

Background

The Native Women's Transition Centre Inc. (NWTC) has been providing housing to Aboriginal women and their children for over 30 years. NWTC is the only organization of its type in Manitoba that is dedicated to the safe residential support of Aboriginal women and their children. In 2006 NWTC was recognized by Amnesty International as a Best Practices Model for Indigenous Women's Safe Houses.

Kihiw Iskewock (Eagle Women) Transitional Housing for Women Exiting Correctional Facilities will enable NWTC to adapt its programs and staffing to address the more intensive needs of this demographic group under one roof. Many of the women who exit correctional services facilities return to the community without the adequate supports and resources for a successful outcome. These women face multiple barriers and challenges such as obtaining safe, affordable housing, employment and accessing culturally relevant programs and supports. As a result they often end up returning to the lifestyle/ behaviours that first put them at risk of being in conflict with the law.

It is important to note that, like its other two locations, the new NWTC residence will be entirely residential—there will be no drop-in. The housing is not emergency or transient in nature but rather long-term stay with the resident an active partner in the decision as to when they are ready to move on to independent living.



Thank you to the generous support of our community funders and partners

Funders

- Manitoba Housing
- The Winnipeg Foundation

Partner Organizations

- The Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba, and CLOUT Coalition, comprised of:
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre
- Wolseley Family Place
- Community Education Development Association (CEDA)
- Andrews Street Family Centre
- North End Women's Centre
- Ndinawemaaganag Endaawad
- Rossbrook House
- Wahbung Abinoonjiiag



For information regarding referral and admissions, please contact **Gloria Nobiss** and/or **Melody Stevenson** at **1-204-989-8240**



Welcome to Kihiw Iskewock (Eagle Women)

Transitional Housing for Women Exiting Correctional Facilities



Kihiw Iskewock
Eagle Women Lodge

Welcome to Kihiw Iskewock Transitional Housing for Aboriginal Women

Kihiw Iskewock (Eagle Women) is a new innovative residential facility that works to support Aboriginal women to break the cycle of involvement with the law, and to provide them with the opportunities to reclaim their place, their strength, their children and their lives.

Addressing the urgent housing needs faced by women exiting or recently released from correctional institutions, Kihiw Iskewock offers a range of resident-centred healing programs to help reduce women's risk for relapse, all the while supporting their reintegration into the community and their reunification with their children.

Goals

- To begin to heal the vicious cycle of inter-generational family dysfunction experienced by many Winnipeg Aboriginal families.
- To mitigate the current situation wherein most incarcerated women are released.
- Assisting the individuals to find appropriate, affordable independent living housing.



Overview of the Facility

Kihiw Iskewock offers 15 self-contained rental units for Aboriginal women and their children, comprised of 2 bedroom, 3 bedroom and 4 bedroom units. The facility will also contain amenity spaces including a teaching kitchen, children's playroom, literacy room, multi-purpose space, healing room, and office space.

Women entering transitional housing have histories that are complex and traumatic. Arriving with limited life and social skills and suffering trauma, women participate in in-house programming, build their capacity to care for themselves, parent their children, further their education and/or become employed. Many women need to be reunited with their children who are in foster care.

Here, mothers and children are supported in rebuilding their relationships and resolving family issues.

Support Programs

- Family reunification supports to regain children, including dealing with the child and family services systems;
- Support in dealing with government processes, such as obtaining personal identification, economic assistance, etc.;
- Continued support to develop and enhance practical living skills that serve to build confidence and self-esteem;
- Employment development and training supports through sister programming such as the Centre for Aboriginal



Human Resources Development and Taking Charge!;

- Practical assistance to find adequate, permanent housing in locations that are positive places to raise children;
- Support to find real employment that begins with basic literacy and academic upgrading, computer literacy, and job search skills;
- Individual trauma counselling, when ever needed and for whatever length of time—respectful time; and,
- Access to addictions support groups.

Eligible Participants

- Women who are exiting and recently released from correctional institutions, including parolees.
- Women who would be eligible to serve community sentences if they had an address to which they could be released.
- Other women in conflict with the law or at risk of being in conflict with the law.
- In particular, the above women who have children who are in foster care.

