

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2019/2020



**ATLOHSA**  
FAMILY HEALING SERVICES



## RE-STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY

*Atlohsa Family Healing Services is a non-profit, charitable organization in southwestern Ontario, dedicated to providing women, men and children and youth the tools, teachings and resources supporting the journey to wellness.*

### OUR MISSION

To strengthen community through Indigenous-led programs and services that offer holistic healing and wellness.

### OUR VISION

A community where all people have access to the supports they need to live a balanced life – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

### OUR VALUES

Our values and approach to holistic wellness are rooted in the seven sacred Grandfather Teachings and the Medicine Wheel Teachings. In addition, we honour the following values:

#### Acceptance

Meeting people where they are at in their healing journey, without judgement.

#### Safety

Providing a safe space for community members, ensuring a strengths-based, trauma-informed approach.

#### Family

Acknowledging the unique role and contribution of all members of the family, throughout the life span.

#### Empowerment

Holding space for each community member to take leadership in their own healing journey, in their own time.

#### Integrity

Upholding our commitment to community with the greatest responsibility and accountability.

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Boozho Gakina Weya (Hello Everyone).

This past year of 2019-20 in review has been one for the records on so many levels. Atlohsa Family Healing Services has continued to experience unprecedented growth as an organization, countless new relationships have been cultivated and we ended the year preparing a response plan for the COVID-19 pandemic. Of most importance amidst the changing environment is our dedication to the work we do. In the past year we have updated our mission: to strengthen community through Indigenous-led programs and services that offer holistic healing and wellness. We have also clarified our vision for the future, dedicating ourselves to building a community where all people have access to the supports they need to live a balanced life – physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Without question, we continue to move full steam ahead towards achieving this future.

Chi-Miigwech, Yaw^ko, Anushiik.

*Raymond Deleary*  
Executive Director



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Shekoli to the Atlohse community on the occasion of our 2020 Annual General Meeting. It has been quite the year! Since our last AGM, we have seen tremendous growth happening at Atlohse, with the launch of new programs and services, continued community impacts in existing programs, as well as successful fundraising and community events. I am very excited to share these updates with the Atlohse community.

This year, funding from federal, provincial and municipal governments as well as our corporate donors allowed the organization to pilot new initiatives and grow our capacity to provide innovative Indigenous-led and evidence-based community programming. The launch of the Alaaxiimwiing Resting Space program for people experiencing homelessness, the development of the Biigajiiskaan Indigenous Pathways to Mental Wellness program in partnerships with St. Joseph's Health Care, and the completion of the Giwetashkad Indigenous Homelessness Strategic Plan are just a few of the projects that we undertook this year.

We have launched new branding and marketing campaigns to better reflect who we are today, and grown our fundraising efforts to match the organization's momentum. One of the year's highlights was the 2nd annual Atlohse Peace Awards, which acknowledged 8 outstanding role models working towards Truth and Reconciliation. Staff and volunteers made the awards ceremony a memorable experience while building relationships with potential donors, benefactors and allies.



Another major highlight of the year was our meeting with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau! Several members of the Atlohse Board and community had a meeting with PM Trudeau to ask about the intentions of the federal government to help organizations like ours in stopping violence against Indigenous women and children.

In mid-February 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic changed the way we provide community supports. Atlohse staff adapted quickly to the new normal of social distancing, wearing PPE, working from home, and providing remote supports. I acknowledge the efforts of all the outstanding Atlohse staff and volunteers who have provided essential supports during these challenging and unprecedented times. I'd also like to thank all the donors and funders that made that support possible.

Yaw^ko for joining us today to reflect on 2019 in review of the year, our accomplishments, our challenges and our growth!

*Shirley Honyust*  
President, Board of Directors



## HONOURING OUR DAUGHTERS, MOTHERS, GRANDMOTHERS, AUNTIES AND SISTERS.

*Indigenous women are significantly over-represented among female Canadian homicide victims, and are far more likely than Non-Indigenous women to go missing.*

We honour the memory of all missing and murdered First Nations, Métis and Inuit women and girls, and all the family members who have shared with us their grief and loss.

You were taken, but you are not forgotten; your lives, dreams, hopes and losses are now forever a part of the living history of Turtle Island. You are not a statistic. You are our daughters, mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters.

The gold birds installed on our walls are part of the See Me Tour art installation, and represent the spirits of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.



Through Women and Gender Equality Canada, the MMIW Commemoration Fund, supported the planning and development of See Me Tour expansion. MMIWG families and survivors, including 12 men and women, came together for the “Sounding of our Voices”, where they could share their knowledge, experience and expertise. We began the redevelopment of the See Me Tour curriculum with the objective of ensuring a safe space for healing for everyone while building a future for where Indigenous women are respected and safe. Due to COVID-19, the timelines were extended and the expansion will be completed in the new fiscal year.





Over 1,800  
individuals  
inspired by  
**TRUTH**

The See Me Tours are designed to to educate community about the history of colonization, the legacy of residential schools and the ongoing impacts within local First Nation communities and the urban Indigenous population in London. The presentations have been in operation since 2016. Since inception, this initiative has seen 795 students from Thames Valley District School Board, and nearly 1000 police officers from London Police Services and several private tours. All proceeds from this social enterprise initiative go to Atlohsa Family Healing Services' essential needs.



Many of our friends and community partners have joined the pursuit to end violence against Indigenous people and eradicate systemic racism. If you want to learn more about how you or your organization can walk alongside us on the path to **Truth and Reconciliation**, please call (519) 438-0068 or email [seeme@atlohsa.com](mailto:seeme@atlohsa.com).

Together we stand to end the violence.



## INDIGENOUS MENTAL WELLNESS

The Indigenous Mental Wellness Support program was established to ensure that Indigenous culture is foundational in all programs and services. Atlohsa staff and community participated in ongoing immersion in Indigenous culture through attending language classes, cultural teachings, and ceremonies. The Native Wellness Assessment (NWA) tool, developed by the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, was implemented to aid in the ongoing evaluation of culture-based interventions as an approach to achieve overall wellness.

### Community Impact

- To-date, the NWA tool has established evidence in how Indigenous culture promotes overall increased wellness within Atlohsa's staff and participants.
- Regular Anishnaabemowin (Ojibwe) language sessions were held with Atlohsa staff and community.
- Over 200 participants attended a Creation Stories event with Jim Dumont and Kevin Deer, held in partnership with Museum London.
- Staff developed a robust traditional medicine cabinet. Elder Donnie Dowd hosted sessions sharing how the medicines are used.
- Our food storage and industrial freezers are stocked with local fish, bison, grains, berries and more. While fulfilling a physical need, we are also nourishing the community's mental, emotional and spiritual well-being through land-based values, principles and beliefs.
- Staff and community were provided regular access to visiting Elders and Knowledge Keepers, increasing opportunity for those to connect with Indigenous healing practitioners they may not readily have access to.

OVER  
**200**  
PARTICIPANTS  
ATTENDED THE  
CREATION  
STORIES  
EVENT

## ZHAAWANONG WOMEN'S SHELTER

(Ojibwe "south, change, renewal, growth, nurture")

Zhaawanong provides a 24-hour emergency shelter for women and their children who are at high risk of violence, abuse and/or homelessness. The shelter is a safe environment where Support Workers provide cultural interventions, crisis counselling, and promote holistic healing and wellness.

### Community Impact

- Zhaawanong Shelter has been equipped with all kitchen essentials, brand new linens for all beds, an annual supply of basic essentials and multiple sets of pajamas. Plans were implemented to complete major renovations for all bedrooms. This was all made possible by the generous contributions from the Atlohsa Peace Awards.
- All full-time and part-time staff attended a 2-day workshop in traditional circle facilitation and wholistic practices; following this training, 113 women and 52 children received support through our women's and children circle facilitation.

**650**  
CRISIS CALLS

### PROGRAM FACTS

- 166 women and 45 children received direct support and safety at Zhaawanong Shelter.
- 650 Crisis calls were received with staff providing safety, support and referrals to those women and children.
- 64 women's circles and 64 children's circles were facilitated.
- 36 participants were assisted in securing independent and safe housing; others were supported in relocation out of city or province into temporary safe living arrangements.

*"[Zhaawanong staff] are very helpful and never judgemental. I felt very safe and very much at home. I did not expect the generosity and gifts for my daughter. We had a really good experience and love the culture."*

*-Zhaawanong shelter participant*



# BIIGAJIISKAAN: PATHWAYS TO MENTAL WELLNESS

*(Ojibwe concept that describes how a broken, rotting tree feeds new life.)*

In partnership with St. Joseph's Health Care London, Biigajiiskaan offers both Traditional Healing services and Western psychiatric treatment to Indigenous individuals experiencing mental health and addiction issues in the London-Middlesex region. The program aims to address immediate mental health needs as well as intergenerational trauma and violence experienced by many Indigenous people.

## SERVICES OFFERED

Biigajiiskaan is situated on-site at St. Joseph's Parkwood Institute in the Mental Health Care Building. Services are available in-community and in-hospital to the Indigenous population in the London-Middlesex and St. Thomas-Elgin County regions and include:

- An Indigenous-led mobile outreach team working in-hospital and in the community providing consultation, assessment, treatment planning / management, discharge planning and ambulatory services
- A dedicated Indigenous Healing Space at Parkwood Institute's Mental Health Care Building (Okwari: Kowa Healing Space, Rm F3-240) for use by inpatients and outpatients of St. Joseph's Mental Health Care Program
- Indigenous Elder-guided care and teachings from knowledge keepers
- Traditional Indigenous practices, such as healing circles, ceremony, smudging and drumming circles



## Community Impact

- Hosted two days of Anishinabe Mshiki-ke, teachings and traditional medicine making with Perry and Laurie McLeod-Shabogesic, attended by 46 staff and community members.
- The Biigajiiskaan staff participated in the Parkwood Institute of Mental Health Holiday Party for clients.
- Elder Mike Bisson visited the Okwari: Kowa Healing Space to offer teachings to Atlohsa staff.



TOTAL  
PARTICIPANTS  
SERVED

245

*"I showed up at the circle, at the end of my rope. I was trying to get out of a very dangerous life situation. I was three days clean... Now I feel safe. I know that I have a space that's Indigenous in a system that isn't - and it feels safe to come in and get care. My wellness is affected differently - deeper. I feel the love and appreciation from the team when they care for me. They get it."*

*-Biigajiiskaan Participant*

## KIIZHAY ANISHINABE NIIN

(Ojibwe “I am a kind man”)

Using an Indigenous-led, peer based, holistic approach, this program provides education for men to address issues of abuse, to re-establish their roles and responsibilities, and to support Indigenous men who choose not to use violence. By increasing self-awareness, participants learn how to restore balance within the whole person, the family, and community.



### Community Impact

- In continuing to promote land-based learning, the Kizhaay program hosted seasonal feasts with traditional teachings and foods such as fish, bison, deer, and wild rice. The feasts included Atlohsa's women's and youth groups as well as the wider community.
- Kizhaay participants led the way with ceremony as fire keepers/helpers to support over 200 participants in Victoria Park as part of Shine the Light 2019. The event included London's Mayor and City Councillors, city services and the public, who were all able to offer their tobacco and support awareness of violence against women in our community.
- In August 2019, a ceremony and vigil with Kizhaay participants was held in honour of Sonya Cywink (baa) who is among the MMIWG marking the 30th anniversary of when Sonya was found. Sonya's feather was the first to be added to Atlohsa's MMIW Eagle staff in 2012. Each year, or when appropriate, an Eagle feather is added to Atlohsa's Eagle Staff. The ceremony was well attended with the march through the downtown area where she was last seen. Over 150 people attended the march.



## MEDICINE WHEEL

Medicine Wheel is an Indigenous-led substance use recovery support program that applies a strengths-based approach to healing. The program provides the resources for participants to learn about Indigenous culture and traditions as a way of life. This reaffirming of cultural identity grounds participants in their lifelong wellness journey. A multidisciplinary plan of care helps guide the individual's unique healing path, including art, song, dance, nutrition and recreation.

### Community Impact

- This year the Medicine Wheel program moved towards the implementation of the Wellbriety cultural 12-step program to provide Indigenous culture-based healing and recovery from substance use.
- Medicine Wheel program hosted 8 sobriety celebrations: 3 1-year celebrations, 1 7-year celebration, and 1 3-year celebration, 2 30-year celebrations and 1 40-year celebration.
- The Medicine Wheel program held a 23-year anniversary celebration event, with 80 people in attendance.

CELEBRATED  
**113 YEARS**  
OF SOBRIETY  
AMONG 8  
PARTICIPANTS

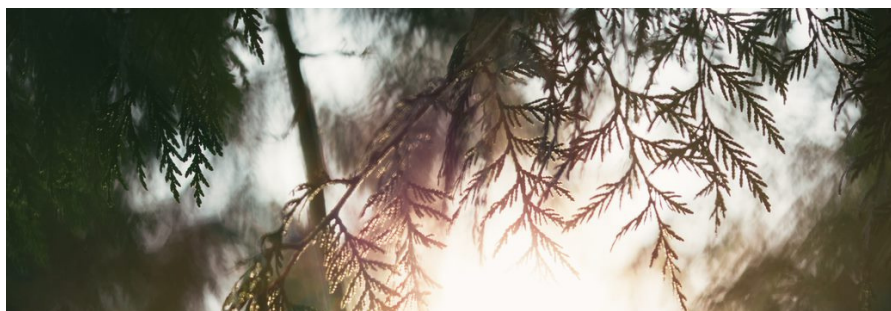
## SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The Supportive Housing program offers 11 apartment-style units for women and their children to stay for up to one year while they are seeking permanent housing. Housing plans are tailored for each individual woman and may include support for health, wellness, education and housing. The Supportive Housing Program also provides participants opportunities to learn more about Indigenous culture.

### Community Impact

- 24 participants were supported
- 34 group circles
- 9 full moon ceremonies occurred at the site
- Women who are supported through the program have seen improvements in the areas of mental health, life skills, and addictions.

**34**  
GROUP  
CIRCLES



*"Atlohsa's Supportive Housing has helped out a lot, there is a lot of support within the program. Whenever I am struggling with something, they are there to help. Its not just housing that they help with, my overall wellness as improved dramatically since being in the program."*

*-Supportive Housing Resident and Participant*

# MINO BIMAADZIWIN

(Ojibwe “a good way of life”)

Based on the Medicine Wheel and Seven Grandfather Teachings, the Mino Bimaawdiziwin program is a program for children, youth and caregivers who have experienced violence and unhealthy relationships in the home or community. Mino Bimaawdiziwin is a child-focused program grounded in the belief that honouring the voices of our children will ultimately help strengthen the entire family unit. The approach is a healthy exploration of thoughts, behaviours and responses to all types of relationships experienced in life. This program also assists youth in building cultural identity, developing life skills and safety planning.

## Community Impact

- A successful Mommy and Baby program was launched providing support and play for mothers and their children.
- Youth group took a trip to Toronto to spend the day visiting a financial literacy workshop where youth met some of Toronto's most successful entrepreneurs who exchanged and shared life skills and strategies. The group ended the day at an art exhibit in downtown Toronto to listen to live interviews between a variety of artists.
- Mino group participants attended the 3rd annual Youth First Cultural Camp. The Mino Bimaadiziwin program, in collaboration with N'amerind Friendship Centre and London's First Responders, offered a four-day camp for 40 youth to learn about first responders and Indigenous teaching.
- Mino participants attended a cultural day at St. Thomas Aquinas school. Youth group and drum group members demonstrated to how to smudge and explained why it is important. Also the youth sang songs in the auditorium for the entire school.



95 PROGRAM  
EVENTS REACHING  
**860**  
CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH

## PROGRAM FACTS

- 208 Children received intensive supports
- 36 families both from community and those residing in shelter accessed support
- Children and Youth were supported through one to one support, Youth Groups, Tweens Groups and Children's circles totaling 95 program events, reaching 860 Children and Youth.
- 15 outreach events at local First Nations communities and organizations
- 540 songs sang through the Drum Group
- 630 Masterpieces created through Craft Friday and Mino Programming

*“Jordan\* had struggled with his cultural connection before becoming a member of Atlohsa. Jordan participates in drumming and youth programming. Jordan quickly found a love for being around the big drum and the friendships he's made with fellow youth and mentors. The highlight of Jordan's summer was singing in his very first Pow-Wow with our drum group Young Medicine. Jordan really came out of his shell through strengthening his cultural identity.”*

*-Parent of Youth group participant*

*\*Name of the participant has been changed to protect their confidentiality and identity.*



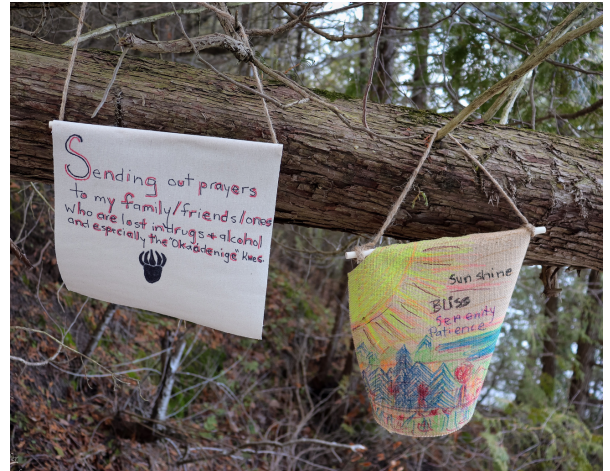
# OKAADENIGE

(Ojibwe “he or she braids things”)

Okaadenige supports survivors and those at risk of human trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse, through a trauma-informed, Indigenous-led, strengths-based program. Okaadenige, an Ojibwe word meaning “he or she braids things,” represents Atlohsa’s three-strand approach; prevention, awareness, and support. The Okaadenige team provides programming in local schools, rural and urban, to equip youth with knowledge and tools to prevent them from being groomed or recruited into human trafficking. This school age program focuses on online safety and healthy relationships.

## Community Impact

- Atlohsa’s “Sea of Red” event honouring MMIWG was held on May 6, 2019. This event was front page of the London Free Press on May 7, 2019 and became one of their most impactful stories of 2019.
- Okaadenige led the 2019 London Pride Parade that reached over 150,000 people from in person, broadcast and online.
- Okaadenige had a successful 2nd annual retreat with 11 participants. The retreat included circles and other cultural interventions with the total of 18 circles held in the week.
- Program Coordinator, Elyssa Rose, was a panelist and guest speaker at the Global Conference on Human Trafficking held in Toronto, Ontario, June 24 – 25, addressing 250 people.



## PROGRAM FACTS

- 18 circles held at Fanshawe College
- 38 new intakes
- 44 outreach and awareness events. This includes presenting and speaking at schools, colleges, universities and community forums

**44**  
**OUTREACH AND  
AWARENESS  
EVENTS**

*"I know that I will never, ever forget about these experiences and the healing I did here, for myself, my relationships, my future and my future kids. This changed my life, and my outlook on life. I will continue to better myself every day, and always be reminded of this. This retreat was a part of me and will always be in my heart. Thank you so much."*

– A Sexual Exploitation Survivor

*"This year was empowering because this retreat has shown me how much I have grown & healed. I'm not saying I'm done healing but this retreat gives me more hope that my life is only going to get better."*

– A Human Trafficking Survivor

## GIWETASHKAD

(Ojibwe “bringing people home”)

Giwetashkad is an initiative towards alleviating Indigenous homelessness in London. With a significant over-representation of Indigenous people among London’s homeless population, Giwetashkad is looking towards innovative culture-based solutions to bringing people home using an Indigenized Housing First approach. The Giwetashkad Indigenous Homelessness Strategic Plan (2020-2023) will inform our programs and services for Indigenous people experiencing homelessness for years to come.



### Community Impact

- Andrea Jibb, Director of Community Planning developed a presentation entitled “*The Basis of Our Understanding: Mobilizing Culture-Based Community Engagement Practices*” outlining the Giwetashkad project and presented it at the 2019 CAEH National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Edmonton, Alberta.
- Atlohsa, in partnership with the London Homeless Coalition, hosted Metis-Cree, best-selling author and academic Jesse Thistle for a workshop on Indigenous Homelessness. This work was in support of the London Homeless Coalition’s 2019/2020 community Priority of *Supporting our Community in Increased Understanding of Indigenous Homelessness*. 70 people attended this workshop.
- The *Giwetashkad Indigenous Homelessness Strategic Plan (2020-2023)* was completed in March 2020. The Plan lays out a comprehensive and wholistic vision for Bringing People Home, outlining 4 Strategic Directions for alleviating Indigenous Homelessness in London. The City of London Homeless Prevention endorses and supports the Giwetashkad Plan through their *Housing Stability Action Plan (2019-2024)*.

## ALAXIIMWIING

(Lenape: “The Resting Space”)



The Atlohsa Resting Space, offers 10 overnight and daytime beds to support people experiencing homelessness in London. The first service its kind in London, Alaaxiimwiing was designed to support community members experiencing “in the moment” behaviours who often had no other place to go. The program was based in Indigenous harm reduction and Housing First approaches, such as mutual respect, trauma-informed care, low barrier approach, participant autonomy and working from the basis of Indigenous culture.

### Community Impact

- Launched in April 2019 as a 6-month pilot project for 10 overnight spaces. In September 2019 the program grew to include a day time resting space for community members who could not access a bed in shelter overnight to have a safe space to rest, shower, do laundry and receive a snack.
- Alaaxiimwiing saw success in supporting community members who were not able to access other shelter supports because of capacity or active restrictions due to challenging behaviors. By offering a space that participants could be introduced and/or re-connected to Indigenous knowledge and Indigenous healing methods, Alaaxiimwiing created a space of trust, compassion and kindness based on mutual respect for all of our relatives who are currently without a home.
- During the 2019 year, Alaaxiimwiing supported 427 unique Individuals. 133 (31%) of those individuals identified as Indigenous.





## STREET OUTREACH

Atlohsa Street Outreach program provides support to people experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered. By moving outside the walls of the agency to connect with people “where they are at”, Atlohsa’s Street Outreach program provides assistance in connecting people with Atlohsa’s Resting Space and with permanent housing, other programs, resources and services. Atlohsa’s Street Outreach program is grounded in the vision of the Giwetashkad Indigenous Homelessness Plan and works towards the restoration of Indigenous cultural values, beliefs, and practices.

### Community Impact

- Provided over 20 smudge kits as a form of Indigenous Harm Reduction. Smudge kits included the 4 sacred medicines (Sage, Cedar, Tobacco, Sweetgrass), a book of matches, an abalone shell and a feather.
- Over 30 Boxes of cereal donated by Western Indigenous Student Centre and Fanshawe Institute of Indigenous Learning as part of a cereal drive.
- Over 10 bags of Coats and winter clothing donated by Western Indigenous Student Centre and Fanshawe Institute of Indigenous Learning.
- Atlohsa’s Street Outreach team attended a Wet’suwet’en Solidarity Rally and provided smudge kits and hand warmers to participants.



OUTREACH  
WALKS  
ROUGHLY  
**3,700**  
KM/YR

### PROGRAM FACTS

- 10 unique participants supported each day
- 80 participants helped per week
- Walked 4,800,000 steps last year during outreach support, equalling roughly, 3,700KM

## OUTREACH STORY

*“January 30, 2020:*

*While doing street outreach on Dundas street, I saw a frequent Atlohsa Resting Space participant. I said hello and reminded him of who I am and where I work (Atlohsa). I asked how he’s doing and he said ok. I asked if he needed to come to The Resting Space and he said “maybe another time”. I asked if he smudges and he replied yes.*

*I gave him a smudge kit that contains the 4 sacred medicines of the Anishnabe people: Sage, Sweet Grass, Cedar Tobacco, as well as pack of matches, a clam shell to burn the medicines in, and a feather to fan the smoke. I also asked if he would like a Mylar blanket, gloves or hat. He said yes to all items and he was very appreciative. He then said he’s going to sing a Mi’kmaq Honour song.*

*Before he sang he said he would like to acknowledge mother earth for the land we live on. He said thank you to the plants we harvest and the water we drink. He acknowledged all humans and animals. He said thank you to ALL animals, from the fish that provide meat for us to nourish our bodies, to the smallest bugs. He began his Mi’kmaq Honour song and I stood beside him to listen in solidarity. He sang with so much passion and respect. He used a tea kettle for a Drum and a wooden broom handle as a drumstick.*

*After he sang, I told him Chi-Miigwetch (Meaning “big thank you” in Ojibway). He told me Chi-Miigwetch in return and said that he appreciates me and everything I gave him. He said that he knows I’m a good person, and that he doesn’t see a lot of good people in the streets. He said he sees a lot of evil. I reminded him that he can come to Atlohsa Resting Space if he needs. He said ok and went on his way with his friend.”*

*- Darr Sands, Atlohsa Street Outreach Worker*

## TRANSITIONAL SUPPORT

The Transitional Support Program provides support for those who are in crisis by providing Indigenous-led, holistic care. Throughout the development of a transition plan, the Support Worker focuses on the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of the individual providing referrals, advocacy and safety planning.

### Community Impact

- The Transitional Support Program facilitated the Medicine Wheel: Addiction Land-Based Recovery Program. 9 participants engaged in cultural activities to create a connection to the self, the land and all of creation. The program offered healing circles, use of traditional medicines, drumming, water ceremony, nature walks (hiking), Elder teachings, sweat lodge, and canoeing.
- 160 Participants were provided healing and support through the Transitional Support Program. In addition to one to one support, the Transitional Support Program provides holistic and cultural based healing through circle facilitation.
- 33 Kanawayhitowin women's circles were facilitated and reached 65 women. In addition, the Transitional Support Program facilitated 32 women's circles in shelter and reached 113 women.



*"The Transitional Support Program at Atlohsa has supported me by providing indigenous led, holistic programming. Through the program, I've gained consistent access to necessary support networks, addiction recovery, ceremonies, cultural activities and teachings, as well as valuable one on one time with elders and healers. The opportunity to learn, grow, heal and contribute within my community as an Indigenous woman is empowering. I have been able to be vulnerable and break down my barriers of intergenerational trauma. I am learning more that I can show up as my authentic self."*

*-Transitional Support program participant*



# ZHAAWENJIGEWAG

(Ojibwe “a process of reaching peace with relatives”)

The Zhaawenjigewag Justice Program provides culture-based justice support services to Indigenous individuals and families in the London area to strengthen and heal their relationships. Services include wraparound justice system support for family and criminal court and landlord and tenant board, as well as culture-based family healing circles with local Elders to strengthen relationships and arrive at out-of-court agreements to divert cases from mainstream just systems.

## Community Impact

- Zhaawenjigewag began as a pilot project in 2017 that consulted with 7 local Elders to revitalize culture-based family healing circles to strengthen relationships. In 2019-2020, the program has officially transitioned into full operation to provide services.
- A successful program launch event was held that hosted 26 organizations, including Children’s Aid Society of London and Middlesex, Legal Aid Ontario, ANOVA, and more, with 42 individuals in attendance.
- Atlohsa partnered with Hill-Dolson Law (Criminal Law Firm) and Doxtator Law (Family Law Firm) who graciously provided services to a collective total of 54 community members in immediate need.

**72%**  
OF LEGAL CASES  
SHOWED  
IMPROVED  
OUTCOMES

## PROGRAM FACTS

- Supported 107 program participants
- Conducted 24 circles (7 Family circles and 9 Elders circles)
- 79 crisis calls received
- Engaged 7 Elders regularly for total of 9 monthly meetings to consult on program direction
- Provided 181 x 1-hour counselling sessions with Elders for participants
- Hosted 14 criminal legal clinics, with 24 participants. Pro Bono Services provided by Hill-Dolson Law Office
- Hosted 10 family legal clinics, with 30 participants. Pro Bono services provided by Doxtator Law
- 67 court accompaniments
- 72% of legal cases resulted in better outcomes due to Zhaawenjigewag Justice Program’s involvement

*“Since working with the cultural justice and family mediation program I have been relieved by the change in my co-parenting relationship. When I came to [Atlohsa] we had not been speaking, child support payments were not being made and there was no visitation or access routinely occurring. Through your help [...] there has been tremendous changes. [...] Through the mediation circles we attended, we were able to redevelop our relationship as one of mutual benefit and deeper understanding as co-parents first and friends second.”*

- Zhaawenjigewag participant

## 2019 ATLOHSA PEACE AWARDS

Atlohsa Peace Awards Honourees are trailblazers, exemplifying leadership in an era of rapid growth and transformation. Through their accomplishments in culture, arts, education, public service, business, health and advocacy, they have made outstanding contributions, inspiring social change in the spirit of Truth and Reconciliation.

Last year, at a sold-out event, over 450 guests celebrated the Atlohsa Peace Awards Honourees and raised funds to support Atlohsa's Zhaawanong Women's Shelter and the Okaadenige Anti-human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Program.

To-date the Atlohsa Peace Awards have raised over \$80,000! Chi-Miigwech (thank you) to all the Honourees, Sponsors, Donors, Artists, Staff, Volunteers, Participants and Community Members who made this night unforgettable.





# 2019 ATLOHSA PEACE AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2019 Atlohsa Peace Awards Honourees



Congratulations to the 2019 Atlohsa Peace Awards Nominees:

Tamara Bernard  
Nancy Buchanan  
Lila Bruyere  
Laura Crowe  
Amanda Kennedy  
Heather Hammond  
Frances Moore  
Amanda Myers  
Patricia Ningewance-Nadeau

Melissa Henry  
Michelle Kennedy  
Rose Marie Lands  
Sister Kathleen-Lichti  
Earnest W. Matton  
Brenda Okorogba  
Tina Stevens  
Kelly Geris

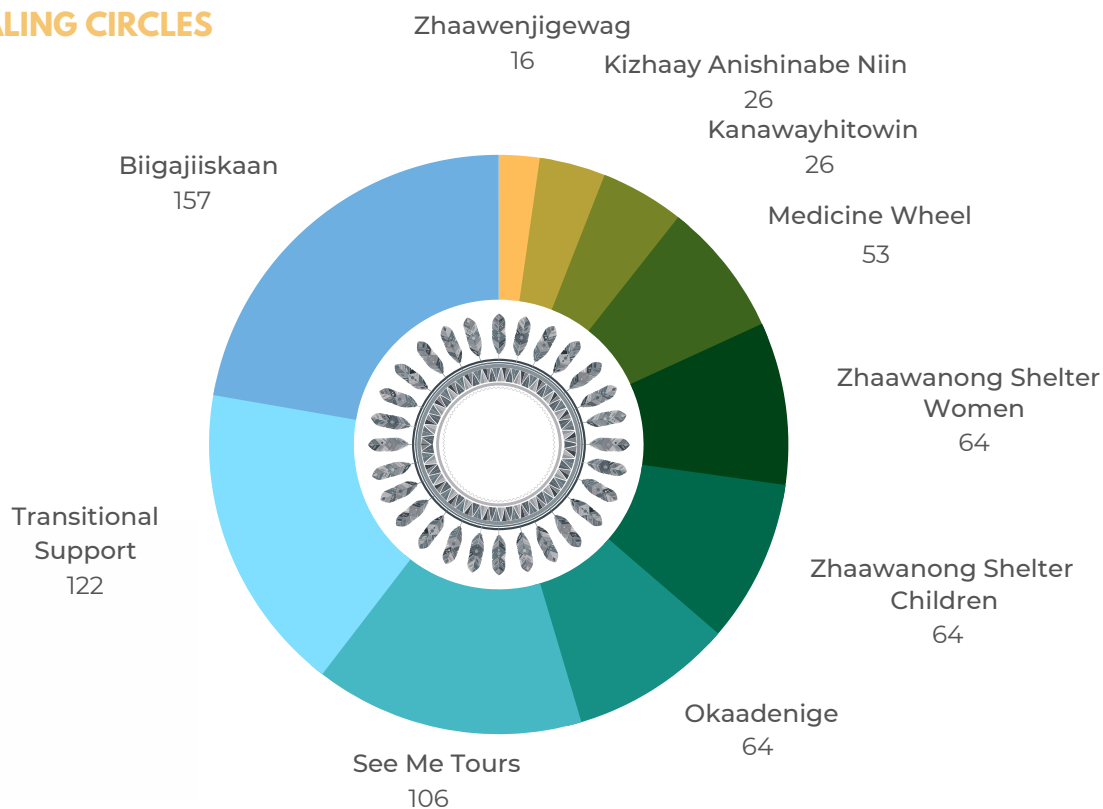
**\$80,000**  
**RAISED**  
**TO-DATE**

## 2019/2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

### NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SERVED

PROGRAM	TOTAL
Zhaawanong Shelter: Women	166
Zhaawanong Shelter: Children	45
Crisis Line	650
Kizhaay	110
The Resting Space	427
Transitional Support	161
Medicine Wheel	90
Zhaawenjigewag	107
Okaadenige	157
Kanawayhitowin	65
Biigajiiskaan	247
St George St	34
Mino Bimadiziwin	208
See Me Tours & Presentations	1,006
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,473</b>

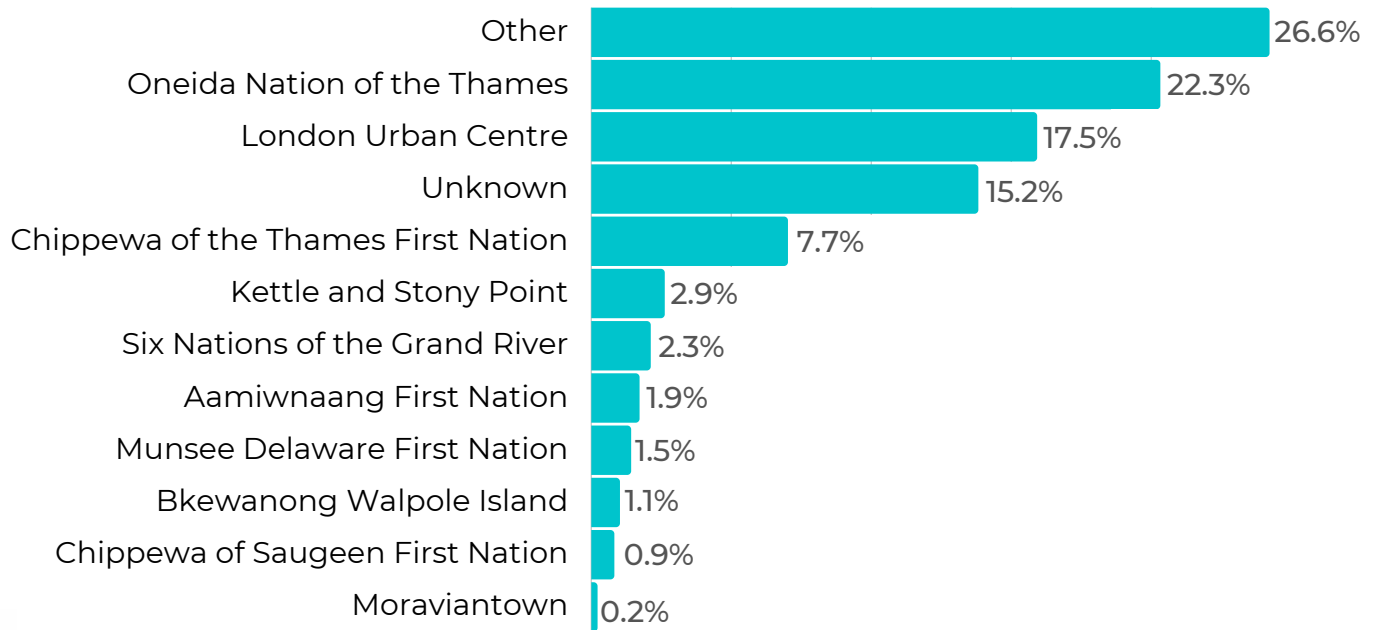
### 705 HEALING CIRCLES



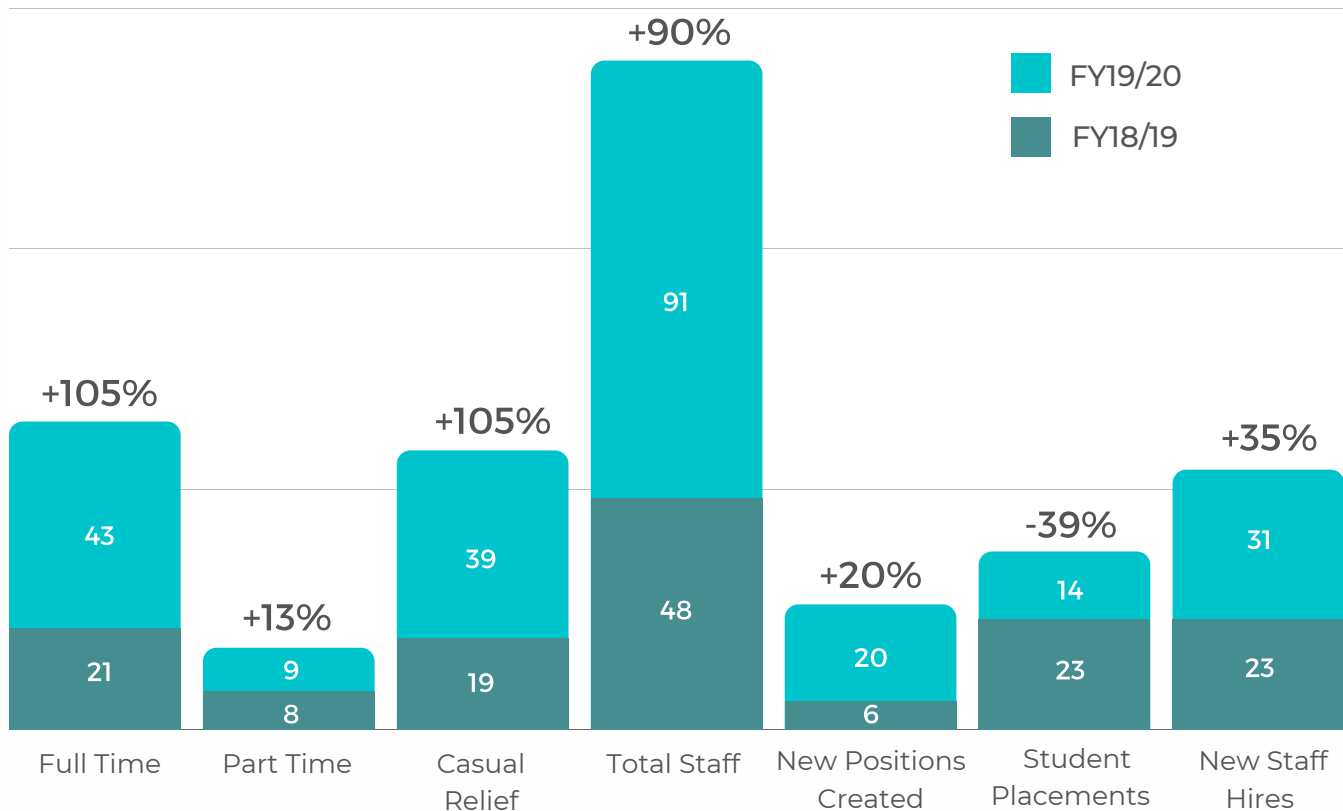


## 2019/2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

### PARTICIPANTS WHO SELF IDENTIFY AS FIRST NATIONS



### PERSONNEL HIGHLIGHTS

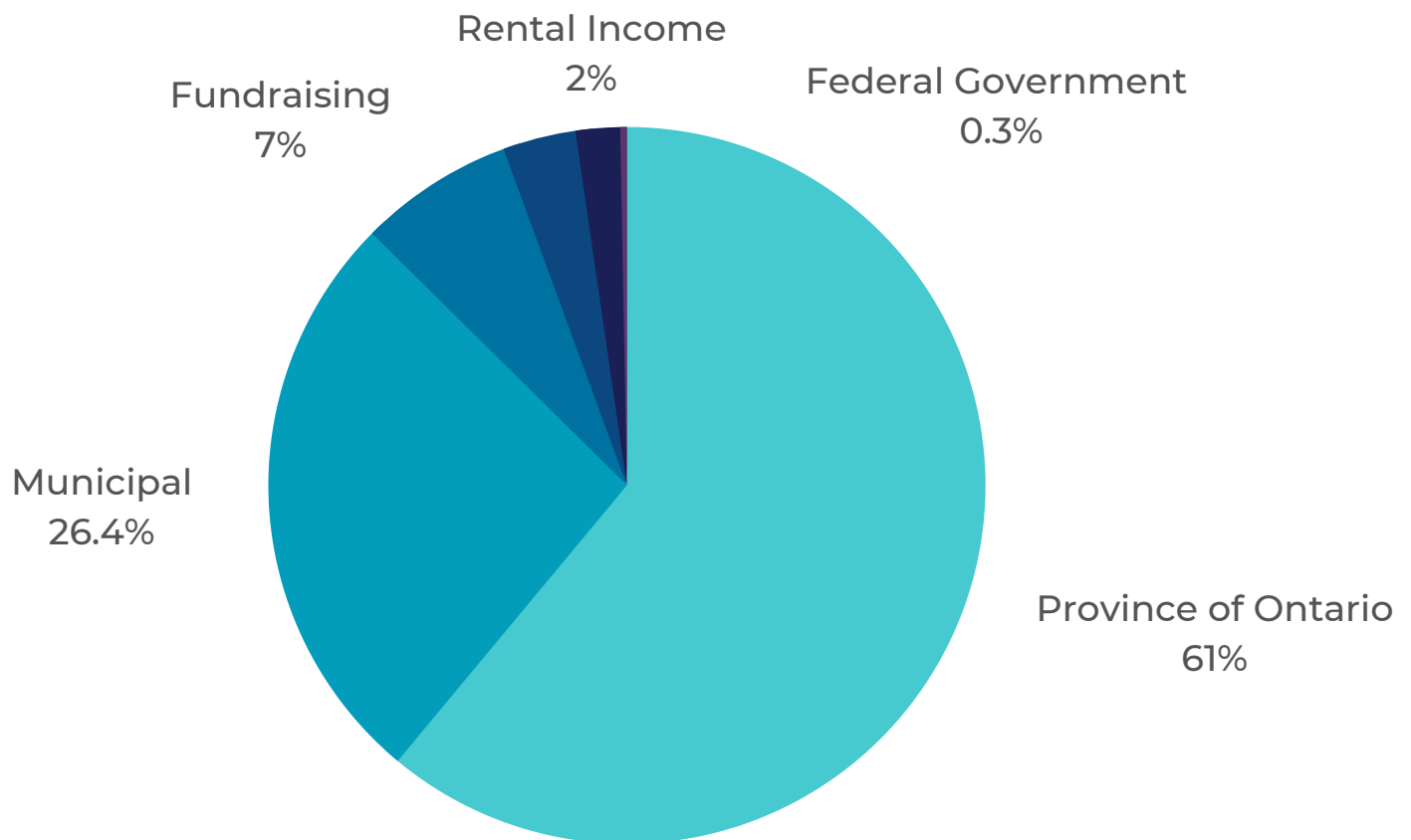


## 2019/2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

### STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenue	\$ 3,771,154
Expenses	\$ 3,795,236
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	-\$ 24,082

### SOURCES OF REVENUE





## LOOKING AHEAD

The year ahead will be another year of overall growth as Atlohso continues to be responsive to our community's needs. We will continue to build our reputation as an organization that gets the work done which will result in enhanced community engagement and support.

We will continue to build relationships and partnerships that help us effectively carry out our mission to strengthen the community through Indigenous-led programs and services that offer holistic healing and wellness.

### Highlights on the horizon for 2020/2021 include:

- COVID 19 Recovery Renovations - Head office & Mino Bimaadizwin program space
- COVID 19 Recovery Program Solutions including expansion into virtual meetings and support
- Food Security program
- Implementation of the Giwetashkad Indigenous Homelessness Plan
- Official Launch of Biigajiisakaan and the Indigenous Healing Space
- Launch of the See Me Tour Refresh
- Atlohso Peace Awards December 2020 – 1st Virtual Fundraising Event
- Expansion of Marketing Communications and the development of a digital fundraising strategy
- Launch of Atlohso Gifts Online and new in-store shopping experience with expanded inventory supporting more local artisans



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shirley Honyust, President  
Michelle Baldwin, Vice President  
Darlene Bellerose, Secretary  
Ken Oliver, Treasurer  
Marlene Greene, Director

Debra Kennedy, Director  
Karen Poulette, Director  
Rosemary Doxtator, Director  
Alex Poulette, Director  
Heather Cabral, Director

# CHI-MIIGWECH, YAW^KO, ANUSHIIK, THANK YOU.

Thank you to our donors and funders who provide us with the financial resources we need to deliver our essential services. We also thank the students, volunteers and organizations who, very generously, dedicate their time to Atlohsa. Your contributions are greatly appreciated by all.

## FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL FUNDERS

Canada Summer Jobs Program  
City of London  
Department of Women and Gender Equity  
Indigenous Services Canada  
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services  
Ministry of Health Ministry of the Attorney General  
National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls  
Tecumseh Community Development Corporation

## FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

18 Asset Management	London Free Press
A-1 Pest Control Limited	Middlesex London Health Unit
Abe Oudshoorn – 30 Triathlons in 30-Days	Nash Jewellers
Accell Graphics	National Indian Brotherhood Trust Fund
Anova Furture	Nokee Kwe
Audacity Advertising & Design	Odyssey Records
Bell Media	Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation
Cambia Development Foundation	Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres
Catholic Women's League of Canada	Oyster Boy
Children's Aid Society	Paul Davis Systems
Church of St. Jude	Pillar Nonprofit Network
CIBC Mellon Global Securities	Punk Rock Flea Market
Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada	RBC
CUPE Local 217 Library	RBC Place London
Deacon Flooring	Sagecomm
Doubletree by Hilton London	Scotiabank
Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario	Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre
Four Feathers Housing Co-operative	Sunningdale Golf and Country Club
Freeman Audio Visual	Team Truck Centres
Gerald Hippie Family Foundation	Thames Valley District School Board
Green Fairy	Thunder Bird Trading Post
Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute	Thunderbird Trust
Johnston Group	Unifor Local 27
Juniper Dress	Union of Ontario Indians
Laimhini D'Oir Investment	United Way Elgin Middlesex
Lawson Foundation	Unity Project
London Arts Council	Western University
London Community Foundation	Westminster Foundation
London District Catholic School Board	



## INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

Danielle Alcock  
 Marci Allen-Easton  
 Joseph Antone  
 Julie Atchison  
 Michelle Baldwin  
 Sarah Bayea  
 Rachel Bayley  
 Karen Bellehumeur  
 Rachel Berdan  
 Cathy Bradbury  
 Jeff Brown  
 Dorothy Calot  
 Charlene Camillo  
 Rob Cockcroft  
 Robert Cockcroft  
 Helen Connell  
 Sean Couchie  
 Lori DaSilva  
 Michelle Dawson  
 Alfred Day  
 Brent Debassige  
 Tania Dejonge  
 Mary Deleary  
 Teji Dhami  
 Paul J Dika  
 Joy Edward  
 Sarah Emms-Pilon  
 Nicole Fice  
 Mandi Fields  
 Linda Fischer  
 Heather Fleming  
 Janet Froud  
 Theresa Gadd  
 Lisa Giroux  
 Patricia Gyenes  
 Paula Hedgepeth  
 Carolyn Henry  
 Chief Jason & Cynthia Henry  
 Dana Huber  
 Yasmin Hussain  
 Dr. Kimberley Jackson  
 Dwayne & Kimberley Teresa  
 Jackson  
 Antin Jaremchuk

Tammy Johnson  
 Anelle Kayabaga  
 Dave Kemohan  
 Colleen Kennelly  
 Dawn Kershaw  
 Jennifer & Lucas Kilmer  
 Joyce Kymicka  
 Bohuslav Kymicka  
 Dharshi Lacey  
 Silvia Langer  
 Charlene Lazenby  
 Christine Lee  
 Edward Lees  
 Madeline Lennon  
 Sanford Levin  
 Heather Lokko  
 Arlene MacDougall  
 Susan Macphail  
 Don MacPherson  
 Dave Malloy  
 Meghan Mann  
 Lindsay Mathysen  
 Starr McGahey-Albert  
 Brian Meehan  
 Letilia Mizan  
 Ravin Mohan  
 Catherine Moore  
 Don and Gabi Mumford  
 Ruth Murdock  
 Erin Naylor  
 Jody Noah  
 Jennifer O'Brien  
 Rob O'Dowda  
 Tyler Peters  
 Julie Picken-Cooper  
 Melanie Pierce  
 Janet Pryde  
 Christine Quinlan  
 Chantelle Richmond  
 Kelly Rodgers  
 Wendy Russell  
 Jan Saddy  
 Janet Salter  
 Eric Scott

Cindy Shales  
 Leigh Shand  
 Wendy Shand  
 Sheila Simpson  
 Adrienne Small  
 Philip Smith  
 Linda Staudt  
 Veronica Stoiber  
 Wendy Sturgeon  
 Amanda Taconne  
 Gavin Tanner  
 Jesse Thistle  
 Gloria Thomson  
 Reta Van Every  
 Karen Van Loon  
 Andre Vashist  
 Laura and Stephen Wall  
 Nadine Wathen  
 Anna White  
 Jerry White  
 Kara Wickens

## VISITING ELDERS & KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS

Donnie Dowd  
 Myrna Kicknosway  
 Irene Peters  
 Alva Jamieson  
 Richard Assinewai  
 Dr. Jim Dumont  
 Kevin Deer  
 Ken Oliver  
 Bryan Loucks  
 Donna Phillips  
 Terry Doxtator  
 Marlene Green



# ATLOHSA

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