

Spring 2023

# ALICIPSUMQUI

News on the health and well-being of our communities



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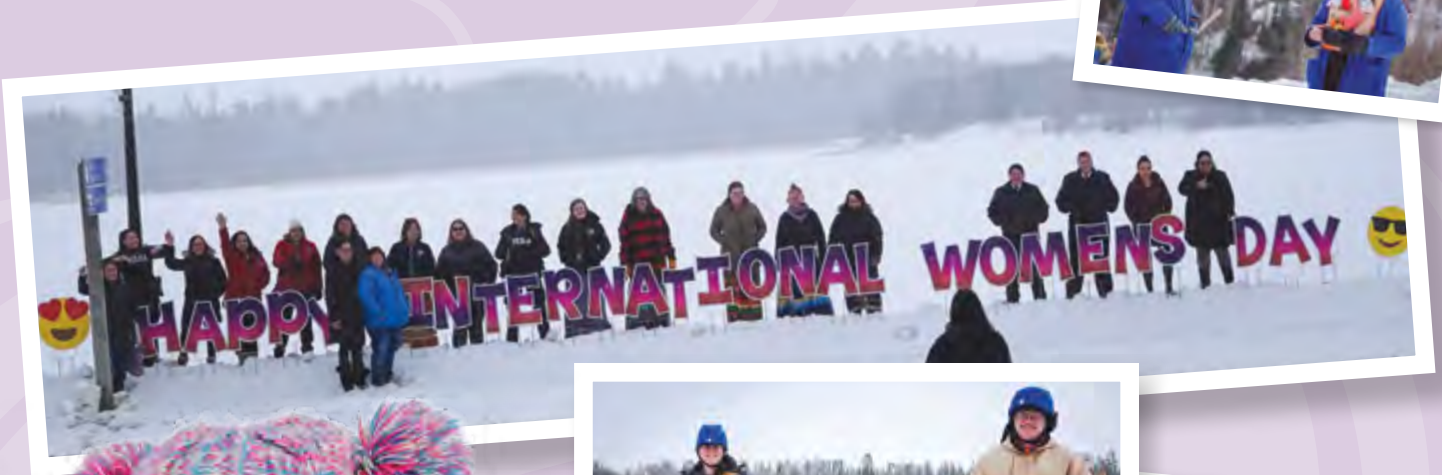
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# spring photo gallery

A snapshot look at some of the things the KCA departments have been up to through the past season in our communities.





# Transfer of Leadership Ceremony

*On April 4th, Ogimaawabiitong staff, local Indigenous leadership and members of partner organizations, gathered inside the Round House of Wauzhushk Onigum Nation to celebrate the transfer of leadership between former KCA Executive Director, Joe Barnes, and current ED Jennifer Dreaver. There was song, dance and lots of food to celebrate the occasion.*

**> Watch for the next issue of ALICIPSUMQUI where we will feature our new Executive Director, Jennifer Dreaver.**



**Special moments from the transfer ceremony. Staff and community members had the opportunity to greet and thank Joe and Jenn for their hard work and dedication to the organization and the communities.**







Photo Credit: Greg Rickford - Facebook

# Grand Opening of the Kenora Justice Centre

*In early February, KCA staff along with members of the Ontario Government, Indigenous Leadership, members of the Ontario Court of Justice, and community partners, launched the grand opening of the Kenora Justice Centre.*

The Justice Centre, located in downtown Kenora in a building owned by Ogimaawabiitong, is designed to hold individuals accountable for their actions, while also providing community-led supports. Paving the way in wrap-around justice services, the Kenora Justice Centre delivers programs run by Indigenous-based organizations and mental health and addictions counsellors – addressing the root causes of crime.

On February 5th, the Kenora Chiefs Advisory Youth and Family Camp were proud to host Ogichidaa Francis Kavanaugh, Minister Greg Rickford, Chief Justice Lise Maisonneuve, Attorney General Doug Downey, and PA Brian Saunderson for a traditional welcoming ceremony. The following day, everyone was invited to the Kenora Justice Centre building for tours of the new facility.

**Left to Right: KJC Grand Opening tour group including: Grand Council Treaty#3 and Nishnawbe Aski Nation Elder, Barney Batise, The Honourable Doug Downey, Attorney General, The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development, Indigenous Affairs, The Honourable Aston Hall, Associate Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice, The Honourable Lise Maisonneuve, Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice, Her Worship Daphne Armstrong, Justice of the Peace, Northwest Region (OCJ), and KCA Elder Tommy Kejick.**

**Located in a building owned by the Kenora Chiefs Advisory, the Justice Centre is working with community partners and the Ontario Court of Justice to include:**

- A courtroom configured to support rehabilitation and encourage dialogue between individuals, judges, Elders, Crowns, duty/defence counsel, victims, police and members of the community

- An Elder/cultural liaison room for participants to work with on-site Elders and interpreters to create healing plans
- Access to on-site integrated social services to support individuals and families, such as housing, income supports, mental health, and employment
- A primary health-care room to support Indigenous-led health and treatment services
- A technology room to support participants who lack reliable access to internet services for court appearances, tribunal hearings or medical appointments
- Smudging is welcome in all Justice Centre spaces and a Community Room will prioritize opportunities for ceremony, workshops and training for all community partners

Photo Credit: Greg Rickford - Facebook



**Left to Right: Regional Grand Chief, Glen Hare, Her Worship Daphne Armstrong, Justice of the Peace, Northwest Region (OCJ), and The Honourable Greg Rickford, Minister of Northern Development, Indigenous Affairs.**

*“The Kenora Justice Centre has been created in collaboration with Elders and community to prioritize Indigenous-led healing and wellness for youth, young adults and their families. It represents a new path forward for our community.”*

**– Francis Kavanaugh, Ogichidaa, Grand Council Treaty #3**



**Traditional welcoming ceremony.**

Photo Credit: Greg Rickford - Facebook



# Visits to Horse Farm on the Rise

*The winter quarter was a record-breaking quarter for the horse farm having serviced over 2,000 visitors – that is 42% of the total visitors from 2022 in one quarter. The farm continues to offer 2 to 4 horse time, guided trail rides, equine-assisted learning, and family time appointments every day, 7 days a week.*

Kenora Association for Community Living (KACL), KCA Mental Health, and Right to Play continue to utilize the horses for small groups and one on one sessions with clients. They hosted many of the local schools such as Beaver Brae, Saint Thomas Aquinas, Kiizhik, Bimose, Washagamis Bay, Whitefish Bay's Baibombeh School and Grassy Narrows' Sakatchewan Anishinaabe School. Nechee Friendship Centre's education program along with WJS Canada's ACE program has also attended the farm with their students. The Ontario College of Social Worker Association and the local Scout Troop held functions at the horse farm in March. The Equine Team has also supported several Youth and Family Wellness Camp events such as Cultural Winter Days and

Winter Wellness Days with horse rides and visits. The farm saw over 1,000 people throughout these events.

In January, the farm welcomed a new horse to the herd and have named her Ogimaakwe, meaning "female leader or chief" in Anishinaabemowen. One of our rabbits, Booster, has also been visiting the residents at Pinecrest for some "Bunny Time" which has become quite popular. We continue to be well supported by the Bail Residency program doing odd jobs and maintenance at the horse farm on a weekly basis as well as drumming and singing to our horses. Keep a look out for our new arrivals of chickens and ducklings coming in May! The ducklings are currently being hatched by a local school.



**Our new horse, Ogimaakwe.**



*In January, the farm welcomed a new horse to the herd and have named her Ogimaakwe, meaning "female leader or chief" in Anishinaabemowen.*





# Niigaanniing Bimidiziwin Child Development Services

*The winter months were a very busy time for the Niigaanniing Bimaadiziwin Child and Youth Development Services team as they continued to provide rehabilitation and support to children, families and communities.*

The staff entered into the communities, seeing children one on one, and providing support services to families involved with NBDS. Clinicians continue to work with community schools and daycares to provide speech and language services, art therapy, and recreational therapy to children on an individual basis and in group settings.

Over this period, NBDS combined the Family Navigator and Infant Development Worker positions into one position, now called Child and Youth Development Support Worker. With this new change, workers will be assigned to fewer communities which will allow them to be present in their assigned community on a weekly basis rather than on a bi-weekly basis.

Family Group Facilitator, Kristen Langlais hosted an elder gathering in March. Elders from the KCA Elders Advisory were invited to attend. They shared their teachings and knowledge on traditional parenting and child-rearing. This information will be incorporated into the curriculum of a

parenting program that Kristen is currently working on which will be offered in the communities this fall. The elders have given their blessings and want to ensure that their knowledge is shared and taught to parents in their communities.

Unfortunately, in March, the team had to bid farewell to two staff members. Recreational Therapist, Jason Doetsch and NBDS Administrative Assistant, Alanna Grier, as they both relocated to British Columbia.

Based on their strategic planning for the NBDS Program, they decided that they would have a Professional Development Day for all NBDS staff on a quarterly basis. The day would be filled with not only an educational presentation but also a fun activity for staff. At KCA, there is a theme of “family.” Therefore, we decided to have a “Family Fishing Day” which also included a team-building exercise. Everyone enjoyed the day and is looking forward to the next one.



**Fun times at Family Fishing Day.**



*The Niigaanniing Bimidiziwin Child Development Services team has plenty planned for the coming season and are looking forward to new beginnings.*





# Bell Let's Talk Day 2023

*KCA staff participates in Bell Let's Talk initiatives in our community as part of the ongoing discussion on the importance of mental health in the workplace.*

Bell Let's Talk is a national initiative that helps promote mental health awareness, acceptance and action and KCA staff did their part on January 26 to do just that. Our staff, and dogs, spent part of their day supporting this important drive. We're proud of our participants who put KCA's mission into action. Bell donates 5 cents to mental health programs for every applicable text, local or long-distance call, social media filters, and posts using the #BellLetsTalk hashtag.



# KCA Program Updates



## Youth Hub

Through the winter months, the Kenora Youth Wellness Hub ran a group called “Alternatives” which was an 8-week program for youth who wanted to reduce their substance use while surrounded by safe and positive support within the community. The group would meet once a week to share a meal, engage in an educational session/workshop, and then explore alternatives to substance use through recreational programming. The Hub also saw a significant increase in youth accessing the clinical services.

This season, the Hub managed to achieve a full staffing complement with two new staff additions in February: Madison our Drop-In Coordinator, and Mareanna our Peer Support Worker. They were also able to purchase 24 pairs of winter boots for youth in need.

The Hub has been wrapping up the grant that was received for the purpose of providing individuals in the community with support in obtaining a birth certificate. Identifying and processing birth certificate applications was a collaborated effort alongside LEAP, Northwest Legal Clinic, Saakate House, and staff from different programs under Kenora Chief’s Advisory. This grant was a huge success and was able to support around 160 individuals with obtaining birth certificates. The

collaborative is currently exploring avenues to obtain funds to continue birth certificate support as this has proved to be an important service in our community.

## Right to Play

Right to Play Community Mentors ran hockey skills camps in Whitefish Bay, Grassy Narrows, at the Youth and Family Wellness Camp and at the Kenora Recreation Centre over the March Break. The goal was to help youth better their hockey and skating skills. The team had 46 youth participate in total. Volleyball Nights wrapped up in March with the championship game set to happen as this newsletter is being made. The league began back in November with 108 people registered! The team would also like to remind everyone that RTP programming is still running.

## Environmental Health

March 22nd was World Water Day and the Environmental Health Team at KCA wants to recognize the importance of fresh water and source water protection. It is also important for bringing awareness to the health inequities people all around the



world face when it comes to accessing clean water. Aside from being a universal need, water also holds a very important place in ceremonies and Indigenous culture.

On March 22nd, the Environmental Health Team began their 2nd Annual World Water Day ceremony by inviting our Elders and other participants to the Ogimaawabiitong office. The morning was spent warming up for the event around our drum with coffee, treats, and good conversation. Rushing River was chosen as the preferred site for the ceremony since there was open water and a large staging area where a fire could be built. Transportation was prepared and they were soon on their way.

At the direction of our Elders, a fire was built, and water was collected in a copper cup for the ceremony. Elder Allen White opened by offering his prayers to the surrounding spirits. After the prayer, Elder Susan Fobister led the water ceremony, offering her own words of wisdom and knowledge to everyone. She blessed the cup of water from Rushing River, and everyone was invited to partake in the cleansed water before it was released back into its source. After the water ceremony had concluded, everyone was transported back to the office where a warm lunch awaited. Guests were engaged and interested throughout the event, and it was a great learning opportunity for everyone involved.





# #Loveyourselfday

Registered Dietician and Diabetes Educator, Melissa Payne, organized a wonderful event on March 9th to celebrate #LoveYourselfDay. Community schools gathered at the Youth and Family Wellness Camp to focus on self-compassion, skill building, self-love, and coping. The event was planned alongside many other organizations and highlighted all the services available. There was self-care bingo, many presentations, self-love crafts, cultural teachings, horse time and more. The focus was on building self-esteem and confidence in the youth. Some of the presentations talked about paying attention to the way we talk about ourselves and our bodies. They hope to make this event a yearly activity.



## Gambling Addictions Awareness

The Gambling Addictions Awareness Program (GAAP) is looking forward to the next few months as summer is quickly approaching. This spring, GAAP delivered a 3-day Youth problem gambling training where they met other indigenous Youth from Australia who were taking part in a problem gambling research study using land base activities as part of their research project. They were invited to take part in the construction of a sweat lodge, medicine walk, and other land base activities such as canoeing, and hiking. The 3-day problem gambling training focused on a 2023-2024 Youth Ambassador's work plan, Terms of Reference, and problem gambling and responsible gambling resource development. NNADAP workers took part in a 3-Day problem gambling training as well and obtained certifiable hours in "Basic Knowledge and How Gambling Works," "Concurrent Disorders," and "Screening, Assessments, and Referrals." Overall, the team was happy to spend loads of time in community and looks forward to another successful quarter.

## Wiisokodaadig Peer Helpers

In February and March, the WPH Coordinator and Youth Engagement worker took on the special project funded by Laidlaw Foundation providing youth-led, land-based activities to KCA's member communities. Youth-led and Elder supported land-based/cultural activities such as pow-wow dance demonstration, storytelling, fishing and fish harvest, fire making, and snowshoeing were some of the activities held in communities in the months of February and March.

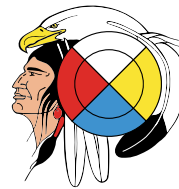
## 2nd Annual Cultural Services Winter Days

The KCA Cultural Services Department held their 2nd Annual Winter Days at the Youth and Family Wellness Camp from January 16 to 19 and each day was filled with different fun and educational cultural activities. Over 500 youth and community members came out to participate in the events. Knowledge Keepers were present to

share moon teachings, Anishinaabemowin, star knowledge and legends, winter survival skills and more. There were even teams of dog sleds present, and Jyles Copenace was present with his team of birds to teach all about the art of Falconry. It was an awesome four days of on-the-land connecting.



[kenorachiefs.org](http://kenorachiefs.org)



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