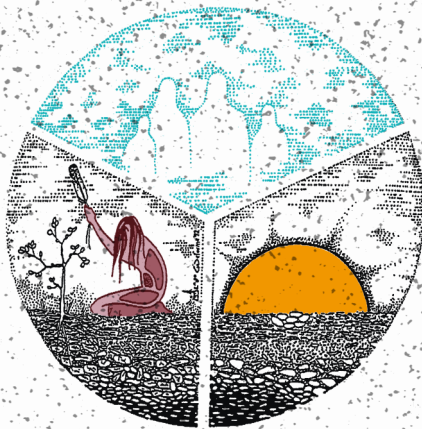


Native
Women's
Transition
Centre Inc.



38th Annual Report
2016 / 2017



Mission and Vision

The Native Women's Transition Centre is first and foremost a home for native women and their children. The Centre exists to support women who have been victimized; either in their interpersonal relationships or through systemic neglect and who are left without the resources to independently make changes they feel are necessary.

Native Women's Transition Centre believes women and children have the right to:

Dignity, Respect, and Caring

Make choices for themselves which affect their daily lives

Live in an environment that nurtures and confirms Native Identity and cultural values

Our program and service philosophy is to strengthen and support Native Women to become self-sufficient.

Board List

Tammy Christensen – Chairperson

Trudy Martens – Treasurer

Rosie O'Connor – Member

Tannyce Cook – Member

Susan Swan – Member

Rachel Charette – Vice Chairperson

Chantal Fiola – Secretary

Velma Orvis – Member

Carla Kematch – Member

Gloria Nobiss – Staff Rep

Staff List

Annetta Armstrong
Tracy Noga
Jeanette Monkman
Maureen Campbell
Gloria Nobiss
Jen Boyle
Pam Olson
Danielle Rocher-Geurts
Leah Stavem
Rick Craine
Margaret Berthelette
Gabby Guimond
Rosemary Land
Lydia Bushie
Jenilyn Bacay
JoJo Sutherland
Denise Pelland
Loriann Tulk
Tracy Booth
Debbie Edmonds
Charmaine Gabriel
Eileen Kriskovic
Karen Thomas
Cynthia Courchene

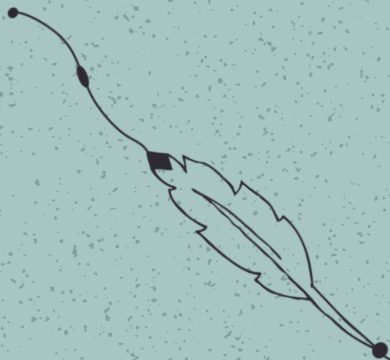
Pat Desjarlais
Linda Migwans
Rosalyn McKinney
Ocean Bruyere
Bonnie Thompson
Marlene Baker
Joyce Clyde
Jade Frost
Mary Ann Constant
Andrea Dunbar
Gina Settee
Edna Richards
Joan Hay
Ayaana Kapoor
Angela Myran
Josephine Fagnan
Caroline Clearsky
Robin Roberts
Desiree Buhler
Geniveve Sinclair
Julie Luner
Rachel Burant
Hope Fitzgerald

Auditor

Thornton and Company

Elders

Pat and Ovide Caribou
Velma Orvis



Chairperson Report

What an exciting year this has been for the Native Women's Transition Centre. Over the past year, the board, staff and women of Native Women's Transition Centre have had the opportunity to truly reflect upon the role of organization in the community; and how best we can continue to support Indigenous women and their children.

Under the leadership of our Executive Director, Annetta Armstrong and her amazing team, the Native Women's Transition Centre has evolved and flourished and taken on a new identity which respects the history of the organization while reflecting the continuum of care we provide to Indigenous women and their children today.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge all those who continue to support Native Women's Transition Centre including our community partners, donors and funders. Each of you, play a significant role in the ongoing success of the organization and contribute to the wellbeing of our community.

I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for commitment of the staff of Native Women's Transition Centre and my fellow board members who have demonstrated day in and day out their love for our community, our women and our children.

As I reflect upon Native Women's Transition Centre's journey over the past year I am inspired and know the future holds many amazing possibilities!

Tammy Christensen

Executive Director Report

2016-2017 has been a year of relationship building for Native Women's Transition Centre. We have worked hard to strengthen our relationships with Community; with Funders and most importantly with our Residents.

I am proud to celebrate that over this year our numbers have increased to an average of over 60 residents per month which includes many children. Yay!!

I have appreciated all the support that I have received from the Board of Directors. Thank you for sharing your time and insight. Our recently completed strategic planning session has given NWTC an exciting future to look forward to. Thanks for your continued commitment.

Thanks also to our Funders who continue to support us. There have been many changes for us in the past year, and I am confident that we are heading in the right direction.

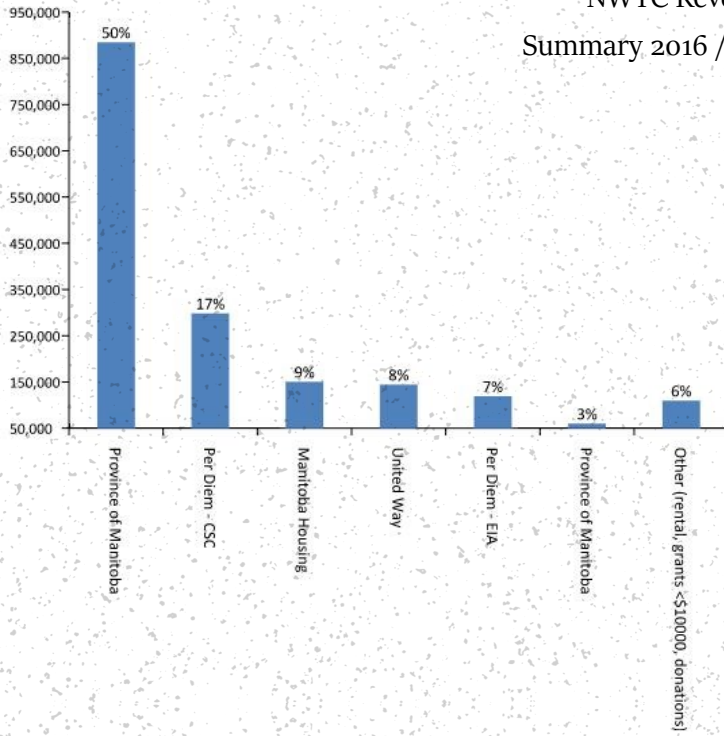
Thank you to all the Staff who are very hardworking, dedicated and compassionate. I appreciate the support and guidance you bring to our women in their difficult times. I also appreciate the laughs and encouragement you show when our women succeed. Knowing that every woman deserves to be nurtured and respected despite life circumstance allows us to work together to empower our women. We truly become family.

And once again I would like to honor the Women. Thank you for trusting NWTC to support you while you work on strengthening yourself. You are all very brave and I know we are all very proud of you. Keep it up.

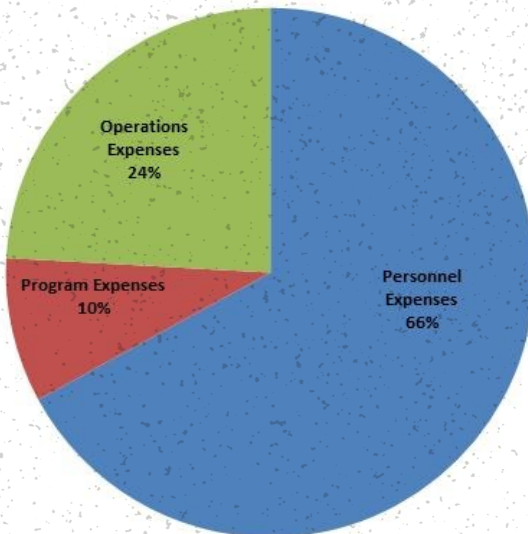
Respectfully

Annetta Armstrong

NWTC Revenues Summary 2016 / 2017



NWTC Expenses Summary 2016 / 2017

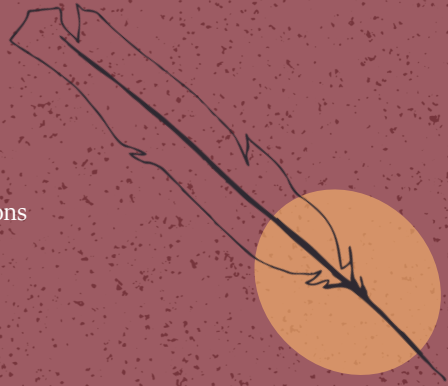


Funders

Province of Manitoba – Family Services and Labour
Province of Manitoba – Healthy Living
Province of Manitoba – Per-Diems EIA
Government of Canada – Per-Diems CSC
United Way of Winnipeg
Winnipeg Foundation
Manitoba Housing

Donations

Canada Helps – On-line donations
United Way – Direct Donor Designations
All Charities Campaign
Canadian Women's Foundation
Me-Dian Credit Union
Golden Door Geriatric Centre
United Way – Toronto & York Region
Shirley Strutt
Beverly Suek
Anonymous/Other



Facilities Overview

Native Women's Transition Centre Inc.

When it comes to strengthening families Native Women's Transition Centre has taken a leadership role. Since 1979, the Native Women's Transition Centre Inc. (NWTC) has worked to support and strengthen Aboriginal women and mothers on their journey of healing and recovery from family violence, addictions, intergenerational issues and institutionalization.

Since opening our doors, the Native Women's Transition Centre Inc. has offered a safe place to live for thousands of women and their children. All three sites encourage women to return to their cultural roots to meet life's challenges, build on personal gifts and strengths and undergo healing and transformation by learning together as women.

Respecting Traditional ways of being and deepening personal identity will always be at the heart of the Centre's philosophy.

NWTC Aikins

The Aikins site is a one year voluntary residential safe and supportive home for women who are committed to making significant life changes. Staffed 24/7 we have 21 beds in a communal setting.



We provide a full schedule of in-house programs for all the residents. Programs include Parenting, Relapse Prevention, Healthy Relationships, Addiction Awareness and Practical/Life Skills. All residents are required to attend counselling as well as

work closely with a Case Manager to identify short and long term goals. If there is any CFS involvement with children, NWTC is committed to working closely with our resident and their assigned worker towards identified goals.

The building includes a shared residential living room, a commercial kitchen, dining room, classroom, exercise room, children's play area, board room and a healing room which is available for smudging, praying or singing anytime. There are books and art supplies available. For added security, video cameras are located inside and outside the facility.



Memengwaa Place

Memengwaa Place is considered a second stage building that has 7 full apartment units. Available primarily to women who have completed a year at NWTC Aikins, Memengwaa provides an independent living setting for women who have children in their care. Residents are required to attend a weekly residents meeting and have access to supports and counselling if needed.

The building includes a resident house mom who is available to residents. For added security, video cameras are located inside and outside the facility.

Eagle Women's Lodge

Eagle Women's Lodge is a three story building consisting of 15 apartments for women who are involved in the Justice system. We are a unique program that offers a secure, safe and structured environment for up to 45 residents (including children) that is monitored by staff 24/7. Residents have access to individual and group counseling, support with in-house Case Managers, Addiction Counselors, Practical Skills Coordinator, Traditional Teachers and Elders who share teachings and ceremonies.



Case managers work closely with each resident to identify, define and achieve short and long term goals. Proactive relationships with collateral partners such as Correctional Services Canada (CSC), Manitoba Justice Probation Services, Child & Family Services, Employment & Income Assistance are made to ensure the needs of all the residents are being met; correctional plans or bail and probation orders are being adhered to; and individual case plans are being worked on.



The building includes a shared residential living room, a commercial kitchen, dining room and a beautiful healing room which is available for smudging, praying or singing anytime. There are books, sewing machines and art supplies available. For added security, video cameras are located inside and outside the facility.

Throughout the year NWTC has implemented some exciting initiatives such as a weekly Sharing Circle with special guest speakers who have shared their own inspirational journeys. NWTC would like to extend a thank you to Kirstin Bernas for organizing the following guest speakers:

Kevin Chief
Tina Keeper
Ivy Chaske
Marty Ford
Chantel Daniels
Dr. Marlyn Cook
Victim Services
Northend Women's Resource Centre

Dawn Gair
Troy Westwood
Melody Jones
Jackie Traverse
Tara Green
Dan Noordman
SEED Winnipeg

Josie Hill
Michael Hutchinson
Elspeth Castillo
Shauna MacKinnon
Stephanie Cerins
Laurel Centre
Mothering Project

My Success Story as a Resident

My name is Melissa Smith; I am a Dakota/Ojibway woman and the mother of five children, Zachrey (22), Alan-Lee (9), Aliyah (7), Izaias (6) and Liev (3).

My experiences in life have been very similar to many of my native sisters of this generation; I grew up with abuse and poverty. But what was different in my life was that I had many positive experiences to remember as well. I think those peaceful times, in childhood, were the most useful because it helped me cope with the more negative things going on at home, and essentially for the future.

As a young adult, I had one child to be responsible for, and a growing alcohol addiction. I had managed to live through a few domestic abusive relationships in my lifetime but my addiction matters only seemed to get worse. Between the ages of 30 and 34, I had three more children with a very abusive partner. I had tried many times to leave the relationship but always seemed to end up back with him. My self-worth and self-esteem were at an all-time low. I eventually left him and started a relationship with another toxic man; although he was not abusive in the physical or sexual way, he seemed to abuse me more in the emotional way. I had my last child with this man at the age of 36, and left him as well. Unfortunately, based on my poor decision-making, my children had been apprehended from me four times and the last time has been the most challenging but the also the most beneficial.

I would like to share my epiphany moment when I decided I was going to change my life. I was drinking at a party in October 2015, and I was talking with three old ladies, we laughed and thought we were having a good time. I started mingling with other people at the party and happened to look over at the old ladies and one was crying uncontrollably. That particular old lady was the mother of another person at the party. I asked this person why she was crying and she told me it was because she had left them all in care when they were kids. At that moment, my thinking changed. There was no way in hell I was going to drink my life away and do nothing to get my babies home. I could not spare the thought that they hung on to the hope of coming home. I had to act. I immediately quit drinking, went home and had the goal of entering into the Native Women's Transition Centre program.

My intake was November 2015. On my tour through the site, I had made three major promises to myself; Always to use the Healing Room when I needed. To deal with ALL my issues to the best of my ability. To ALWAYS listen to my spirit from this day on

In the beginning, I did everything for the sake of regaining my children in my care. Every day was a challenge. I was depressed without them. I never thought I could be happy without them. I smudged and prayed daily for courage and strength to go on. I cried almost every day. I was lonely, sad and SO filled with guilt and shame. Every visit was miserable for all of us. I had to be strong for my babies and that included taking their pain and loneliness too. I prayed for peace and love within their hearts, to believe they would come home because I seen and felt how hurt they were. But I knew one day, life would change for the better, I held on to that hope.

Even though life was tough at that time, I continued to persevere. With the all the help I received from NWTC and other residents, I started seeing my potential of success. I became a role-model and a leader to other residents and my self-esteem heightened. With that, I started actively advocating for myself and my children when it came to dealing with CFS. I started listening to the advice of people that genuinely cared about my well-being and the future of my family, which went a long way especially when just a few short months before I was not able to trust anyone. My situation with CFS was starting to look brighter. I was seeing my children more and I felt terrific!

Two years later, reunification is definite and I am truly happy. I have educational, spiritual and many other personal goals for myself and my children. I have matured into an honest, trustworthy and authentic woman. Today, I know I can cope positively with everyday challenges and look at every situation, good or bad, as an opportunity to learn from. Even though this all began under very bleak circumstances, it turned out brilliant!

I want to thank the Creator for providing me with the courage and strength to face my issues and everyone at NWTC for the support and love because without it, I would have not made it. I thank myself because I was the one who did it. And most importantly, I want to thank my children for always showing me unconditional love and patience. I love you always and forever, Zack, Alan, Aliyah, Zai and Liev.

Exciting Announcement!

In the spring of 2017 the Native Women's Transition Centre went through an extensive strategic planning process involving the Board of Directors, Staff, Residents, former Residents and former Staff. In this process, a five year plan was born as well as a re-branding strategy. In the upcoming year there are going to be some significant and exciting changes.

We are sunsetting the name Native Women's Transition Centre.

Welcome to the *Indigenous Women's Healing Centre*. We welcome the name as it is a clear description to our organizational purpose in all our sites.

Welcome also to North Star Lodge, our Aikins Street site. The North Star Lodge provides a starting point for direction, goals for the future and a starting point for change.

Our New Vision Statement:

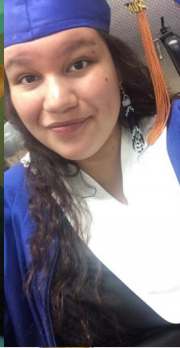
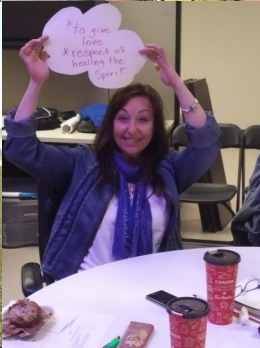
Confident women who are motivated and determined to achieve their life goals and find their belonging in our community.

Our New Mission Statement:

Indigenous Women's Healing Centre provides a safe place for women to live, heal and grow through our indigenous teachings, values and beliefs.

It is going to be a year of change and continued growth for us and we welcome the partnerships and support through this process.





Native
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Winnipeg, MB