



Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre
ᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐃᐅᐅᐅᐅ
ᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅ ᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅ



INUUQATIGIT

ANNUAL
REPORT
2017-2018



Ottawa Inuit ᐱᐅᐅᐅ ᐃᐅᐅᐅ
Children's ᐱᐅᐅᐅ
Centre ᐱᐅᐅᐅ

230 McArthur Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1L 6P5

www.ottawainuitchildrens.com



Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

Board of Directors (2017-2018)

Alyssa Flaherty-Spence, President
Tamara Takpannie, Vice President
Melinda Shambare, Treasurer
Lila Mahoney, Secretary
Andrée Lacasse, Director
Mary Hutton, Director
Bruce Uviluq, Director
Manitok Thompson, Director
Jessie Kangok, Director

Ex-Officios

Stephanie Puetz
David M. Zackrias
Maria Healy



INUUQATIGIIT "Coming Together"

Over this past year, when we consulted with community, staff and partners about what they felt OICC did best, the reoccurring answer was that we connected people together. Meaning that the community has created a safe place where children, youth and families can connect, come together and provide support for one another.

Over the past few years these connections have grown with more and more community members coming together to ensure that our children, youth and families have access to cultural programming that supports every individual in living a life of well-being.

After hearing this from our growing community, OICC sought ways to truly reflect this growth. Our reach is no longer bound by city limits. With our growth, OICC's influence has grown and the circle of those who benefit has extended beyond the Ottawa area.

As we grow we want to ensure that our knowledge is continually shared in a transparent manner that provides ongoing benefits for all urban Inuit children, youth and families. Our knowledge and continued engagement presents a unified voice in the programs, policies and strategies we develop at OICC. As members of a community we can advocate lasting change that will improve the lives of all who share our dream for the future well-being of our children. As a community with a common dream, just imagine what we can accomplish and what the future can, and will look like for Inuit.

Our programs, services and projects are merely tools that we use every day to help ensure families can thrive and celebrate

the strength and beauty of their Inuit culture and language.

Our elders recommended a new name — Inuuqatigiit — to the Board of Directors as an inspiration that truly reflects who we are and what we do — coming together.

OICC has always strived to put Inuit children, families and community first with appropriate and sensitive cultural programming and services. The best way to serve our community is to come together as a team, as a family and as a community to support one another in ways that are uniquely Inuit. Coming together and working as a collective is what builds a stronger family and community.

Changing our name does not mean we are changing the programming we provide but rather, the name better reflects how our community naturally guides our work. It has been and always will be the Inuit way to come together to help one another. Changing our name celebrates the strong ties, guidance, and commitment rooted in the ways Inuit help one another. It is merely a reflection of the community's ongoing desire to help one another, regardless of the timeless efforts, for the future of our children.

As we continue to grow within urban areas, there is no better time than now to celebrate and be proud of our culture and language. Let's continue to build relationships and share our achievements and knowledge with our partners and community and enhance the well-being of Inuit children, families and community.

- Alyssa Flaherty-Spence, President
- Karen Baker-Anderson, Executive Director



Culturally Rich Children's Programs

Our programs are committed to supporting young Inuit children's learning, development, health and well-being in a loving, caring, holistic and cultural context that promotes the preservation of the Inuktitut language. Inuit view children as unique gifts to a community. Through a process called Inunnguinig, which relies on interconnectedness and relationships, children develop their capacity to live a good life and contribute to their community.

Our Early Years programs are guided by Inuit Qaujimagatunqangit (Inuit traditional knowledge) as well as by the learning resource "How Does Learning Happen? Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years" and the Aboriginal Head Start in Urban and Northern Communities Initiative. Our program statement emphasizes Belonging, Well Being, Engagement, and Expression. We subscribe to the philosophy that children, family members and educators are competent, capable, curious and rich in potential.

Our programs also are guided by our Parent Council which advises OICC on various program components including Year End Celebrations, the Back to School BBQ, parental and elder involvement and cultural needs. Acknowledging and celebrating our families is at the core of our work.

Thanks to a funding grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada we were able to update and purchase toys and equipment and add our music/art/play therapy program for children. In addition, OICC has benefited from the Well Child Checks provided by the Akusivik Inuit Family Health Team, the regular dental screening offered by Ottawa Public Health, the volunteers from Heritage College and the popular storytelling visits offered by the Ottawa Public Library. Programming also has been enriched by the opportunity of staff to attend Seed of Empathy workshops and, along with parents, the opportunity to participate in regional on the land training with the Aboriginal Head Start Association.

“
We appreciate being able to attend family activities, it is great being given so many opportunities to learn and it feels good to feel like our daughter (and us) belong to a community.”

—Parent



“
When we
returned to start
our daughter’s
program the staff
recognized our
daughter and
said hi. It really
warmed my heart!
You feel valued at
OICC.”

—Parent

Junior and Senior Kindergarten

In partnership with the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, the OICC Kindergarten Program allows children to attend school in a familiar environment that celebrates Inuit culture while meeting provincial curriculum guidelines. The program is unique in the province by offering instruction in English, French and Inuktitut as well as weekly access to country food, well-child checks, dental screening, music/art/play therapy, regular fieldtrips and door-to-door transportation. The Kindergarten program ran at capacity this year with six children graduating to Grade 1.

Sivummut

The Sivummut Head Start Program is part of the national Aboriginal Head Start initiative. Children aged 18 months to six years attend this culturally rich half-day program that focuses on the six Aboriginal Head Start components: Education, Nutrition, Parental/Guardian Involvement, Culture and Language, Health Promotion, and Social Support. Instruction is provided in Inuktitut and English along with opportunities to eat country food, sing Inuktitut songs, skin seal, wear traditional clothing and light the qulliq. These opportunities make this a unique and enjoyable program where young children can thrive in their culture. Sivummut successfully graduated 28 children during the 2017-2018 school year.

Tumiralaat

Tumiralaat is OICC’s full-day, year-round licensed childcare program where educators provide an enriched learning environment based on the principles of the Aboriginal Head Start Program and the provincial resource “How Does Learning Happen.” Instruction is in Inuktitut and English and Inuit culture is woven into play-based activities with furs, bones, ulus, amautis and other cultural materials. Twenty-six children aged 18 months to six years are provided free transportation, regular field trips, and visits from elders, as well as dental screening, well-child checks, music/play/art therapy and healthy meals that include traditional foods. The Tumiralaat Childcare Program ran at maximum enrolment all year long.

School’s Cool

School’s Cool is a summer program that has a tremendous impact on school readiness for children. It is a six-week outcome-oriented program that uses a play-based curriculum to enhance children’s skills in four areas: language,



reasoning, socialization and self-help. This is a registered program that is staffed by a Registered Early Childhood Educator and a cultural teacher for children aged 3 to 5 years. A total of 16 children participated in the School's Cool program in the summer months of July and August 2017.

"It is great to be given so many opportunities to learn from all the offerings here for both children and families."

—Parent

Culturally Rich Youth Programs

Tukimut Afterschool Program

Each week, the Tukimut Afterschool Program provides a culturally safe space for over 50 children and youth to come together for various activities and for nutritious snacks and meals. Cultural programming includes beading, sewing, eating country food, and Inuktitut language lessons. Healthy living and recreation is encouraged with visits from such special guests as yoga and Zumba instructors, dental hygienists and public health workers. Free transportation makes it easy for youth to access this program.

Through this program youth get help with their homework and their reading skills. This is made possible because of our volunteer partnership with high school students from Ashbury College. A key measure of success is the positive feedback from the children and youth who find the program fun, as does the program staff. The program is further enriched by such partners as Let's Talk Science, the Ottawa School of Art, the Right to Play, Ottawa Public Health, and the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board who together offer additional programs and support.

Mental Health Systems Navigation Program

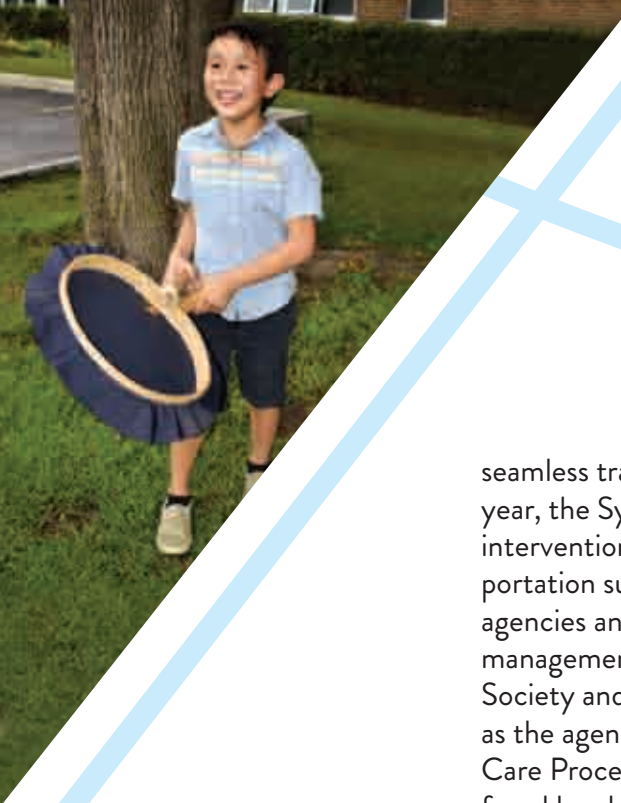
Working with a variety of partnering agencies, the System Navigator helps children and their families negotiate the mental health system, organize their care, overcome barriers and ensure continuity of care for individuals through a

“
You really feel valued at OICC.”

—Parent

“
It's fun to learn to sew from my Elders. I am happy I get to do this with friends at Tukimut.”

—Youth



seamless transition from one service to another. During this programming year, the Systems Navigator provided support ranging from advocacy, crisis intervention, home visits, safety planning with families, housing and transportation support, support with hospital appointments and referral to other agencies and services, mental health screening, Circle of Care support, case management support and support when dealing with the Children's Aid Society and court appearances. In addition, the Systems Navigator acted as the agency implementation lead for the Aboriginal Integrated Plan of Care Process. The goal of this process is to identify barriers and challenges faced by children and youth with complex mental health concerns and to help them achieve their goals with the support of team members and the community.

"The Systems Navigator supported my family in a time of need.... The Systems Navigator... guided me and my child in the right direction.... I'm not sure what I would have done without the... help, support and guidance. Thank you!"

—Parent

"Navigating our southern systems, that we deem as normal, is daunting and often impossible.... This program is precious to the families who need it most."

—Parent

Akwe:go Urban Aboriginal Children's Program

Akwe:go is a self-development program for urban Indigenous children aged 6-13 years who are at risk. It provides individualized support and services to help children learn to set goals, to develop leadership skills and to discover how to make healthy choices that will lead to healthier lifestyles and long-term personal success. Culturally relevant sessions work to improve interpersonal skills, knowledge and attitudes and the values that promote personal well-being. Each client's unique needs are addressed in terms of the program's five objectives: the Provision of Social Supports, Health and Physical Development, Institutional Interventions, Children with Disabilities and Children in Care. Each session has a cultural component, a snack and an activity that focuses on an agreed upon program objective identified during the intake process.

A total of 27 children have received one-to-one support through the Akwe:go program either in school, in afterschool care or in-house. The program also assists the Tukimut Afterschool Program by providing one-to-one support for clients who attend regularly.

“
One of my favorite things to do is Culture Club because of the amazing response from the children when they are speaking basic Inuktitut, sharing country food, Inuit culture and traditions.”
—Staff



We Belong Program

The We Belong Program prepares, enables and empowers urban Inuit youth to access education and employment opportunities and to engage in skills development activities and services. The program works with Inuit youth aged 13 years and over with the expectation of engaging them in group development conversations that focus on increasing life skills, community contribution and leadership, and supporting them to be more successful in their academic career paths.

The program offers an afterschool drop-in; an opportunity to mentor with college and university students; bi-weekly guest speakers or workshops on life skills, job readiness, staying in school etc.; referrals for counselling, sports, recreation, and employment; individual supports; and access to computers for job searches, resume writing and schoolwork, etc. The We Belong Program is proving quite successful with 80 percent or more of participants rating their connection to Inuit culture, to other Inuit youth and their lifestyle choices as improved. Volunteerism also has increased significantly. Twenty-five youth have registered in the program though attendance varies between sessions.

“Fridays nights are my favorite night to come here, I can come and hang out with my friends and not worry about school.”

—Youth

Wasa-Nabin Urban Aboriginal Program

Wasa-Nabin is a self-development program for at-risk urban Indigenous youth aged 13-18 years. Through the program’s services and support, youth learn goal setting skills, leadership skills development, and how to make choices that support healthier lifestyles and personal success. Activities are culturally appropriate and are directed to improving interpersonal skills, knowledge, attitudes and enhance values that promote personal well-being.

The Wasa-Nabin program works with various schools to provide social support and homework support. Program participants also visited two schools with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. The program includes Elders and other guest speakers who attend and teach. During a 3-day cultural survival camp youth were taught how to build a fire and how to canoe, and learned what to do if they are lost. Thirty youth also attended a camp during the March Break.

“

Can I bring my friend from school? I talk about coming here for drop-in all the time and they want to check it out.”

—Youth



Wasa-Nabin also supports youth who are involved with Children's Aid Society or who have challenging relationships with their parents. Staff have worked with the Society to help youth return home from foster care and to help clients return to school. The Wasa-Nabin program has 21 youth registered in the program. Youth also are supported in attending camps and in finding summer employment opportunities.

"Thank you for helping me reconnect with my child, our relationship has been stronger, and I have been feeling better since she's been back."

—Parent

"I wanted to share how much the kids enjoyed their first week of camp. And at week's end they brought home their soap sculptures and paintings. Both asked when they could return and made a point of saying they enjoyed making new friends and experiencing their culture."

—Parent

"I was so proud of her. Eight years old and advocating for her people. I credit the OICC with helping instill pride in her identity."

—Parent

Youth Life Promotion

The Youth Life Promotions program is for Inuit youth aged 13-24 years to support staying in school, gaining employment and improving life skills. The program includes help with homework, employment readiness workshops, guest speakers, one-to-one counselling and opportunities to contribute volunteer hours. Guest speakers focus on options for post-secondary education and career choices. Speakers are from such fields as corrections and policing, security, culinary arts, northern relations, medicine and from local colleges and universities.

Ten youth participated in the program's on-the-land excursion and 12 participated in the program's cultural labs. In addition, 20 referrals were made to programs and supports available both within and outside OICC, 50 underwent Aboriginal Children's Health and Well Being Measure assessments and camps were organized for the summer and March breaks.

The Youth Life Promotions program offers clients a safe space based on the principles of Inuit Qaujimagatuqangit (Inuit Traditional Knowledge). Through



culturally appropriate strength-based programming youth have the opportunity to build cultural and language skills and receive support for their educational, health and nutritional needs and support through social services. These opportunities promote self growth, self confidence and a high level of self-esteem.

“The one-on-one made me feel really good. I had someone to talk to, someone to support me and my growing mind.”

—Youth

Right to Play Programs: Play for Prevention

The Right to Play Program promotes healthy lifestyles for Inuit youth through play-based learning. This year the Play for Prevention theme offered four programs for children and youth aged 6 to 21 years. Programming focused on better health, positive relationships, youth employment and continuing education. Each session incorporates skill building activities that are organized by the following themes: health, positive relationships, emotional wellbeing, cultural connections and concentration and leadership. On-going training and support for the staff is a key element of this program.

Silatuniq Initiative

The Silatuniq Inuit Youth Engagement initiative focuses on supporting Inuit youth aged 14-24 years living in Eastern Ontario. The overall goal is to break the cycle of poverty by supporting youth to complete high school, enroll in post-secondary or gain meaningful employment. The Inuit-specific community based initiative provides social, cultural and practical support that includes tutoring, mentorship, life skills, youth leadership, outreach, advocacy and case management.

A three-year evaluation will provide new data on these strategies and will help improve the well-being and future success of Inuit youth. In its first year of implementation, the Silatuniq Inuit Youth Engagement Program is on track with the expected outcomes.

Volunteer Program

The Volunteer Program links participants with volunteer opportunities inside and outside of the Inuit community. The volunteer coordinator is responsible for reaching out to community members and to external organizations to create job experiences for volunteers that build skill sets and contribute to

“

I have made new friends because of RTP programming.”

—Participant





a good resume. With the help of our great partners and amazing volunteers, we are able to bring about positive change in the community. Some of the partners include: the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board, Volunteer Ottawa, Export Development Canada, Overbrook Community Centre, Saint Paul University, YMCA Youth Exchange Canada, Children's Aid Society, Health Canada, Carleton University and University of Ottawa.

"This was definitely my favorite project in the 14 years I have been at Volunteer Ottawa."

—Volunteer

“
There should be more events like this. It brings positivity and creativity into the community.”

—Youth

Makkuktukuvik - A Place for Youth

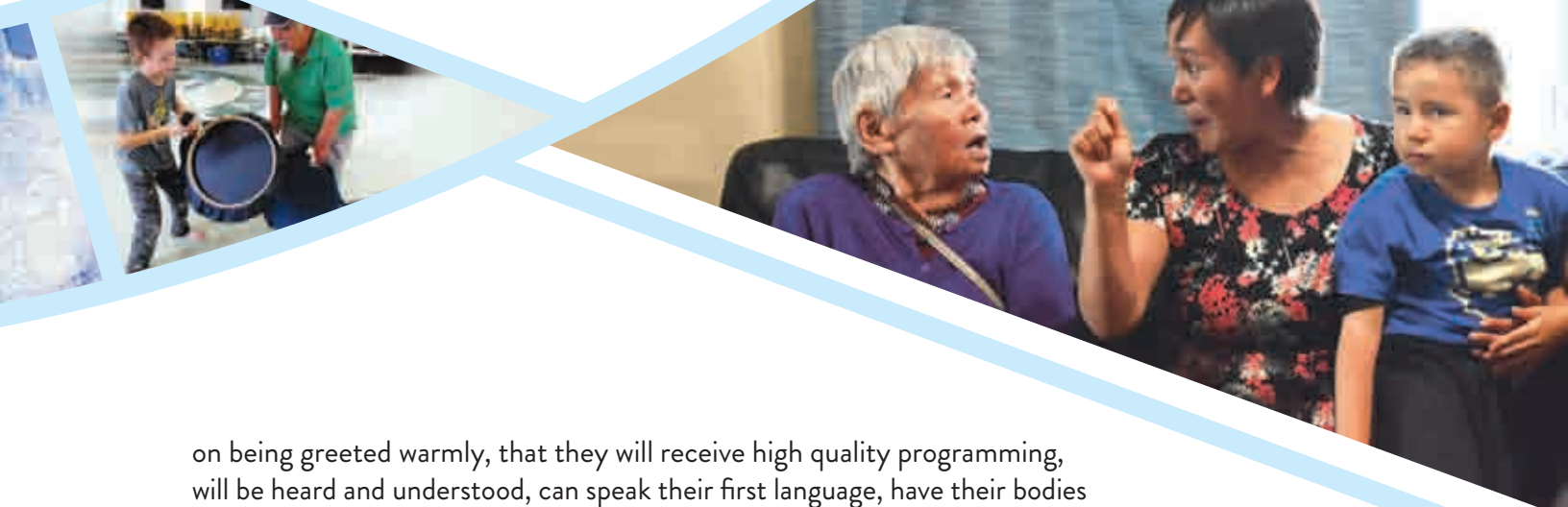
Makkuktukuvik is a new program in the early stages of implementation. It will support Inuit youth by providing a place to call their own. In an urban setting, Inuit youth have very little opportunity to learn from Elders so this program will provide a space where Inuit youth can develop skills in culture and language, leadership, social and emotional development, life-skills, mental health and employment readiness through programming and services that meet their mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs. The program will reduce barriers for Elder engagement, provide a context for the Elder to practice their art of storytelling and will increase the sense of connection and belonging between Elders and the younger generation.

Family Supports

Family Well Being

The Family Well-Being Program offers a team approach to family wellness. A variety of cultural programs are offered to support families including wellness programs, safe spaces and programs specific to Inuit families and children. We envision a holistic approach where families and community can access a variety of services that are specific to their particular needs.

When a parent connects with the Family Well-Being team they become family. We share their joys and celebrations but also work through their struggles together — from the heart — with a shared goal of family wellness. Everyone that walks through the door should feel that sense of connectedness — to the team, to each other and to their community. When a parent comes to an Family Well-Being program they can depend



on being greeted warmly, that they will receive high quality programming, will be heard and understood, can speak their first language, have their bodies and minds nourished and that their children will be cared for by attentive and kind staff. In this very successful year, the Family Well-Being programs and services have provided participants a place to be honest and safe and have an opportunity to reconnect with a community that they might not have known was possible in such a large city. We did this through land-based family camps, healing programs, fun family activities and an array of confidential individualized supports.

“Thank you for reminding me I am important too. Because of you, I feel stronger and have worth.”

—Parent

“Thank you. It feels great to have support from the Inuit community that actually understands the system and language.”

—Parent

Inunnguiniq Parenting Program

The Inunnguiniq program supports Inuit parents raising their children in Ottawa by using and adapting the well-established Inunnguiniq Parenting Program developed in Nunavut. The proven program utilizes the strength of Inuit culture to engage and build parenting capacity. This wonderful twenty-week program will be offered annually over a period of three years. Additional supports to parents are offered through a parent mentoring program, women’s healing circles, fathers’ groups and home visits.

Originally developed through five years of conversations with Elders about the knowledge they felt was important to impart on future generations, this amazing program allows parents to learn more about the traditional Inuit values that ensure survival of community and how individuals can develop to be capable and contributing members of a group.

By using stories, legends and quotes from Elders to guide self-reflection, parents are encouraged to consider how their lives are mirrored in these teachings and how they can use them to enhance their parenting. This manner of guidance feels culturally safe for individuals and allows for rich and collaborative discussions as parents consider the changes they may

“

The support from OICC has kept me connected with my daughter. I don’t know where I would be without OICC. Thanks for bringing my family back together again. I needed to be pushed to get out of the rut I was in. I woke up feeling genuinely happy because my family is back together.”

—Parent



want to make. The appeal of this program has made it possible to reach many more individuals than originally planned.

“I love the Innuguiniq program. It reminds me of things my mom used to say when I was a kid.”

—Participant

“This program has helped me understand why things are the way they are with my family. I’m learning, to be more patient and am grateful for being part of the program.”

—Participant

“I want to teach my children about Inuit history... and other material I learned about in these parent groups. It makes things make more sense to me.”

—Parent

“

Parents began to open up and express more about their issues during this group. They spoke with honesty and demonstrated that they were using the coping skills learned in the parent group.”

—Staff

Katujjiqatigiit (Mental Wellness Program)

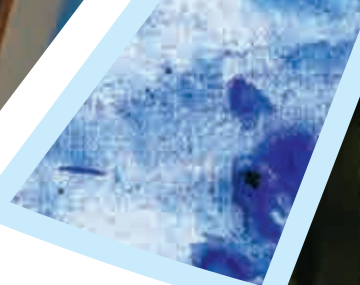
Katujjiqatigiit: Supporting Each Other addresses a gap in the mental health services available for Inuit families and youth living in Ottawa. It is important for OICC to be able to provide accessible, trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically relevant mental health counselling services to youth and families.

Support for mental wellness is provided by a variety of programs and supports that include individual counselling, crisis appointments, a trauma and addiction group for parents, and the Tree of Life program for youth. This support is available in Inuktitut and is tailored to the needs of Inuit. Internal referrals to counselling complimented the work of other programs so that engaged families receive a full range of healing supports.

This program began in November of 2017 by offering individual and group counselling. In the first year Katujjiqatigiit also offered Expressive Therapies for parents, youth and children. To date, 138 individual or group sessions have been offered to 55 individuals.

Tasiuqatigiit Program

OICC is in the early phases of establishing a new program to support Inuit children, youth and their families who are receiving care at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario or are residing in group homes or homes for the medically fragile. The goal is to support and welcome Inuit children and



guidance on how to end violence against Inuit women and children. These modules include information on Inuit history and culture, Inuit communication styles, the unique ways violence affects Inuit women and children and information about the importance of creating culturally safe spaces.

In the last year, 17 training sessions were delivered to frontline workers. In each session many participants expressed their gratitude for the knowledge and information gained and for the opportunity to learn more effective ways to assist their Inuit clients.

“This was such useful training, should be mandatory for all frontline workers engaging with this population! Thank you so much for your time and information!”

—Shelter Worker

“
Thank you! I am so glad to have been able to learn more about your culture and all the important information.

Qujannamiik.”

—Shelter Worker

Bridging the Gap Program

The Bridging the Gap program supports Inuit students and their parents and teachers at the primary and secondary level in all four Ottawa-area school boards. OICC received requests for support from other Ontario school boards.

Program components include classroom presentations, support for Inuit students struggling within the education system and professional development opportunities for school employees. As well, OICC works to expand its network and to participate in relevant high-level working groups and committees.

Classroom presentations offer age and grade appropriate lessons about Inuit culture, art, games, traditions, history and the modern Inuit world. These are interactive and engaging exercises that are well received by both teachers and students alike. Professional development presentations and workshops for teachers, administrators, and support staff promote cultural awareness about the unique history, culture and perspectives of Inuit and their unique learning styles. The effort is to make schools and classrooms welcoming to Inuit families. These presentations have been very successful. In addition, the Bridging the Gap program offers one-to-one student support, parental support, advocacy and acts as a liaison with schools.



This program creates pride in Inuit students, empowers parents and educates teachers and students of all backgrounds about the importance of Inuit communities in Canada.

Since the fall of 2017, our dedicated team of presenters has delivered 933 presentations reaching approximately 23,630 students and teachers in the Ottawa area. In addition to the presentations in Ottawa, the Bridging the Gap program has engaged an additional 3,200 students and teachers in the Upper Canada District School Board with 93 presentations and has made additional presentations in surrounding school boards as well. In total, 1,026 presentations have been delivered to almost 27,000 people.

“My students are proud of their culture and knowledgeable about it. They were able to lead activities to teach the remaining student body and educators on Inuit culture. This has also resulted in our students being more curious about Indigenous culture and asking more questions to educators and to those students who chose to identify themselves as leaders.”

—BTG Student Support Coordinator

Ontario Strategy for Indigenous Children

OICC is continuously engaged at the provincial level with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to implement special projects throughout the province as part of the Strategy for Indigenous Children. The collective projects completed by partnering agencies repeatedly demonstrate that they can make differences in the lives of Inuit children, youth and families as well as in the greater community. The project and initiative reinforce the commitment by OICC and Ontario to serve and support Inuit across the province.

Specific advocacy initiatives include:

- **Technical Tables:** OICC continues to actively participate in technical tables at the provincial level as a voice for urban Inuit by advocating for Inuit priorities and offering guidance, advice and recommendations that support initiatives arising from the Ontario Indigenous Children and Youth Strategy.
- **Child Youth and Family Services Act:** OICC has participated in ministry consultations to amend the Child Youth and Family Services Act by

“

I’m very glad I saw this. I have an Inuk friend who is back in Nunavut and I always wanted to know more about this beautiful culture, and you guys did an amazing job!! I admire the passion.”

—Student



**“
I now have a
greater under-
standing of the
culture and history
and will do my
best to use the
information to
build relationships
with Inuit.”**

**—Conference
Participant**

**“
Thank you so
much!!! I had
great comments
from staff today
and people were
so happy that this
was done by youth –
so appropriate!”**

—Partner Agency

advocating for stronger culturally appropriate supports and services, the protection of children’s rights, privacy rights, and residential licensing standards. The effort is to improve child protection and family support services for all First Nations, Métis and Inuit children and youth. Our Executive Director also sat at the Minister’s Family Well-Being table where stakeholders from across the province worked collaboratively on legislative changes.

- Provincial Engagement Work: OICC has developed communication and strategic plans to advance its work throughout the province over the next three years and beyond. The effort is to ensure all urban Inuit children, youth and families in the province have more opportunities for culturally safe programs and that decisions are made that reflect their needs as Inuit.
- Inuit Child Protection Report: OICC is working on a report that will identify current best practices for Inuit children and youth in care. Many stakeholders and partners have been consulted during this process including Elders, youth, frontline staff and protection workers. This report will be shared with the Ministry, provincial partners and the community in the Fall of 2018. The effort is to promote greater awareness and to offer recommendations on how to improve the systems and processes involving Inuit children and youth and to strengthen the relationships between Inuit and provincial child welfare agencies.
- Building Capacity for Inuit Early Childhood Educators: After engaging with stakeholders and the community, an OICC proposal was developed and successfully submitted to Status of Women Canada. This project will see OICC partner with Algonquin College to develop a 2-year Inuit-specific program that prepares Inuit candidates as Registered Early Childhood Educators who can then work in organizations that serve Inuit children, youth and families. The 3-year project will develop an innovative college-level program that will increase women’s financial preparedness to enter career training in the field of Early Childhood Education. The program will be grounded in Inuit culture, inclusive of traditional ways and knowledge, and will incorporate promising practices and innovative approaches drawn from the early learning and child care sector.
- OICC Service Delivery Evaluation: Plans are under way to complete an evaluation of OICC’s service delivery model. It will document the



organization’s full range of programs and services and will identify the benefits of offering a continuum of services for Inuit children, youth and their families through the delivery of comprehensive “wrap around services” that are culturally and family-based. Outcomes will be evaluated in terms of OICC’s Theory of Change and the outcomes identified during the ministry-led Technical Tables process. In addition, an 8 to 10 minute documentary-type video will be produced to showcase OICC’s service delivery model and continuum of services.

- **Rebranding:** The OICC has grown well beyond its “placeholder” name as a children’s centre and needed a rebranding to better reflect its broader service and provincial scope. To this end, seven facilitated “mind mapping” sessions were held between November 2017 and March 2018. Elders, youth, OICC staff, and parents participated in a review of OICC’s name, logo, imagery and overall look and feel. The outcome is a new name — Inuuqatigiit: Centre for Inuit Children, Youth and Families. The term means, “people as a group- gathering, coming together” and perfectly captures the work of the OICC.
- **Educational Opportunities - Seeing the Light:** The Seeing the Light Program provides cultural education to frontline service providers in Ottawa and across the province. The program coordinates twice-yearly conferences, in-house agency training, and cultural performances. The effort is to encourage cultural safety within mainstream agencies and to promote Inuit knowledge within pan-Indigenous agencies. In the first year OICC has worked to create, maintain and expand relationships with multiple service agencies. To date, the initiative has delivered culturally relevant programming to over 6,300 people across the province. Agencies and partners include: the Ottawa Children’s Aid Society, Ottawa School Boards, Museum of Nature, Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Toronto District School Board and several governmental agencies. The results are greater knowledge and awareness of Inuit culture, lifestyle, traditions and skills, and stronger relationships and new partnerships.

“I have participated in a number of events around Truth and Reconciliation, and each time I learn something new. It was certainly an eye opener for many of those in attendance.”
 —CUPE Participant

“

Every once in a while in life you come across a person or group of people that ...can only be viewed as a gift... Our trip to OICC to meet with you and your staff was without a doubt such a gift. So thank you for your time, your passion, your hospitality, your honesty and your stories. It was extremely helpful to our work, and much more.... To the entire team our gratitude for your time and even more for your passionate contribution to helping build a community for many Inuit students and families.”

—Provincial Education Officer



I'm So Proud of Me!



"I'm so Proud of Me" Initiative

OICC produced the "I'm So Proud of Me" initiative with the goal of providing educational and promotional products and materials to schools and other institutions in order to make positive changes for Inuit children and their families. To this end, a 9-minute video will be distributed in the Fall of 2018, along with a facilitator's guide, that honours the sense of pride and strength that Inuit have of their culture. The video creates positive role models by highlighting Inuit who are strong, proud, connected and living a good life.

The Indigenous Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Education

Centres of Excellence for the Early Years and Child Care are funded as part of Ontario's Action Plan under the Canada-Ontario Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. These Centres connect practitioners, educational institutions and employers through innovative professional learning networks across the province. The Indigenous Centre of Excellence have a mandate to provide professional learning supports through the delivery of culturally relevant programming and high-quality Indigenous child care and early years programs to First Nations living on- and off-reserve, Métis, and Inuit communities and organizations in the province.

OICC is a partner in both the Indigenous Centre of Excellence and the mainstream centre. Our role will be to ensure that all provincial providers under the Aboriginal Head Start Program have the essential tools and knowledge needed to serve Inuit children in a culturally appropriate manner. We are excited to share what we know with other educators. To this end, OICC will host one of the six Ontario Indigenous Community Educators who will be working in the regions. These community educators will build on existing relationships between Aboriginal Head Start sites and local or regional early childhood service providers to create strong mutual relationships with key Indigenous and non-Indigenous providers. This position will determine and deliver regional training to Indigenous and non-Indigenous service providers rooted in Indigenous Pedagogy with an early childhood focus.

Community Support

Community Events

Every year the OICC staff host community events that are widely popular within the community — especially for our families. At the Annual General



Meeting, 75 community members attended to re-elect and vote for new Board Members. Community members joined our Board of Directors and staff in fun cultural activities, traditional country food and door prizes. At Christmas, 450 community members poured into our fun-filled family party where children enjoy a visit from their friend from the North Pole. Each year, we recognize and award one family with our Strong Parents, Strong Family Award. The family is nominated by the community. In February over 400 community members joined us for our Inuit Day where everyone enjoyed traditional food in the tent, played games and took part in such activities as tattoo face painting, bannock-making and a scavenger hunt. We also celebrated the end of the school year with a Year End Celebration to acknowledge the children enrolled in our Early Years Programs. Over 100 community members attended the event.

Uqausivut Culture and Language Program

The Uqausivut Program focuses on the preservation of the Inuktitut language in an urban setting. It is centered on language classes attended by children, youth, adults, and partner agencies at a beginner and intermediate level. This program is supported with a lending library composed of culturally relevant books, artifacts, games, music and activities that can be used by anyone. This year, Inuktitut classes were delivered to 93 participants over the course of the project for a total of 100 hours using both Beginner Level 1 and 2 podcasts and learning materials. The Uqausivut team designed and developed Beginner Level 2 Podcasts with accompanying activity sheets. The Level 1 and 2 podcasts, booklets and activity sheets can be found on our Inuit Cultural Online Resource site at <https://www.icor.ottawainuitchildrens.com>.

“These sessions are great family fun. Nakurmiik! Thank you! I learn slowly but thoroughly enjoy the exercise and the practice!”

—Participant

“This program is wonderful, so is the team of people who are teaching us. I am grateful for learning this language. Thank you! Qujannamiik!”

—Participant

“

A really great opportunity to learn our daughter’s language as well as culture; a really great program.”

—Parent

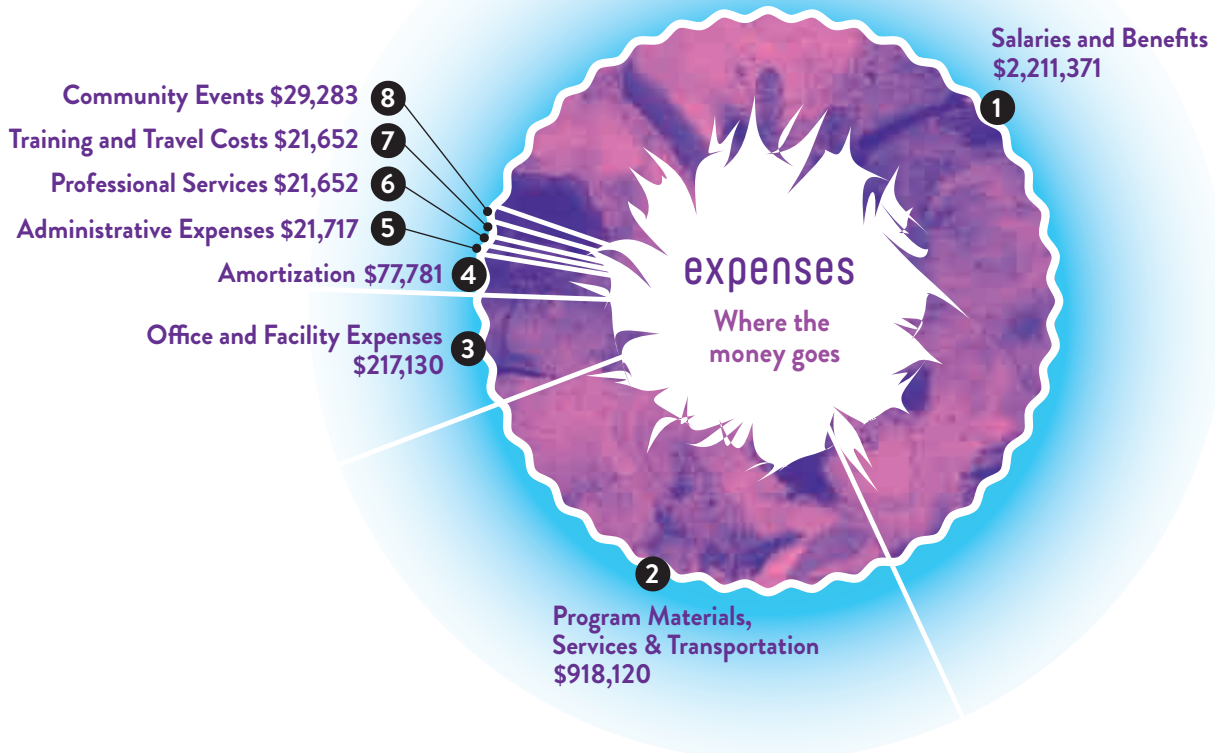
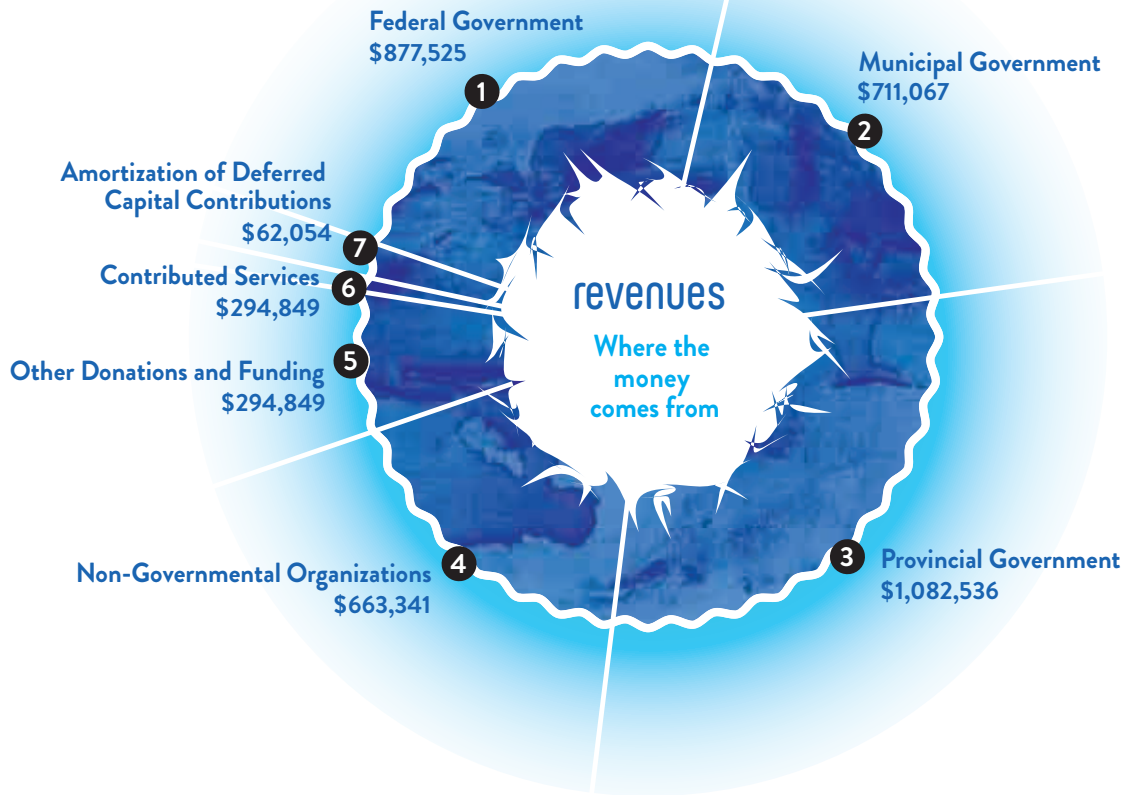
Financial Statements

March 31, 2018

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Where the Money Comes From	2018	2017
1. Federal Government	877,525	600,299
2. Municipal Government	711,067	708,397
3. Provincial Government	1,082,536	762,393
4. Non-Governmental Organizations	663,341	778,268
5. Other Donations and Funding	294,849	215,179
6. Contributed Services	294,849	27,793
7. Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	62,054	62,395
Total Revenues	3,722,580	3,154,724

Where the Money Goes	2018	2017
1. Salaries and Benefits	2,211,371	1,777,896
2. Program Materials, Services & Transportation	918,120	800,264
3. Office and Facility Expenses	217,130	161,895
4. Amortization	77,781	77,050
5. Administrative Expenses	21,717	22,106
6. Professional Services	21,652	14,414
7. Training and Travel Costs	21,652	152,572
8. Community Events	29,283	27,140
Total Expenses	3,619,144	3,033,337
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	103,436	63,489



Financial Statements

March 31, 2018

SUMMARY BALANCE SHEET

Assets	2018	2017
Current Assets		
Cash	1,492,472	662,613
Accounts Receivable	241,547	336,801
Prepaid Expenses	69,853	10,711
	1,803,872	1,010,125
Capital Assets	1,524,430	1,579,123
	3,328,302	2,589,248
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	393,043	284,328
Deferred Revenue	1,011,806	445,177
	1,404,849	729,505
Deferred Contributions relating to Capital Assets	1,091,789	1,131,515
	2,496,638	1,861,020
Net Assets		
Invested in Capital Assets	432,641	447,608
Internally restricted — Contingency Reserve	60,000	30,000
Unrestricted	339,023	250,620
	831,664	728,228
	3,328,302	2,589,248

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE
SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary balance sheet as at March 31, 2018 and the summary statement of revenues and expenses for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of The Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre for the year ended March 31, 2018. I expressed a qualified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 28, 2018. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of The Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre.

Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Opinion

In my opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of The Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre for the year ended March 31, 2018 are a fair summary of those financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

I expressed a qualified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in my report dated June 28, 2018 with regards to the completeness of revenues from donations and fundraising, which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification.

vanBerkom Professional Corporation

Ottawa, Ontario
August 16, 2018

Chartered Professional Accountants
(Authorized to practise public accounting by the
Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario)

Funders

City of Ottawa

Canadian Heritage

Employment and Social Development Canada

Health Canada

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Kagita Mikam

Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Health Promotion

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)

Ontario Trillium Foundation

Ottawa Carleton District School Board (OCDSB)

Public Health Agency of Canada

Right to Play

Pinecrest Queensway Community Health Centre

Status of Women Canada

United Way/Centraide d'Ottawa

“

As we continue to grow within urban areas, there is no better time than now to celebrate and be proud of our culture and language. Let's continue to build relationships and share our achievements and knowledge with our partners and community and enhance the well-being of Inuit children, families and community.”

—Alyssa Flaherty-Spence, President

—Karen Baker-Anderson, Executive Director



Ottawa Inuit
Children's
Centre

ᐱᐅᐅᐅ ᐃᐅᐅᐅ
ᐱᐅᐅᐅ
ᐱᐅᐅᐅ

www.ottawainuitchildrens.com