARY CARE NURSES PROVIDE HANDS-ON SUPPORT AND CASE MANAGEMENT FOR ACUTE AND EPISODIC CARE. THEY ASSIST PHYSICIANS AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN CLINICS AND SERVE AS THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS. ANYONE CAN ACCESS PRIMARY CARE NURSING BY CONNECTING WITH THEIR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE.

IMPACT: PRIMARY CARE NURSING WAS AVAILABLE IN FIVE COMMUNITY SITES THIS YEAR.

3. COMMUNITY HEALTH / PUBLIC HEALTH

THIS PROGRAM FOCUSES ON HEALTH PROMOTION, DISEASE PREVENTION, AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES PROVIDE IMMUNIZATIONS, STI AND TB TREATMENT, CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT, AND SCREENING PROGRAMS SUCH AS WELL WOMAN AND WELL MAN CLINICS.

IMPACT: PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SUPPORTED THREE COMMUNITY SITES AND STRENGTHENED AWARENESS AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS.

WAUZHUSHK ONIGUM FIRST NATION

PROVIDER	CLINIC
Brandi Milko, NP	13
Sandra Christie, NP	69
Dr. Mandy Spencer	50
Emilie Greenwood, NP	3
Dr. Maddy Trudeau (locum)	2
Dr. Jonny Grek (locum)	3

WABASEEMOONG INDEPENDANT NATION

PROVIDER	CLINIC
Dr. Michelle Thomas	40
Dr. Mandy Spencer	13
Ronni Grimard, NP	84
Dr. Maxine Carlisle (locum)	9
Dr. Maddy Trudeau (locum)	1

WASHAGAMIS BAY FIRST NATION

PROVIDER	CLINIC
Dr. Jonny Grek	19

NORTHWEST ANGLE #33 FIRST NATION

PROVIDER	CLINIC
Dr. Brad Kyle (Angle Inlet)	15
Dr. Kerry Anderson (Dog Paw)	15
Dr. Maddy Trudeau, locum (Dog Paw)	5

NIISAACHEWAN ANISHINAABE NATION

PROVIDER	CLINIC
Dr. Kerry Anderson	53
Dr. Maddy Trudeau (locum)	4

NAOTKAMEGWANNING FIRST NATION

PROVIDER	CLINIC
Emilie Greenwood, NP	27
Dr. Mandy Spencer	9
Barb Pernsky, NP	49

GRASSY NARROWS FIRST NATION

PROVIDER	CLINIC
Dr. Kerry Anderson	13
Dr. Akila Whiley	32

PHYSICIAN CLINICS (INCL. NURSE PRACTITIONER-LED)

INDIGENOUS PATIENT RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

In partnership with the Lake of the Woods District Hospital, Kenora Chiefs Advisory employs three (3) Indigenous Patient Navigators, and one (1) Manager to support direct patient care as they navigate through the hospital, and transitions back to community and home. The focus of this service is on First Nations patients. This service supports any Indigenous patient, regardless of their First Nation membership. Many patients of LWDH come from outside the Kenora area, such as patients from First Nations in Treaty 9, 5, and 1.

THE INDIGENOUS CLIENT NAVIGATION TEAM SUPPORTED AN AVERAGE OF 70 PATIENTS PER MONTH THIS PAST YEAR.

Patients in our staff's care know they access culturally safe, holistic care while navigating the hospital system. Cultural practices, advocacy, and communication are at the heart of this program; helping patients connect with traditional medicines, healers, and ceremonies, while working closely with hospital staff to create a welcoming and inclusive care environment. We look forward to expanding this work to include our regional hospitals.

CULTURE REMAINS THE GUIDING STRENGTH OF THE INDIGENOUS CLIENT NAVIGATION TEAM. THE SMUDGE ROOM CONTINUES TO BE A CENTRAL SPACE FOR BOTH PATIENTS AND STAFF. THE NAVIGATORS EMPHASIZE THAT HEALING IS NOT ONLY PHYSICAL BUT SPIRITUAL, EMOTIONAL, AND CULTURAL, AND THEY WORK DAILY TO ENSURE THOSE PRINCIPLES ARE HONOURED WITHIN HOSPITAL CARE.

PALLIATIVE CARE

Palliative Care supports the emotional, spiritual, physical and mental health of the person during end of life treatment. Supports are provided for the entire person, their family and community. Our work involves training and education for healthcare providers and supporters in a patient's end of life journey.

KCA also introduced a Palliative Care Coach role as part of a pilot project intended to drive practice change with a focus on improving access to and quality of palliative care in a culturally safe way for all.

Initial steps in this project include the adoption of community organization assessment tools, increased education for all health care providers in our region, embedding Wiisokitaatiwin care culture in our approach and informing other health care organizations of its importance, and collaboration with organizations and communities to improve service pathways.



PHYSICIANS ATTENDING NWA #33 ANGLE INLET BY HELICOPTER

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY WELLBEING



CRISIS SERVICES

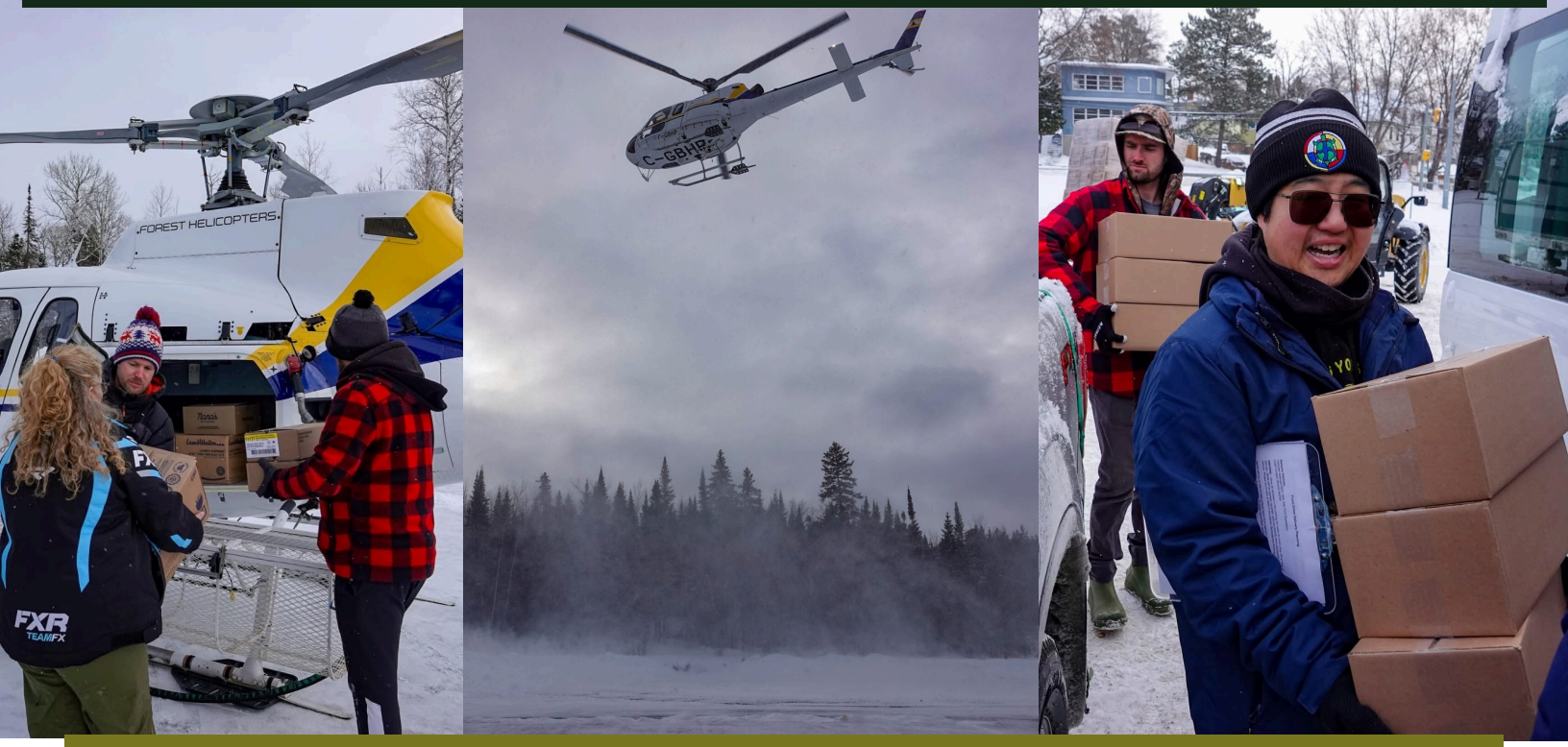


PHOTO: FOOD DELIVERY TO NORTHWEST ANGLE #33'S ANGLE INLET

This year the team focused on capacity building within our affiliated communities. Initiatives included providing regular Critical Incident Debriefing to community staff, and presenting on the Crisis Services model, and how it integrates overall within the Mental Health & Addictions department. This service works across the lifespan to support both individual interventions, as well as community level interventions, with a focus on Grief & Loss. This team coordinates with community-based programs in First Nations. KCA has seen tremendous growth and capacity emerge in the communities it serves since the pandemic, and is proud to work in partnership with Social Emergency Managers, and First Nation programs and services, as well as local Child & Family Service organizations. Crisis Services organized seasonal surge supports to Angle Inlet (NWA#33) during freeze-up and break-up of the ice.

Crisis Services is supported by annualized funding under Mental Wellness Teams via Indigenous Services Canada. With that responsibility comes being available for surge calls to deploy across territories to First Nations beyond our direct affiliated communities. KCA may be activated by any First Nation during a crisis affecting the mental health of individuals, families or community wide.

- ***157 INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS SERVED WITH 2,266 ENCOUNTERS***
- ***RESPONDED TO 73 COMMUNITY CRISES TO SUPPORT 2,078 COMMUNITY MEMBERS***
- ***DELIVERED FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO 30 FAMILIES OF NWA#33 VIA AIR IN SPRING/FALL FREEZE AND BREAK UP***

SOCIAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Social Emergency Management Program helps to strengthen community readiness, and support timely and organized response to emergencies, and to support recovery efforts. Ensuring that these responses are culturally safe and community driven is central to the on the ground work, collaboration and advocacy done by this program.

Over the past year, there was an emphasis on education and capacity building. Meeting with leadership and staff from several communities to better understand their needs helped identify key areas for enhancement, including improved communication during evacuations and emergencies, and capacity-building opportunities for local emergency teams. Collaboration remained a central focus this past fiscal year.

The Social Emergencies Program worked closely with partner organizations such as Grand Council Treaty #3, Emergency Management Ontario, Indigenous Affairs Ontario, Indigenous Services Canada, Bimose Tribal Council, and other regional partners to align supports and strengthen coordination.

A major highlight of this past fiscal year was the successful grant application to develop an emergency management education program through Ontario Corps. This program will focus on building local capacity, integrating traditional knowledge with emergency management frameworks, and empowering leadership at the community level. The grant was awarded, and the program is set to be delivered in the winter of 2025/26.

KENORA MAKWA PATROL

Kenora Makwa Patrol celebrated its fifth year of service with the grand opening of its new office space. Our new location allows us to have an expansive area to keep donations of clothing, blankets, jackets and other items needed by patrons or any other organization for their clients.

We also have use of a satellite office situated downtown connected to the new self-cleaning washroom. It is a space where we can keep supplies and make coffee, hot chocolate and oatmeal to hand out to patrons in the colder weather. A huge miigwich to the City of Kenora for letting us use both of these spaces!

A major highlight this year was our social media initiative showcasing interviews with Patrons. This initiative provided a story to go with names and faces with hopes to humanize our vulnerable population and foster better understanding. KCA received very positive comments from members of the public regarding this campaign.





FOR 2024-2025 KENORA MAKWA PATROLS HAVE DONE AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF WORK:

- 4693 INDIVIDUAL WELLNESS CHECKS
- 5173 CLOTHING ITEMS HANDED OUT
- 19, 023 SNACKS AND WATER HANDED OUT
- 24, 221 NEEDLES PICKED UP
- 121 DOSES OF LIFE SAVING NALOXONE GIVEN



SOME PORTRAITS FROM THE MAKWA PATROL SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN; CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES AND YOUTUBE PAGE FOR THE FULL PORTRAITS AND VIDEOS

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

KCA's efforts to support Healing and Wellness, Family Wellbeing and Community Support Worker programs are done through coordinating funding and services for workers in our affiliated communities.

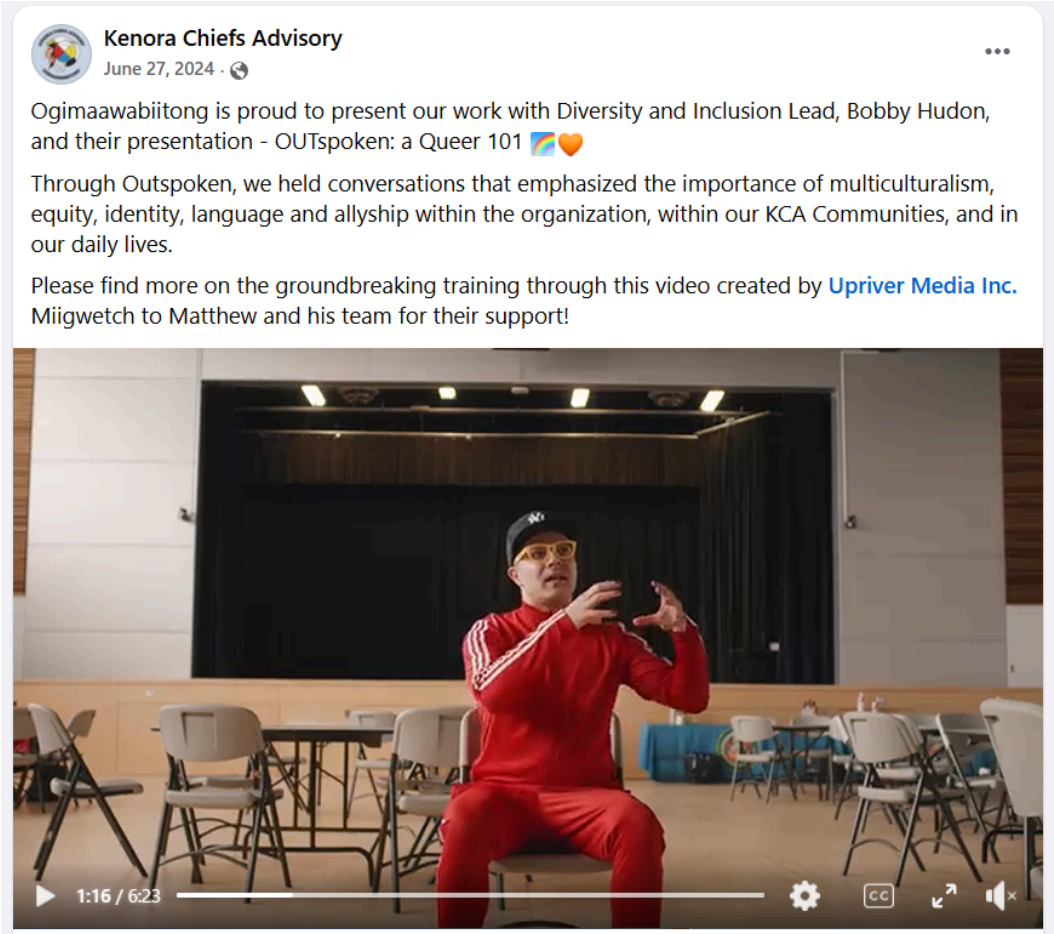
The Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy (IHWS) programs include Indigenous Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program, IHWS- Mental Health Program and Community Wellness Worker Programs.

The Family Well-Being Program supports 6 of our affiliated First Nation Communities with orientation for new staff, assistance with reports, hosting network meetings and organizing training. Network meetings allowed for sharing of program ideas and successes in the different communities, such as a youth gathering organized by the youth and healing through art events that brought families together.

The Community Support Services (CSS) program empowers vulnerable community members—including the elderly, disabled, and those needing post-operative support to live independently in their homes.
This year, the CSS program achieved full operational activation and focused on embedding essential in-home care services, building local team capacity, and ensuring culturally safe support is accessible.

THE IHWS FIRST NATION COMMUNITY STAFF PARTICIPATED IN 19 WORKSHOPS/TRAINING/RESOURCE SESSIONS; 6 NETWORK MEETINGS AND ATTENDED THE IHWS 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND THE HEALTHY BABIES, HEALTH CHILDREN CONFERENCE.

36 COMMUNITY VISITS FOR CLIENT ASSESSMENTS AND TRAINING, 32 IN-DEPTH CLIENT ASSESSMENTS, 15 STAFF TRAINING SESSIONS, INCLUDING CASE-MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION FOR STAFF AND ASSISTANCE WITH RECRUITMENT OF 5 NEW HIRES TO WORK IN THE AREAS OF HOME MAKERS, HOME SUPPORT AND COORDINATION



KCA PROUDLY SUPPORTED STAFF LEARNING THROUGH THE OUTSPOKEN: A QUEER 101 STAFF TRAINING SERIES, FACILITATED BY BOBBY HUDON. THIS SERIES WAS FUN, REFLECTIVE AND REINFORCED OUR COMMITTMENT TO LIFTING UP THE 2SLGBTQI+ COMMUNITY THROUGH ALL OUR WORK.



ENVIROMENTAL HEALTH

Food Safety
This past fiscal year saw the launch of the provincially recognized food safety training program for communities. This training helps ensure safe food handling practices and it is being delivered in ways to adapt to the needs of communities. This initiative has been well received and generated a lot of interest.

Water Quality
This past fiscal year, we continued working with community water treatment plant operators and leadership to do water quality sampling. Work was done to improve systems in some communities and to mitigate risks related to lead and water-borne pathogens.

FROM AUGUST TO MAY, EH HELD 9 FOOD SAFETY COURSES AND AWARDED 65 CERTIFICATES WITH AN 84.4% PASS RATE.

147 INSPECTIONS
46 COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS
17 HEALTH PROMOTION EVENTS
2,343 WATER SAMPLES ANALYZED

WE STRIVE TO ACCOMMODATE PEOPLE OF ALL LEARNING LEVELS AND HAVE BEEN ADAPTING THE PROGRAM BASED ON FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS. IN ONE OF OUR SESSIONS, THERE WAS A STUDENT WHO HAD DIFFICULTY READING. IN THAT CASE, THE STUDENT WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR ALL THE EXAM QUESTIONS READ OUT LOUD AND ANSWER VERBALLY. THIS STUDENT HAD LISTENED ATTENTIVELY THROUGHOUT THE COURSE AND SHOWED A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF FOOD SAFETY PRINCIPLES. THEY ENDED UP SUCCESSFULLY ATTAINING THEIR CERTIFICATION ON THE FIRST TRY.

MINO-BIMAADIZIWIN



“Mino-Bimaadiziwin represents living in balance and harmony — with oneself, others, the land, and the Creator. It is about walking in a good way, guided by love, respect, honesty, courage, wisdom, humility, and truth. Through these teachings, we strive to live the good life and support one another in our collective wellness journey” – KCA's Elders Council

Fostering the Good Life, and connecting people to culture is key to enhancing health and wellbeing for all of us. Through KCA’s Cultural Advisors and Cultural Coordinators, KCA staff receive cultural training and teachings, and access to ceremony to help them better help others, and to learn about their connection to the world.

CULTURAL ADVISORS



BILLY BOUCHER

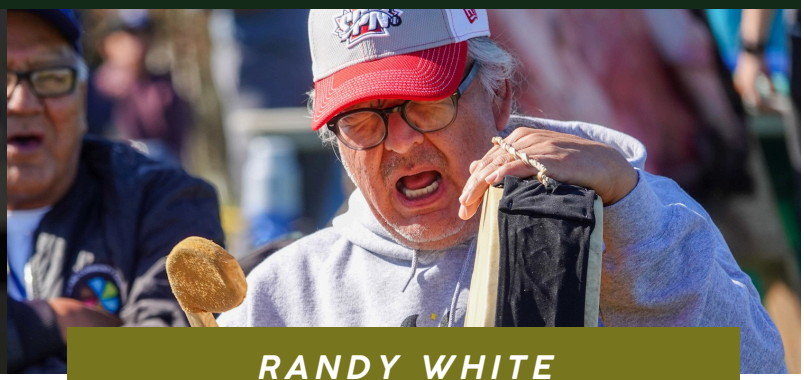
Culture, connection, and ceremony have been instrumental in helping our communities and its members achieve a level of wellness that is aligned to their belief system. For most of my career with Ogimaawabiitong, I have endeavored to support the pathway to ceremony, land, and language with the end goal being that our community members have a barrier-free access to activities that promote wellness and connection to Creation.

Through the spirit of collaboration with Kenora Justice Centre we have been able to reconnect youth to their spirit names, provided guidance in understanding their role regarding their Dotem(Clan) Teachings, and created sacred space for members of the Kenora vulnerable population to be able to seek Healing, stability, and support through ceremony.

Partnering with Grand Council Treaty #3, Ogitichita Frances Kavanaugh and their cultural team members, we have been able to create ceremonial space for Police Officers from OPP and Treaty Three Police Services to be able to address the challenges of their respective positions serving the community of Kenora and our local First Nations.

As a Cultural Advisor of Ogimaawabiitong, I have the privilege of supporting our Staff, KCA Communities and respective Leadership, and our KCA community members. This support is guided by our Mandate which is the 7 Grandfather/Grandmother Teachings and Ceremonies and this support has been the foundation of our work, at present.

CULTURAL COORDINATORS WORK CLOSELY WITH OUR ELDER'S ADIVSORY COUNCIL, THEY CARE FOR SHAWANOONG BINESEEK AND PROVIDE CULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES SUCH AS SMUDGING, FACILITATING AND PROVIDING CEREMONY, AND THEY PROVIDE CULTURALLY CENTRED CARE TO CLIENTS.
192 INTERACTIONS & EVENTS TOOK PLACE THIS YEAR



RANDY WHITE

Boozhoo, Gebeyaasang dizhinikaaz, Bizhiw dotem.
My English name is Randy White and I belong to the Lynx Clan.

As a cultural advisor with Ogimaawabiitong, my role is ensure that KCA work from a place that is safe, culturally appropriate and follow the traditions of the Anishinaabe. We do this by supporting staff, clients and families by connecting to knowledge keepers, healers and teachers.

Healing is the foundation of the work of Ogimaawabiitong. Ogimaawabiitong and Ogimaabinesiik guide the spiritual healing that we do. Helping our clients, families seek spiritual healing, to find life, Bimaatiziwin.

Knowledge that resides with our Knowledge Keepers, Elders and Healers guides and informs not only what to do, but how to do the work.
An Elder once shared with me that our ways were visioned by the ancient ones. The ancient ones set in place how we should live with Earth (Aki) and the spirituality of all things. We were given gifts by the creator to help us maintain the ways of living, and giving thanks for life. These gifts are our strength, they are our directions into the future. If we can continue to live and remember these original ways we will never lose who we are.

Anishinaabe people have alot to offer to today's society; the principles of peace, of kindness, and of respect which are so needed in today's world. Each and every one of us as workers and as humans, we carry medicine; we carry goodness and we carry the potential to help somebody.
It is so important to bring Goodness in Spirit and goodness in how we are with others – Kishe'aapiziwin

ANNUAL FALL HARVEST

As Anishinaabe people, the Fall Harvest is a time to give thanks for the gifts of the season and to honour the connection between the land, our spirit and community. In Fall 2024, staff carried this teaching forward by planning and hosting the Fall Harvest gathering at the Makate Waagamichiwanang Gakinaa'amaatiwin Youth & Family Wellness Camp.

Schools, staff, clients, and community members joined together for a day filled with laughter, learning, healing, and gratitude. Teachings on falconry, moose deer fish duck goose harvesting and food preparation, traditional medicines - along with traditional games made the gathering both meaningful and memorable.

The Fall Harvest reminds us of the importance of sharing knowledge, while honouring the spirit of the season as we renew our collective sense of identity and belonging.



3 Days of Culture and Celebration at Fall Harvest

October 14, 2024 | News

Caption: Randy White shares his renderings on the Ogimaa [...]

CHECK OUT THE NEWS SECTION ON OUR WEBSITE FOR THIS ARTICLE, AND MORE.













HEALING YOUR SPIRIT POWWOW

In June 2024, KCA hosted the 5th Annual Healing Your Spirit Pow-Wow in Wauzhusk Onigum Nation, bringing together families and communities from across our territory and beyond. We came together to honour the survivors of Indian Residential School (IRS) and promote our ongoing, collective healing through ceremony and togetherness. Miigwech to the Drums, and song carriers, their families; we saw over 290 dancers and 600 visitors per day. The event was one of celebration,
prayer, and of course, dance.

SOME ADVERTISING DONE FOR THE POWWOW

.



WAUZHUSHK ONIGUM - POWWOW ISLAND - JULY 26, 27, 28 2024

Grand Entry
Friday @ 7PM
aturday @ 1PM & 7PM
Sunday @ 1PM

Host Drums
awanoong Banaise'Seek
Ogichidaa Drum

Invited Drums
Whitefish Jr's
Young Spirit
Whitefish Bay
All drums welcome!

Emcee's
Gary Smith
(Naicatchewenin FN)
Ricky White
laotkamegwanning FN)

Dance Specials
Women's Jingle Dress
Women's Traditional
Women's Fancy Shawl/Woodland

Men's Grass
Men's Traditional/Woodlands

Youth - Boy's Traditional
Youth - Boy's Grass
Youth - Jingle Dress
Youth - Fancy Shawl

50 Plus- Women's Combined and Men's Combined

Entrants for Dance Specials must be present for all Grand Entries
+
Supper will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday

VENDORS AND CAMPERS MUST HAVE THEIR OWN POWER SOURCE

Prizes
All Adult Categories:
1st: $800
2nd: $600
3rd: $400

Youth Categories:
1st: $200
2nd: $150
3rd: $100

IRSS Acknowledgem
Join us on Saturday, July 27, 2024, at 3 pm honor the individuals and families affected b the residential schoo system.

For more informati
Karen Foster
807-444-6953

kenorachiefs.org Kenora Chiefs Advisory kenorachiefs

WAUZHUSHK ONIGUM - POWWOW ISLAND - JULY 26, 27, 28 2024

MIIGWETCH TO OUR POWWOW SPONSORS

FSET
Dingwall Ford KENORA
MNP
HYATT house Winnipeg
Bell
OLG
Wilson's business solutions
Weyerhaeuser
Teekca's Boutique

Other Sponsors and Donors:

Lake of the Woods Sports Headquarters
Season's
Northern Sounds & Systems
Bestway
Hardware Co.
Kings Furniture
Q Power
Jolen Opyc
Inn of the forks

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MIIGWETCH TO OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS IN SUMMER 2024 FOR YOUR AMAZING SUPPORT.

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE MADE AN IMPACT BY BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE MINO BIMADIZIWIIN (THE GOOD LIFE).

POWWOW PICS
















PHOTOS FROM THE 2024 HEALING YOUR SPIRIT POWWOW

PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



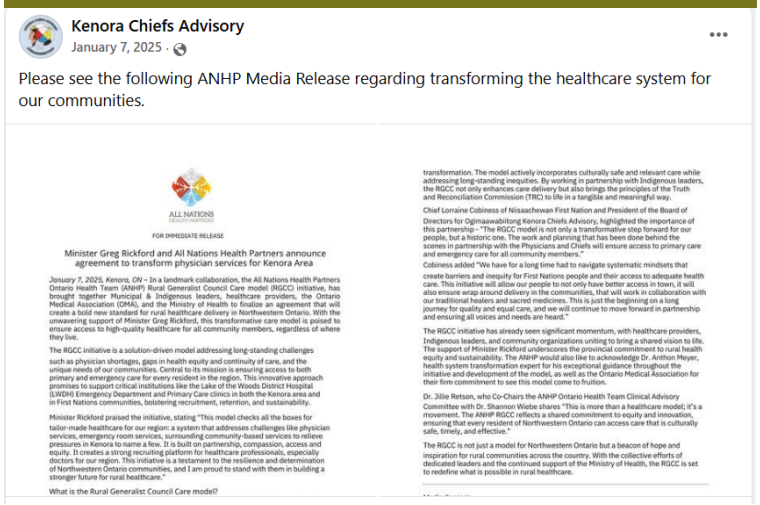
OGIMAAWABIITONG BECAME AN OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF KENORA PRIDE – A VOLUNTEER-RUN ORGANIZATION WHICH CELEBRATES THE DIVERSITY OF KENORA'S TWO-SPIRIT, LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER COMMUNITY – AT KENORA CITY HALL ON JUNE 14, 2024.

PHOTO: OGIMAAWABIITONG STAFF JOIN KENORA PRIDE CO-CHAIR KADDIE VAUGHAN AT KENORA CITY HALL ON JUNE 14, 2024.

... CONTINUED HIGHLIGHTS

Through a host of meaningful and engaging partnerships, KCA works to enhance services and supports through health transformation efforts. This health transformation initiative strives to make the entire health care system more accessible, safe and relevant for First Nation people in our area. Some key partners in this endeavor include the Lake of the Woods District Hospital, the All Nations Health Partners, the Federal and Provincial Governments, Leadership from our affiliated First Nations communities and a team of local health care providers.

LOCAL JOINT PRESS RELEASE BY THE ANHP AROUND THE RURAL GENERALIST MODEL



Kenora Chiefs Advisory
January 7, 2025 ·

Please see the following ANHP Media Release regarding transforming the healthcare system for our communities.

ALL NATIONS HEALTH PARTNERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minister Greg Rickford and All Nations Health Partners announce agreement to transform physician services for Kenora Area

January 7, 2025, Kenora, ON – In a landmark collaboration, the All Nations Health Partners Ontario Health Team (ANHP) Rural Generalist Council Care model (RGCC) initiative, has brought together Municipal & Indigenous leaders, healthcare providers, the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), and the Ministry of Health to finalize an agreement that will create a bold new standard for rural healthcare delivery in Northwestern Ontario. With the unwavering support of Minister Greg Rickford, this transformative care model is poised to ensure access to high-quality healthcare for all community members, regardless of where they live.

The RGCC initiative is a solution-driven model addressing long-standing challenges such as physician shortages, gaps in health equity and continuity of care, and the unique needs of our communities. Central to its mission is ensuring access to both primary and emergency care for every resident in the region. This innovative approach promises to support critical institutions like the Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH) Emergency Department and Primary Care clinics in both the Kenora area and in First Nations communities, bolstering recruitment, retention, and sustainability.

Minister Rickford praised the initiative, stating "This model checks all the boxes for tailor-made healthcare for our region: a system that addresses challenges like physician services, emergency room services, surrounding community-based services to relieve pressures in Kenora to name a few. It is built on partnership, compassion, access and equity. It creates a strong recruiting platform for healthcare professionals, especially doctors for our region. This initiative is a testament to the resilience and determination of Northwestern Ontario communities, and I am proud to stand with them in building a stronger future for rural healthcare."

What is the Rural Generalist Council Care model?

transformation. The model actively incorporates culturally safe and relevant care while addressing long-standing inequities. By working in partnership with Indigenous leaders, the RGCC not only enhances care delivery but also brings the principles of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to life in a tangible and meaningful way.

Chief Lorraine Cobiness of Niisaachewan First Nation and President of the Board of Directors for Ogimaawaabiitong Kenora Chiefs Advisory, highlighted the importance of this partnership - "The RGCC model is not only a transformative step forward for our people, but a historic one. The work and planning that has been done behind the scenes in partnership with the Physicians and Chiefs will ensure access to primary care and emergency care for all community members."

Cobiness added "We have for a long time had to navigate systematic mindsets that create barriers and inequity for First Nations people and their access to adequate health care. This initiative will allow our people to not only have better access in town, it will also ensure wrap around delivery in the communities, that will work in collaboration with our traditional healers and sacred medicines. This is just the beginning on a long journey for quality and equal care, and we will continue to move forward in partnership and ensuring all voices and needs are heard."

The RGCC initiative has already seen significant momentum, with healthcare providers, Indigenous leaders, and community organizations uniting to bring a shared vision to life. The support of Minister Rickford underscores the provincial commitment to rural health equity and sustainability. The ANHP would also like to acknowledge Dr. Anthon Meyer, health system transformation expert for his exceptional guidance throughout the initiative and development of the model, as well as the Ontario Medical Association for their firm commitment to see this model come to fruition.

Dr. Jillie Retson, who Co-Chairs the ANHP Ontario Health Team Clinical Advisory Committee with Dr. Shannon Wiebe shares "This is more than a healthcare model; it's a movement. The ANHP RGCC reflects a shared commitment to equity and innovation, ensuring that every resident of Northwestern Ontario can access care that is culturally safe, timely, and effective."

The RGCC is not just a model for Northwestern Ontario but a beacon of hope and inspiration for rural communities across the country. With the collective efforts of dedicated leaders and the continued support of the Ministry of Health, the RGCC is set to redefine what is possible in rural healthcare.

THE RURAL GENERALIST COUNCIL CARE (RGCC) MODEL

Working alongside partners at Lake of the Woods District Hospital (LWDH), Sunset Country Family Health Team (SCFHT), and Waasegiizhig Nanaandawe'iyewigamig (WNHAC), the group successfully negotiated the Rural Generalist Council Care (RGCC) model for physician remuneration and service delivery with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA). This includes physician services in 10 First Nations from the Kenora area. At maturity, this model represents a multi-million dollar investment in physician services, advancing a more sustainable, recruitable, and equitable approach to care delivery across the All Nations Health Partners (ANHP) region. Special acknowledgement to the dedication of Board President, Chief Lorraine Cobiness for her strong advocacy as a member of the Negotiations team.



KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

🏥 ***7 FIRST NATIONS SERVED AND 8 COMMUNITY CLINIC SITES***

👩‍⚕️ ***8 PHYSICIANS DELIVERING PRIMARY CARE SERVICES***

💰 ***$28 MILLION MINISTRY OF HEALTH INVESTMENT AT MODEL MATURITY***

💻 ***VIRTUAL ON-CALL SUPPORT PROGRAM CONNECTING FIRST NATIONS NURSES AND NPS WITH PHYSICIANS***

🌅 ***AFTER-HOURS AND WEEKEND VIRTUAL ON-CALL SERVICE UNDER DEVELOPMENT FOR 2025/26***



YouTube

www.kenorachiefs.org