



TAWAW

**"WELCOME, WE'VE MADE
SPACE FOR YOU HERE"**

MISKANAWAH
ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Tawaw – welcome, we have made space for you here.

2020/2021 was quite the unprecedented year and Miskanawah was no exception. Miskanawah underwent such growth, change and development in the throes of the global pandemic. With changing priorities in the Ministry of Children's Services, Miskanawah shifted to offering the Tawaw Family Resource Networks in place of our long-standing Home Visitation programs. With these shifts came the welcoming of new staff, a move into two brand-new locations, exciting program development, the welcoming of new children, youth and families into our community, and new and exciting partnerships and collaborations.

Like many other service organizations, we have also had to be nimbler than ever and pivot to online-service delivery, as well as strategizing how to continue offering in-person supports safely. I am proud to say that Miskanawah was able to continue serving our most in-need community members through face-to-face service delivery without a single COVID-19 outbreak.

As we look to the year ahead, with hope that the pandemic is behind us, we look forward to sharing the amazing development that our organization has undergone with the community once again. We can't wait to welcome all of our relations into our spaces in ceremony and celebration once more.

Hiy Hiy

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Redwood." The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kirby Redwood BA, MA, CEC
CEO
Oldman Rockboy

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Ok! Tansi!

Thank you for allowing me to share some greetings and observations from Miskanawah's Board of Directors. As Chairperson of the Board, I have been honoured to serve for another year with a dedicated group of Directors, our outstanding CEO Kirby Redwood, and his amazing team. The Board's role is to be stewards for all of Miskanawah's services and programs, ensuring Miskanawah has the resources required to carry out the important work of serving our community.

It has been our immense blessing to be able to support the awesome work of our management, staff, other front-line personnel, many volunteers and our amazing Elders. Their collective passion, compassion, energy and dedication to delivering excellence to our children, youth and families truly inspires us all.

This has been a very difficult year, challenging us at every turn.

The on-going coronavirus pandemic may have changed the way we delivered our many services and programs, but it did not change the care and attention we brought to our families. Miskanawah proved to be flexible and adaptable in its approach to ensuring we met the needs of our community.

We adopted the "hub and spoke" model of delivering services, ensuring we continued to work closely with our community and to col-

laborate with other organizations seeking our expertise. This model has proved to be effective and efficient and will probably remain a format for delivering services into the future.

Our community is still experiencing intergenerational trauma. Recent discoveries have caused our families and Elders even greater trauma. Miskanawah's recent Calling Them Home ceremony helped us on our collective and individual healing journeys. We know these journeys will take much time and energy. And Miskanawah is ready to support our community on this pathway.

Resilience is the word that comes to mind. Our management team led by Kirby set the example with tremendous day-to-day leadership. Our staff and front-line personnel demonstrated it each time they met with members of our community. Our Elders taught us and passed on valuable knowledge and ways of knowing about how to move forward. And our community showed us what true resilience is.

There is much work to be done both today and tomorrow.

We are guided by our understanding that all things are inter-connected. We are inspired by the love and strength of our community. And we are confident that together we will remain resilient.

Every Child Matters

Hiy Hiy

Bruce Randall, Chairperson

2020/21 Board Members

David Bruce Randall

Board Chair

Executive Director at Calgary Region Immigrant Employment Council (CRIEC)

Jennifer Findlay

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Alex Montiel *Secretary*
Director of Projects and Engagement at Pro Bono Law Alberta

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Cybermentor Indigenous Program Coordinator at the Schulich School of Engineering, University of Calgary

Sandi Morrisseau

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Indigenous Relations Advisor at Strad Inc.

Kaitlin Naglis

Director
Controller at Tsuu T'ina Nation

Lana Garcelon

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Robert (Bob) Grier *Director*
Business Development Manager at G4S Solutions

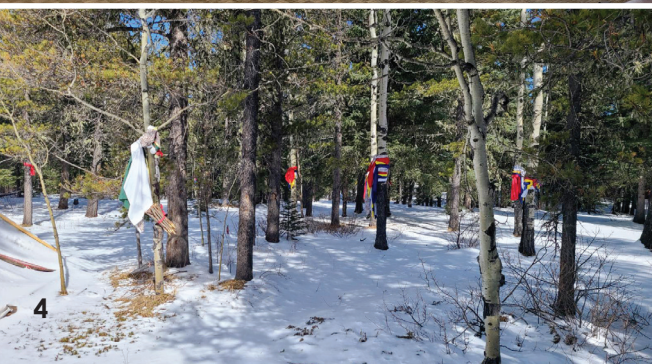


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OUR MISSION

Guided by Indigenous teachings, Miskanawah offers evidence-informed, supportive services to people in the Calgary area as they strengthen their circles of self, family, community and culture.

OUR VISION

Children, youth, and families thrive within a culturally responsive community.

OUR VALUES

CULTURE:

Miskanawah is firmly grounded in Indigenous cultures and strives to strengthen cultural identity for Indigenous people in the greater Calgary community by inviting the community to join us in traditions, ceremony and celebration.

RESPECT:

Miskanawah practices respect by honouring staff and client knowledge of themselves, encouraging the practice of honest and non-judgemental listening, and making space for cultural protocols from diverse backgrounds.

TRUST:

Miskanawah understands the responsibility of working with vulnerable populations, and seeks to meet and exceed that responsibility. Staff create and nurture trust by being reliable, responsive, and consistent with their colleagues and clients. Staff at all levels are encouraged to be innovative, express their ideas, and provide open and honest feedback.

COMMUNITY:

Miskanawah centres its practice in the establishment of community as a means of creating natural supports, both as supplement to and when transitioning out of formal/professional supports. Staff work to create community by sharing resources, creating partnerships, and participating in gatherings, celebrations and ceremony.

NIPSIS AND OSKIPMATSABK

Nipisis means “young willow” In Cree and was formerly known as Indigenous Mentor Homes. The program is designed to move Indigenous youth, many who have experienced multiple out-of-home placements, towards permanency within a culturally supportive home environment. Youth are supported in building a solid foundation of trust and mutual respect so that they may go out into the world as strong, healthy, positive, contributing individuals within the community.

100%

of youth are achieving goals in core areas of functioning

100%

of youth reported feeling safe

14

youth served

Oskipmatsabk supports Children's Services-involved youth who are in transition from living with their families, a foster home, a residential placement, or who present at risk on their own, to living independently. We work with youth towards community engagement, cultural supports, family connection, basic needs support and homelessness prevention.

23

Oskipmatsabk youth served

YOUNG BUFFALO

The Young Buffalo Program was designed for Indigenous youth between 12 and 17 who wanted to learn more about themselves, their culture and life skills through Circle of Courage teachings.

6

youth have made meaningful connections with an Elder

23

Participants

14

youth spent time with cultural mentors

“I learned a lot about my culture and I saw it in a positive light”

44

Virtual drop-in Elders Hours sessions through Diamond Willow Youth Lodge

HEALING LODGE

The Healing Lodge offers one-to-one and group therapeutic interventions as part of Miskanawah's comprehensive, integrated approach to addressing intergenerational trauma with children, youth, and families. This past year, as COVID-19 continues to have a negative impact on mental health, our Healing Lodge Team has grown and stepped up its efforts in supporting and building on the mental health supports offered to both clients and staff of Miskanawah, as well as pivoting to crisis support when needed.

"I have more confidence now since I started working with you. I'm not doubting myself anymore and I know now that I do not have to turn to alcohol."



DIAMOND WILLOW YOUTH LODGE

Diamond Willow Youth Lodge is a safe, welcoming place designed by young people, for young people. The lodge is a hub where youth connect with peers and participate in their own healing and well-being, while accessing a variety of programs and supports which combine cultural learning and self-discovery with health and wellness to foster creative expression, leadership development, and positive connections with peers, family, and in the community.



Our COVID-19 Response Funders and Supporters: United Way of Calgary and Area; Breakfast Clubs of Canada; The Calgary Foundation; Government of Canada - Indigenous Services Canada; Subway Canada; Gruman's Catering & Delicatessen; Staples Canada; Kids Up Front; Bell Canada; City of Calgary FCSS; and generous donations from community members



RE:VISION

The Re:Vision program supports Indigenous youth, ages 18-29, to find employment that meets their needs. The program offers ongoing support from pre through post-employment, through one-to-one mentorship in areas such as resume preparation, connection with employers, and interview practice. The program also works with employers in the Calgary area who are interested in better supporting the Indigenous community, by offering trainings and support on Indigenous cultures, intergenerational trauma, colonization, contemporary Indigenous experiences, and how to better support Indigenous employees in the workplace.



THE OSKAYAPEWIS PROJECT

The Oskayapewis Project engages youth who are at risk of involvement or re-involvement in crime. The program aims to enhance resilience and wellness by connecting youth with their own Indigenous identities, Elders, traditions and to the land through Oskayapewis and Wahkowitin teachings. Teachings are reinforced with creation stories, Laws and ceremony



ON-THE-LAND AND CULTURAL OFFERINGS

Connection to the land is an integral part of the Indigenous way of life that connects with the mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, and cultural identity of Indigenous peoples. Miskanawah's cultural and ceremonial offerings offer a strong foundation for families to practice their cultures, while being on the land. Elders and knowledge keepers share stories through oral teachings that have been passed down from generations. These compelling stories and narratives not only honour culture, respect for diversity, and individuality through healing, ceremony, language, and tradition, but reflect the impact of displacement and the historical events that took place in the last century.

Reconnecting with nature, attending ceremonies, and Elders' teachings are essential parts of strength, growth, and healing. Our land-based activities and programs offer children, youth, and families the support and opportunity for self-reflection, and to reconnect on a personal and spiritual level towards building healthy and resilient communities.

132

Pipe Ceremonies

2

Ceremonial Fasts

15

*men joined us in a
Healing Camp*

227

*Sweat Lodge
Ceremonies*

276

Talking Circles

18

*medical students from the Cummings School
of Medicine joined us for cultural teachings
and discussion on supporting Indigenous
peoples in healthcare settings*

17

youth and

23

Elders

*connected at the Okotok Indigenous River
Camp (offered in partnership between
Alberta Recreation and Parks Association,
Trellis and Miskanawah)*

"I'm really getting to know my culture. I have moved to different places across Alberta most of my life and in recent events, I've been brought into Children's Services. Their focus and definition of 'success' is far different from my own. With COVID, I have been working hard to connect with people and with my culture. Instead of people pushing me into what they think is best – according to Western values – COVID has actually encouraged my relationship with the Earth and with my culture."

Land of Dreams

In summer 2020, Miskanawah partnered with the Calgary Catholic Immigration Society (CCIS) to build the Land of Dreams project. The Project offers the unique opportunity to build connections between Indigenous peoples and newcomers through the development and cultivation of a community garden.

TAWAW FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORKS

CULTURAL OFFERINGS SPOKE

SISTERS IN CIRCLE

83

participants

"I **needed this group**, I missed the strength I got from all of you"

"Indigenous Motherhood has really helped me see how my own trauma affects my kids.

When you know better you do better and now I know how to do better"

TRADITIONAL DANCE

117

participants

CREE LANGUAGE CLASSES

Beginner Classes:

149

participants

(42 in person and 107 online participants)

"I enjoy the smaller group this year more cohesive with learning. When I hear the **Cree language it reminds me of my Dad** when I come class it is always a good feeling within and to be with my sisters to learn."

AAWAAKSI TOWATA SPOKE ("EARLY CHILDHOOD PATH OF LIFE IN BLACKFOOT")

NURTURING PARENTING

24 & 13

parents

children attended

"I have never felt this safe, it feels like I am able to **share my struggles.**"

"I **am trying to break the cycle** with my children when it comes to my behaviour"

THE FOUR ELEMENTS OF HIP HOP

40

participants

LITTLE WONDERS

37 & 27

parents

children attended

"At home we sing the songs every day! Getting to join the program when my baby was only 4 weeks old really set us in a good direction early on, reminding me to drum and sing with him every day and to read with him whenever I can. Receiving the medicine teachings felt so special and I can't wait to take him to see all the plants in the summer and repeat the teachings we've been given. **The songs from the program are my secret weapon of parenting** too, whenever he is about to cry I start singing the hands hands song or no more pie and he laughs every time!"

This year, Miskanawah developed and opened the brand new Tawaw Family Resource Networks (East and West)! Tawaw is a Cree word that means “Welcome, we have made space for you here” and embodies the spirit behind the inviting spaces we continue to create for children, youth and families.

Tawaw Family Resource Networks offer a range of Early Intervention and Prevention services that are grounded in Indigenous cultures and teachings, through a hub-and-spoke service-delivery model.

INDIGENOUS HOME VISITATION SPOKE

Tawaw’s Indigenous Home Visitation program works with families with children ages 0-6, in their homes through a family-centered approach. The program offers connection to culture, ceremony and Elder supports and strengthen the families’ connections to community and needed supports. In-home sessions focus on parental capacity building and awareness of each child’s development.

“Lana is one of “Moms” I am visiting this last year. Her children had been placed into care at one time and she has been through an intense journey to have her children returned. It took time to build trust with her as she feared her children would again be taken from her. **Slowly she started to open up and let me walk alongside her with support.** She is now taking courses to further her education. She is open to feedback regarding parenting, developmental milestones for her children and attending counselling in the hopes of healing some deep rooted past trauma. She is resilient with a strong desire to continue to be the best mother she can be.”

Miskanawah operates the Tawaw ‘spoke’ programs listed in this report, and proudly partners with the following community organizations to be able to offer their additional ‘spoke’ programs through the Family Resource Networks:

Métis Calgary Family Services:

Ke Mama Nnanik Our Mother Earth Parent and Child Development Program

Awo Taan Healing Lodge Society: Grandmother Turtle Program and Culturally-Informed Youth Well-Being Program

Catholic Family Services:

Rapid Access Counselling Program

NITSANAK MAMAWINTOWAK

Nitsanak Mamawintowak ("families coming together" in Cree) supports families with young children and expecting mothers, through one-on-one, in-home and group-based supports in child development, parenting, family cohesion, connection to cultural resources and supports, and life skills.

43

families served
(37 surveyed)

97%

could often or always access culturally appropriate and knowledgeable resources (such as Elders, speakers or traditional people) who would listen to them and help them solve their problems after they participated in the program

100%

felt often or always included in the Indigenous community after participating in the program

Nitsanak Mamawintowak proudly continues an ongoing partnership with Momentum and BowWest Community Resource Centre to offer the Dollars & Cents financial empowerment program. The program helps participants to build on their strengths and covers topics such as budgeting, banking, credit, debt management and more. Participants also have access to a private financial coach and Momentum's Family Saves program where every dollar saved is matched by Momentum at a ratio of 3:1

1154

meals, food and basic needs hampers delivered to children, youth, families and Elders

"Even though we struggle with COVID, the agency stands by their people. The agency makes sure their employees are safe at their work space and are always updated."

MAHMAWI-ATOSKIWIN

Mahmawi-atoskiwin (“a group of people coming together to work as one” in Cree) works to increase the overall well-being of Indigenous families involved with Children’s Services through parental capacity building and addressing issues that create unsafe or unhealthy home situations. The integration of Indigenous culture is fundamental to the delivery of the program. Mahmawi-atoskiwin also offers supported visitation services so that children and their families can stay connected.

315

children and youth served

150

families served

2737

total number of visits

“Parenting has improved from being involved with Mahmawi-atoskiwin by being more stable, being confident and being able to financially provide for my family.”

RAYS REGIONAL AFTER-HOURS YOUTH SUPPORT

RAYS provides intervention and crisis services to children, youth, and families via the Social Service Response Team with Calgary and Area Children’s Services. RAYS Crisis workers provide support with childcare, transportation, one-to-one support, behaviour management and medical supervision.

197

youth served

2021 Virtual Round Dance

This year, we hosted our Round Dance virtually for the first time ever: keeping families and participants safe at home. We invited drummers and singers from five different Treaty areas to showcase songs and beats from around North America: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Minnesota, North Carolina and North Dakota.

131

viewers joined
us at our
Virtual Round Dance

Financial Summary

MISKANAWAH COMMUNITY SERVICES ASSOCIATION

REVENUE

Government of Alberta Children's Services	6,096,867	78%
United Way of Calgary and Area	642,708	8%
City of Calgary - Family and Community Support Services	438,929	6%
Government of Alberta Children's Services fee for service	138,665	2%
Government of Canada	97,074	1%
Calgary Foundation	82,990	1%
City of Calgary - Crime Prevention Investment Plan	70,146	1%
Donations and other contributions	58,292	1%
Government of Alberta - Justice and Solicitor General	53,246	1%
Interest and other revenue	49,686	1%
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	46,179	1%
Collaborative Funders' Table	40,101	1%
Calgary Learns	18,883	< 1%
Burns Memorial Fund	11,825	< 1%
Total Revenue	\$7,845,591	100%

PROGRAM EXPENSES BREAKDOWN

Mahmawi-atoskiwin	3,020,426	38%
Tawaw Family Resource Networks	1,837,199	23%
Nipsis	855,990	11%
RAYS Regional After-Hours Youth Support	375,292	5%
On-The-Land and Cultural Offerings	315,799	4%
Nitsanak Mamawintowak	303,179	4%
COVID Support	287,157	4%
Diamond Willow Youth Lodge	246,678	3%
Administration, fundraising & other	225,350	3%
Oskipmatsahk and RAYS Fee for Service	125,025	2%
Oskayapewis	70,146	1%
Young Buffalo	53,246	1%
Re:Vision	40,101	1%
Round Dance and Cultural Solutions	38,500	< 1%
Healing Lodge	27,796	< 1%
Capacity building database	20,750	< 1%
Languages & Literacy	20,383	< 1%
Tawaw Children's Play Centre	11,825	< 1%
Total Expenses	\$7,874,842	100%
Deficit	\$(29,251)	

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Salaries, benefits and elder services	\$5,618,572	71%
Direct client and program	1,026,246	13%
Facility	750,551	10%
Administration	397,475	5%
Amortization capital assets	66,776	1%
Vehicle	15,222	< 1%
Total Functional Expenses	\$7,874,842	100%

See www.miskanawah.ca for annual audited financial statements.

FUNDERS

BURNS MEMORIAL FUND
CALGARY LEARNS

CANADA SUMMER JOBS

CITY OF CALGARY – CPIP

CITY OF CALGARY – FCSS

GOVERNMENT OF
ALBERTA: CHILDREN'S
SERVICES

GOVERNMENT OF
ALBERTA: JUSTICE AND
SOLICITOR GENERAL

GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA: DEPARTMENT OF
CANADIAN HERITAGE

GOVERNMENT OF
CANADA: INDIGENOUS
SERVICES CANADA

THE BREAKFAST CLUBS OF
CANADA

THE CALGARY
FOUNDATION

THE COLLABORATIVE
FUNDERS' TABLE

THE MUTTART FOUNDATION

UNITED WAY OF CALGARY
AND AREA

DONORS AND CORPORATE PARTNERS

ALICE LAM

ANDREA KORVER

BEARSPAW BENEVOLENT
FOUNDATION

BELL CANADA

BENEFACTION
FOUNDATION

CALGARY FLAMES
FOUNDATION

CALGARY READS

CANADAHELPS PARTNER
GIVING PROGRAM

CATHY STRAND

CENOVUS

CHLOE MOONEY

CIDALIA CAMPOS

CODY STEWART

DANIEL SHABALIN

EMILY GUNN

EMMA LADOUCEUR

ERIN MOHUN

GRUMAN'S CATERING &
DELICATESSEN

IMAGINATION GROUP

IMOGEN MURRAY DUNK

JASON ANDERSON

JENNIFER KIRBY

JOCELYN CARTER

JULIE EVANS

KEETA GLADUE

KIDS UP FRONT CALGARY

KIRBY REDWOOD

KIRBY-LAMARCHE FAMILY
FUND

KRISTY-ANN SWART

LISEANNE GALLAGHER
MCDONALD

MAIA MORRIS

MELANIE AKHURST

NEERAJ BAHL

PAYPAL GIVING FUND
CANADA

PYTOR HODGON

RUSS MARTIN

SARAH COURNEYA

SHELL FOOTHILLS LEGACY
FUND

STAPLES CANADA

SUBWAY

SUNCOR

SUSAN HULL

THERESA KENNEY

UNITED WAY OF CALGARY
DONOR'S CHOICE
PROGRAM

VALERIE WAYMARK



miskanawah
empowerment • strength • family

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