



Tungasuvvingat Inuit

ANNUAL REPORT

- 2024 / 2025 -



www.tiontario.ca

Program Updates
Community Event Highlights
Success Stories and More

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the President	Pg. 4
Message from the Executive Director	Pg. 5
Program Highlights	Pg. 6
Alluriarniq Program	Pg. 7
Culture Program	Pg. 11
Day Counselling	Pg. 14
Education Policy	Pg. 18
Employment Services	Pg. 20
Family Well-Being	Pg. 24
Food Security	Pg. 29
Healing and Wellness Promotion	Pg. 32
Housing Support Services	Pg. 34
Illipalialisaaqtilugu EarlyON Child and Family Centre	Pg. 37
Kamatsiarniq Program	Pg. 42
Mamisarvik Healing Centre	Pg. 47
Ontario Inuit Cancer Program	Pg. 50
Pisiksik Justice Department	Pg. 53
Research Department	Pg. 56
Social Navigator Program	Pg. 60
Toronto Programs	Pg. 64
Financial Statement	Pg. 67



CORE VALUES

Anchored in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, our respect for Inuit culture, language and diversity encourages us to ensure that our programs and services are guided by our traditional principles in strengthening the potential of Inuit individuals, families and communities.

VISION

Inuit-specific programs, services, and support that empower and enhance the lives of Inuit are available and accessible to all members of the Inuit community.

MISSION

It is the Mission of Tungasuvvingat Inuit to broadly provide Inuit-specific programs that contribute to the health and well-being of Inuit and to encourage and support similar programs for Inuit across the country.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year marks a transformative moment for Tungasuvvingat Inuit, highlighted by the opening of its new home at 282 Dupuis Street in Vanier. More than a building, this space is designed as a safe, welcoming, and culturally grounded place for Inuit to connect with community, culture, and each other. It represents a significant step forward in meeting the evolving needs of Inuit across Ontario and setting the stage for the next chapter in TI's journey.



In 2025, TI continued progress on the second year of its five-year Strategic Plan, guided by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. The plan is focused on five key priorities: empowering Inuit self-determination, enhancing service integration, expanding reach and access, strengthening organizational capacity, and fostering cultural reconnection. These priorities reflect TI's long-term commitment to supporting and uplifting the Inuit community.

TI extends heartfelt thanks to partners, funders, donors, staff, and volunteers whose support and dedication make this work possible. The new space belongs to the community—a place where Inuit feel seen, supported, and celebrated.

Qujannamiik,

TAMARA TAKPANNIE

Tamara Takpannie

PRESIDENT

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year has been one of meaningful change and steady progress at Tungasuvvingat Inuit. With the opening of our building at 282 Dupuis Street, our programs and teams are working more closely than ever—sharing space, strengthening collaboration, and creating a welcoming environment where community members can access multiple supports in one place.

Every day, our staff continue to provide essential, hands-on services that make a real difference: helping families find housing, supporting mental wellness, delivering cultural programming, preparing daily meals, and offering employment and training assistance. These moments of care and connection—whether it's a youth stopping in after school or an Elder visiting to share knowledge—are what define our work and keep our community strong.



As we move forward with our Strategic Plan, we remain focused on service integration, increased access, and ensuring that all we do is guided by Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit. To our staff, volunteers, Elders, partners, and funders—thank you for your ongoing dedication. And to our community: this space is yours. We look forward to continuing this journey together.

CHRIS COUSINS

Chris Cousins

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



ᑕᓄᓕᓕᓕᓕᓕ ᐃᑭᐃᓕ
Tungasuvvingat Inuit

282

2024/2025

Program Highlights



ALLURIARNIQ PROGRAM

The Alluriarniq Program provides Inuit-specific support to individuals at risk of or experiencing human trafficking, sexual exploitation, or engaged in the sex trade. Services are grounded in Inuit culture and trauma-informed practices, offering crisis intervention, case management, counselling, outreach, prevention workshops, and community engagement.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, Alluriarniq supported more than 530 Inuit service users across Ontario. This included intensive one-on-one supports and broader outreach and prevention programming. The team emphasized cultural continuity through Elder engagement, Inuktitut supports, and cultural activities such as community meals and country food gatherings.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- Provided direct support to 532 Inuit individuals through counselling, case management, crisis response, and outreach.
- Delivered one-on-one supports (counselling/case management), including 54 survivors of sex trafficking and 27 survivors of labour trafficking.
- Facilitated women's programming, workshops, and drop-ins serving over 400 participants.
- Offered cultural continuity supports including Elder guidance, country food meals, and Inuktitut language support.
- Supported clients in housing, health care navigation, financial safety planning, taxes, CPP and other government supports, and justice system advocacy.

- Organized community engagement sessions to raise awareness on human trafficking prevention.
- Facilitated professional development for staff in trauma-informed care, Inuit cultural safety, and anti-human trafficking best practices.
- High Service Reach: Over 530 Inuit supported, demonstrating strong demand for Inuit-specific anti-human trafficking services across Ontario.
- Cultural Programming: Consistent delivery of culturally grounded supports — Elder guidance, Inuktitut services, and community meals that strengthened identity and belonging.
- Survivor-Centred 1:1 Supports: Provided intensive counselling and case management for 90 individuals, including survivors of both sex and labour trafficking, ensuring trauma-informed and culturally safe care.

CHALLENGES

- Staffing Capacity: High service demand often exceeded the team's staffing capacity, particularly in crisis response.
- Complex Client Needs: Many service users faced overlapping challenges (housing instability, addictions, violence, justice involvement) requiring intensive, coordinated responses.
- Limited Inuit-Specific Resources: Scarcity of Inuit-specific services outside TI meant Alluriarniq was often the only culturally safe option, placing additional pressure on the program.

TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS SUPPORTED (WITHIN 1:1 SERVICES):

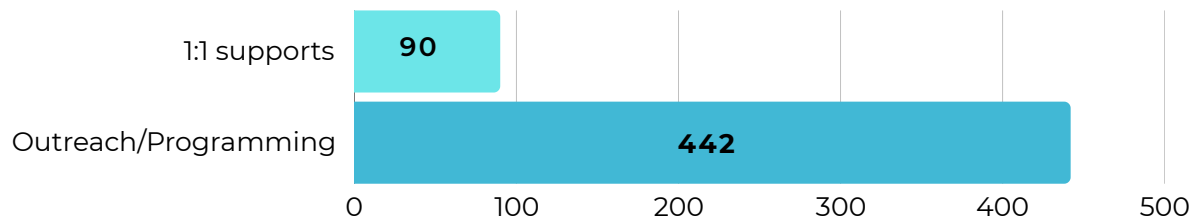


“

“Alluriarniq helped me feel safe for the first time in years. Having Inuit staff who understand makes all the difference.”

– Service user

**SERVICE USERS BY TYPE OF SUPPORT
(1:1 VS OUTREACH/PROGRAMMING):**



“

“We see survivors move from crisis to empowerment every day. The resilience of our clients inspires us to keep strengthening this program.”

– Alluriarniq staff

“

“You don’t realize that simple act of helping makes me tear up as I try living in survival mode.”

- Service user

CONCLUSION

The 2024/2025 year reinforced the essential role of Alluriarniq as a trusted, culturally safe program for Inuit experiencing or at risk of trafficking and exploitation. Looking ahead, the program will continue strengthening prevention and intervention activities, deepening partnerships, and ensuring Inuit-led, survivor-centred approaches remain at the core of its services.

“

“As a staff here at TI, it is such a beautiful experience watching community come together and support each other through stories, food, crafts, music and how much small moments make such big differences to service users even when we don’t realize it.”

- Alluriarniq Staff



“

“Thank you so much for all your help through that very rough transition”

-Service user



CULTURE PROGRAM

The Culture team at Tungasuvvingat Inuit plays a central role in strengthening community connections and supporting urban Inuit in maintaining a strong relationship with Inuit heritage. Through culturally grounded programs, events, and gatherings, the team creates welcoming spaces where Inuit can engage with traditional knowledge, language, arts, and practices. Their work helps bridge the cultural gap that many Inuit experience when moving to or living in a city, ensuring that community members feel supported, included, and able to participate in meaningful cultural experiences.

A wide range of programs, such as Elders Teas and Inuit Zoom groups, community feasts, and traditional skills workshops based in Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit, bring Inuit together and foster a sense of belonging. Workshops on traditional skills, including sewing and drum making, offer hands-on opportunities to learn and share cultural knowledge. By offering both in-person and virtual options, especially for Elders, the Culture team ensures accessibility and continuity of cultural connection. Their ongoing commitment makes

Tungasuvvingat Inuit a vibrant hub where Inuit culture thrives and community members can gather, learn, and celebrate together.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Community Feast** - over 117 participants joined
- **Beading** - 83 participants in combined beading activities
- **Parka making** – A total of 62 community members attended

- **Silapaaq Making** - 36 community members attended
- **Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit IQ Day** - 93 community members attended
- **Sewing Drop-ins** - 43 community members attended
- **Inuit Zoom Group** - 20 community members attended
- **Elders Drop-ins** - 12 community members attended
- **Staff Drop-ins** - 38 community members attended

CHALLENGES

Transportation may be challenging to some community members. With the move to our new location at 282 Dupuis Street, some community members expressed how much easier it was to attend programming.



Having enough space for all participants has been a challenge. Many community members are interested in attending the Culture programs, so we have to have multiple sessions for each activity.

“

“So good to have Elder’s Tea in person. So happy to hear Inuttitut. I never seen elders so long. So good to eat with elders. Thank you so much TI I needed this! Can’t wait for the next one.”

– Program User, Elder’s Tea

“

“I always wanted to make summer amauti now I have a chance to learn. I love the pattern. This is the first time I’m making an amauti. The materials are beautiful. WOW! A brand new sewing machine. WOW! I can’t wait til next week. This is so exciting!”

– Program User, Sewing Drop-In

CONCLUSION

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding our programming and strengthening awareness within the community. Our focus for the coming year is to ensure that more community members know about—and feel welcome to participate in—our cultural offerings and gatherings.

TI will continue to deliver a rich selection of Inuit cultural programs that celebrate identity, strengthen connections, and support well-being. These include Elders' Tea, the Inuit Zoom Group, Inuktitut Basics, Traditional Skill Workshops, and our much-loved Community Feasts. Through these initiatives, we aim to promote cultural continuity, create meaningful opportunities for learning, and foster a stronger, more engaged community.



“

“This is the first time I’m making silapaaq (Inuit outer layer shield jacket). I am so excited to learn how to make silapaaq! I always wanted to learn how to make my own. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to teach us! Thank you so much TI for all the materials and supplies! And for the sewing machines. And our Inuit foods.”

– Program User, Silapaaq Making

“

“Great to see each other again! That was so much fun! I loved the candy tossed! I was so happy to win a sealskin. I can’t believe that I won a whole fox fur pelt! I’m so happy I won gift cards. I’m so full from country food. I can’t wait for the next one. Elders were happy to see each other, and everyone hugged each other. Our staff served them well.”

– Program User, Elder’s Drop-In



DAY COUNSELLING

The 2024–2025 year marked a significant period of change and resilience for the Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) Counselling Team. With the move to a new central office at 282 Dupuis Street in November 2024, the team was at the forefront of transformation, one that would deeply impact not only service delivery but also the way they collaborate and connect with the community.

The new location in Vanier provided a clear improvement in accessibility for many Inuit clients. The benefit was not just practical; it also had emotional significance, with clients expressing gratitude for having culturally supportive resources nearby. One client's words captured this feeling simply and powerfully: "It makes me feel good that TI is close by." The move increased the visibility of Inuit community members in the area and within the office, strengthening both their sense of kinship and connection to important services.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

The year marked a deepening of the team's ability to support clients holistically. Providing bus tickets and taxi vouchers continued to be vital in removing transportation obstacles, making sure that cost and distance did not prevent access to

care. Additionally, offering traditional Inuit country food went beyond just providing nutrition; it addressed urgent food insecurity issues while grounding services in culturally safe practices. Language was also respected: the team responded to requests for services in Inuktitut, preserving linguistic and cultural integrity at the core of therapeutic relationships.

Support extended further into the community through outreach, including to Ikaarvik House, where Inuit men accessed culturally competent mental health support. Team members also participated in a variety of events, both within TI and at the national level, expanding the reach and impact of mental health services. The chance for clients to work with traditional Inuit materials, such as crafting clothing or jewelry, became another way for healing and cultural reconnection.

Internally, the year was marked by a profound commitment to staff well-being and solidarity. The emotionally demanding nature of trauma-heavy caseloads was met with compassion and structure. Dedicated meetings provided space for the counselling team to process their experiences together, nurturing emotional resilience and mutual support. Regular team meetings became a cornerstone for discussing complex cases and for sharing both burdens and breakthroughs. Professional development was not an afterthought; attending conferences and training events as a team fostered both growth and camaraderie.

Interdepartmental collaboration flourished in the new space, with the consolidation at 282 Dupuis streamlining communication and workflow across TI's departments. This integration enabled more seamless referrals and a truly

holistic, wraparound approach to care. Partnerships, particularly with Inuuqatigiit, flourished—joint efforts such as facilitating family visits for those connected with the Children's Aid Society (CAS) proved invaluable for strengthening family bonds. Cross-departmental coordination also helped facilitate sibling and family visits, often a crucial factor in child welfare contexts.

CHALLENGES

The year was not without its challenges. The shift to a shared office environment meant that counsellors no longer had individual offices as they did previously. Increased noise, higher foot traffic, and the lack of consistent, private rooms for sessions at times compromised both client comfort and the continuity of therapeutic work. Environmental factors added further strain: ongoing renovations brought unpredictable disruptions, while unreliable internet connectivity and fluctuating heating or cooling systems impacted both staff and clients during critical moments.

In response, the team provided thoughtful recommendations for the path forward. They suggested scheduling major renovations outside of work hours to reduce disruptions and called for

investments in reliable IT infrastructure to ensure virtual services and documentation could continue without interruption. The creation of dedicated counseling offices, either through new funding or reallocating space, was emphasized as a priority to improve client privacy and session quality. The team also proposed that consolidating the counseling and social navigator teams onto a single floor could strengthen collaboration and support among roles.

Ongoing professional growth was another key theme. There was enthusiasm for increased access to targeted training and clinical supervision, both seen as essential for best practices and preventing burnout. Community partnerships were viewed as a source of mutual benefit; the team looked forward to strengthening connections with other Inuit and Indigenous organizations, co-hosting training programs, and

expanding joint services. There was also a desire for more specialized training on navigating systems like CAS and social housing to improve the team's advocacy and support for clients. Addressing practical barriers, such as access to childcare, was identified as a priority, with partnerships to provide on-site childcare seen as an effective way to remove a significant obstacle for many clients. The team also suggested increasing the availability of taxi cabs, especially for those coming from northern communities or with mobility challenges, to promote fairness in access.

A highlight of the year's professional growth was training in Emotionally Focused Therapy (EFT), a method that aligns closely with Inuit values of relational healing. Although not all staff adopted it as a core approach, EFT offered valuable tools for those supporting families and couples facing unique challenges.



CONCLUSION

In summary, the 2024–2025 year at TI was marked by growth, adaptation, and a lasting commitment to culturally grounded, high-quality mental health care for Inuit clients and their families. Despite structural and environmental barriers, the counseling team persisted, drawing

strength from each other and the communities they serve. Looking ahead, there is a solid foundation to build on: through improved infrastructure, stronger partnerships, and ongoing training and support, the team's ability to promote healing and resilience will continue to expand.

This reflects strong and consistent client participation, as well as the breadth of services accessed throughout the period.

CLIENT OVERVIEW AND SERVICE UTILIZATION

Individual Clients Served:

A total of 150 individual clients were supported during this reporting period.

Presenting Issues:

Clients presented with a range of complex and often overlapping concerns. The most common presenting issues included:

- Developmental trauma
- Substance use concerns
- Distressed relationships or partners

These issues often happen together, needing a trauma-informed and integrated approach to providing services.

Program Engagement: IRS & Other Events

Across both IRS (Individualized Recovery Support) sessions and other program-related events (e.g., workshops, peer groups, outreach):

A total of **2,054 engagements** were recorded.

150 INDIVIDUAL
CLIENTS WERE
SUPPORTED

2,054 TOTAL
ENGAGEMENTS



EDUCATION POLICY

The Education Department has provided continued support to families, students and classrooms, and to school boards in implementing programs aimed at improving achievement and well-being for Inuit children and youth. We have also supported the Ministry of Education's efforts to fulfill the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by participating in feedback sessions and curriculum reviews.

Additionally, the staff of the Education Program in conjunction with volunteers and contract workers, has produced a weekly radio show on CKCU radio called Uqallagvik.

Our success can be measured in the connection that Inuit children felt to individuals who are like them. They are often isolated within the school system and are struggling academically and socially. Having one of our team members (Inuk) visit them in classrooms or making presentations to their teachers and workers brings awareness about their needs and helps build bridges to their culture.

At the school board level, our Inuit team members provided input and

support on decision-making which impacts Inuit and other indigenous students.

At the Ministry level, we have influenced decision-making at the provincial level to improve Inuktitut language instruction across the province of Ontario.

We have supported the process for Inuktitut credit acquisition for a number of Inuit students within the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, which is the first in the province, and

continue to collaborate with school boards to enable more Inuit students to achieve similar success. This is an on-going process.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- Expanded reach within the school boards, more classroom visits, more Inuktitut credit granting for students
- Developed an Inuktitut language certification course for qualified teachers
- Assist the College of Teachers to establish an Indigenous teacher qualification program
- Provide input to the Ministry of Education on curriculum revisions with an Inuit lens
- Provided cross departmental support within TI

CHALLENGES

We are limited by the access to students and schools. We can only support students when we are invited to do so. We continue to work with staff at school boards to facilitate access to Inuit children and youth.

More parents could reach out to us. We facilitated a feedback session with families to learn how we could better provide support to them.



Approximately 20 interviews took place. We know we could be serving more families if they knew about us.

CONCLUSION

We are developing an Inuktitut language program for Inuit children and youth. This initiative is focused on supporting language revitalization and cultural preservation by creating opportunities for young learners to engage with Inuktitut in meaningful and accessible ways.

We will continue our involvement with school children by increasing the number of visits and expanding to more schools.



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Tungasuvvingat Inuit's Employment Services continues its programming funded in partnership with ESDC's ISETS funding to serve unemployed and under employed urban Inuit living in Ontario.

This fiscal year we moved operations from 1071 Richmond location to 282 Dupuis Street in Vanier, staffed by two Employment Counsellors. These Counsellors provide personalized employment support, including résumé preparation, job search techniques, and access to occupational research to help individuals assess their career choices and explore suitable post-secondary education programs. Our centre also continues to offer a computer lab for drop-in use, providing resources to assist job seekers.

The Employment Centre at Tungasuvvingat Inuit continues to provide vital supports and programming to urban Inuit, assisting clients in accessing training, employment opportunities, and career development services. Despite a year marked by staffing transitions and an office relocation, the team remained committed to delivering quality services and supporting Inuit on their path to meaningful employment.

QUARTERLY SERVICE DELIVERY OUTCOMES

Employment Centre Services Delivered:

- 55 New Client Intakes
- 80 Employment Counselling Sessions
- 48 Job Start Supports
- 3 ISPs for Certificate Training
- 16 Clients Reported Employment Outcomes & Outcomes (Unemployed/Unspecified)
- 226 Interventions

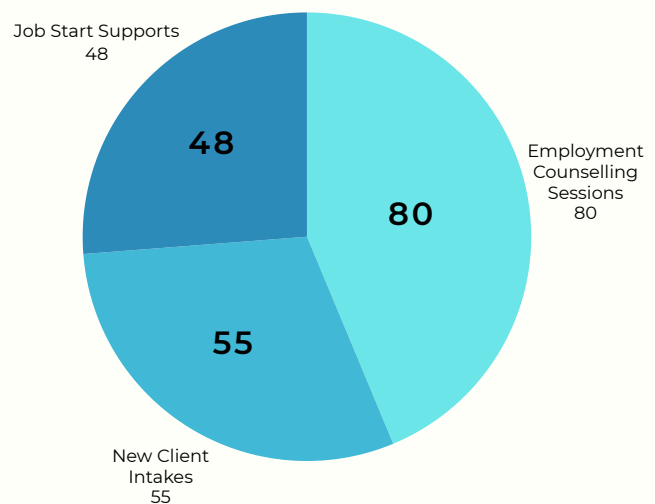
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Job Start Supports:

A total of 45 supports were identified and participants received assistance to begin new employment.

Supports included:

- 5 Vulnerable Sector Checks
- 11 Driving Lessons / Driver's License Support
- 7 Reimbursements for G2 Drive Test
- 7 Clothing Allowances / Haircuts / PPE
- 3 laptops & software for online learning classes
- 1 Heavy Equipment Certification
- 5 Presto Passes
- 2 Government I.D.s
- 2 Reimbursements for College Applications
- 2 Nursing Specialty certifications



Pre-Employment Training Groups

Pre-Apprenticeship Training (Partnership: NCC Investment Group Ltd. & T.I. Employment Services)

A comprehensive **9-week training program** for individuals entering the construction trades sector.

Training included pre-trades exam preparation, safety certifications, telehandler training, and hands-on tool work.

Supports provided: bus passes, PPE, lunches/refreshments, and job placements with NCC Investment Group Ltd.

Participants were offered the opportunity to work on the **Nunavut 3000 project**, gaining exposure to various trades and apprenticeship opportunities.

7 participants successfully completed all program requirements (Sept. 16 – Nov. 30, 2024).

Driver's Training

Driver's Training remains an essential employment readiness program.

Delivered in partnership with Ottawa Driving School, offering both classroom and in-car lessons.

20 participants participated in driver's training during this reporting period and/ or provided receipts for reimbursement.

Individual Sponsorship Program (ISP)

Through limited funding provided by Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC), the ISP supports urban Inuit with certification and training opportunities to enhance employability.

Current Sponsorships this period included:

- 1 Heavy Equipment Certification
- 1 PLATO Software Tester Training Program (five months in-class + paid internship; graduates offered full-time apprentice positions leading to junior software tester roles)
- 1 Cannabis Training Certification



CONCLUSION

This reporting period highlighted the resilience and dedication of the Employment Services team.

Despite staffing transitions and the challenges of relocating offices, the Centre achieved strong service outcomes, supported clients through a range of employment readiness activities, and maintained essential partnerships to create pathways to meaningful employment for urban Inuit.

The Employment Centre remains committed to expanding services, reducing barriers, and continuing to support urban Inuit in reaching their employment and training goals.





FAMILY WELL-BEING

The Family Well-Being department is part of the Family Services Team, under Director, Jodi Jaffray. Programs offered include: The Ilagiiqatigiitsiarniq Program (Family Well-Being), Violence Against Women (VAW), Youth Life Promotion (YLP), and the Arsaniq program.

Ilagiiqatigiitsiarniq

The Ilagiiqatigiitsiarniq Program was created to support the needs of Urban Inuit families by offering individual or group services, activities and programs to help promote overall well being of men, women and children. Family well-being workers support families who may be affected by violence, require help with navigating Urban systems, and/or want to connect to Inuit in a culture rich and positive environment.

VAW – Violence Against Women

TI's VAW Counselling Program assists Inuit women who have experienced violence to heal and reclaim their safety, and empower them in their various roles, including that of caregiver. Women requiring support

with safety planning, court, victim services, police, shelters, and healing, may self refer to the FWB team. The VAW worker will provide supports for the individual and their children, that they may move towards safety and well-being.

Youth Life Promotion

Tungasuvvingat Inuit has a dedicated and robust Youth Life Promotion (YLP) program. The YLP Coordinator helps support Inuit children and youth 10-18 years of age to identify barriers that prevent them from living a healthy life. Through the YLP program, youth are provided opportunities to connect to their culture. Supports may be provided on an individual or group level.

ARSANIQ

The Arsaniq Program offers programs and services that support the 2SLGBTQIA+ Inuit Community. Program support is flexible, and in keeping with the individual's needs and preferences. The program is community-led and prevention-focused. The maintenance of culture and language are pivotal components of the Arsaniq program.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- **MMIWG2S vigil** at Annie Pootoogook Park, honoring Indigenous women and two-spirit individuals who have gone missing and/or murdered. Singing and drum dancing.
- **Larga Youth Outreach**, in tandem with Kamatsiarniq's Youth in Transition Worker, provided youth and their families at Larga a chance to socialize, engage in activities, and learn about Inuit-specific resources in Ottawa.
- **Ilakkalu** – family night dinner and activities in collaboration with Kamatsiarniq team.
- **Intimate Partner Violence Foundations** and Risk Assessments training for VAW staff at Western University
- **Piruksiakului** women's program
- **Sugar Bush** at Proulx Farm for 100+ community members



- **Pride Coffeehouse**, a collaborative effort between TI, Inuuqatigiit, and Odawa Friendship Centre, supporting the queer community. The event welcomed 46 attendees, 7 of whom showcased their artistic talents through singing, poetry, and drum dancing.
- **Summer activities for youth** at Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa, in their open gym
- **Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training** for FWB staff. This 3-day training focused on de-escalation and support to individuals displaying heightened emotional states.
- **Vicarious Trauma training** for FWB staff. This 2-day training reinforced the need for staff to be mindful and respectful of the lived experiences of those seeking TI services.

- **Training – Pharmacology** – Understanding Opioid Addiction; and SMART Recovery Facilitator training
- The VAW staff attended: **Seeds of Possibility:** Understanding Alternative Justice Practices in the Gender-Based Violence Sector virtual forum held on February 4–5, 2025, which explored culturally grounded, community-based approaches to justice within the gender-based violence sector.
- The FWB team members underwent **First Aid/CPR recertification** (March 17-18, 2025)
- The FWB team assisted the Culture team to run **Inuit games** at TI's National Indigenous People's Day event at Annie Pootoogook Park.
- The VAW Worker attended bi-weekly **EarlyON Ullakuut Community Programming** (0-6 years old)
- The FWB team hosted **TI's annual berry picking event**. This event saw 160 registrants gather at Proulx Farm to pick berries and play Inuit games.
- In August, the **FWB's Arsaniq program**, held the second annual Inuit Pride Conference. This event was held August 27th-29th; and hosted a total of 13 participants from across Inuit Nunangant.
- **Halloween boxes**, containing tricks and treats, were created and distributed to youth.
- Youth were treated to their own **Christmas celebration** in the community. Gift cards were provided to all the youth, as well as smaller gift items (e.g. treats).
- The FWB team volunteered to support the **annual Christmas event** for all community members.
- The YLP Coordinator and a youth attended the annual **Canada We conference**, hosted by The Students Commission of Canada (SCC), in Toronto.
- The YLP Coordinator, through the **Students Commission of Canada (SCC)**, travelled to Iqaluit, Nunavut, to meet with Inuit youth aged 15+ to talk about social issues and to promote TI as a resource for Inuit who travel to Ontario.



- **Youth Drop In** – run Tuesday evenings for 3 successive years, with an average weekly attendance of 10 participants. Youth are active in program planning and delivery, which emphasises cultural connections. Staff supporting the group included: the YLP Coordinator; the Ilagiiqatigiitsiarniq Worker; the Acting Manager of Culture; and the Training and Education Coordinator.
- **Family Fall Fun Day**, run in collaboration with Early On. An event for all ages, well attended and lots of community spirit!
- **Onandaga Camp** – Several staff from TI, including: the YLP Coordinator; the Acting Manager of Culture; and the Training and Education Coordinator) supported youth at the Onandaga Camp from August 19 – 23rd. This camp was organized by the Association of Native Child and Family Services Agencies of Ontario (ANCFSAO) and provided Indigenous children and youth opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and participate in various cultural activities. TI staff bridged the gaps for many of the Inuit children/youth by providing opportunities to access and enjoy a variety of cultural practices, such as: throat singing; Inuit games; Bannock-making; canoeing; and country food (frozen caribou, arctic char, and whale blubber).

CHALLENGES

Staffing needed to grow and support/maintain existing programs. Staff are often called on to support other programs or events. This naturally impacts time available to meet with and support community members connected to our program.

Limited available funding to add additional staff and to otherwise grow our programs.



CONCLUSION

Despite staffing and funding challenges, the Family Well-Being team is excited for the year ahead. Our new Vanier location will make us more accessible to the larger number of urban Inuit who reside here.

We understand that well-being is enhanced through the creative arts. Providing avenues for emotional expression helps to reduce stress and build mental and emotional resilience. And so, we are adding both music and photography to our program delivery. Creative pursuits, such as music or photography, offer outlets for processing emotions, fostering self-awareness, improving focus, and increasing self-esteem – all of which help to support in the recovery and prevention of mental health conditions.

We also understand the importance of intergenerational programs, such as music, to help build and support relationships between children and adults.

Finally, we look forward to being under one roof with our TI colleagues, learning together and sharing resources for the benefit of the urban Inuit community.





FOOD SECURITY

The Food Security Program at Tungasuvvingat Inuit is focused on ensuring food access, sovereignty, and nutrition for urban Inuit families in Ottawa. We provide both emergency food assistance and long-term solutions, including the distribution of country food sourced from the North, which is vital for cultural connection and nutrition.

This year has been one of growth, especially with the move into our new space that includes a full kitchen and community area. We also expanded our staff team — beginning the year with just two dedicated team members and growing to a four-person team to better meet the needs of the community.

Despite challenges such as rising costs and increasing demand, we've continued to serve a growing number of families with consistency and care, thanks to strong partnerships and community support.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Relocation to New Facility:** Successfully moved into a new, larger space with a fully functional kitchen and sitting area, enabling more community cooking workshops and educational programs.
- **Distribution of Country Food:** Continued to provide culturally important country food sourced from the North to urban Inuit families.
- **Monthly Clothing Donations from Giant Tiger:** Received new clothing donations each month, helping to support community members.



- **Ongoing Support from Khalsa Aid:** Monthly donations of food, supplies, and hands-on assistance with meal preparation from Khalsa Aid. They also helped us prepare 200 of Christmas hampers.
- **Link2Feed Tracking:** Continued to use Link2Feed to track foot traffic at our food bank. This data supports ongoing donations from the Ottawa Food Bank.
- **Weekly Food Donations from Ottawa Food Bank:** Transitioned from bi-weekly to weekly food donations, improving our ability to meet the increased demand.
- **Serving the Community:** The program serves about 300 Inuit bi-weekly and 1,100-1,500 Inuit families per month.
- **Team Expansion:** Grew from a 2-person team at the beginning of the year to a 4-person team, increasing our capacity to deliver food security services and respond more effectively to the needs of urban Inuit in Ottawa.

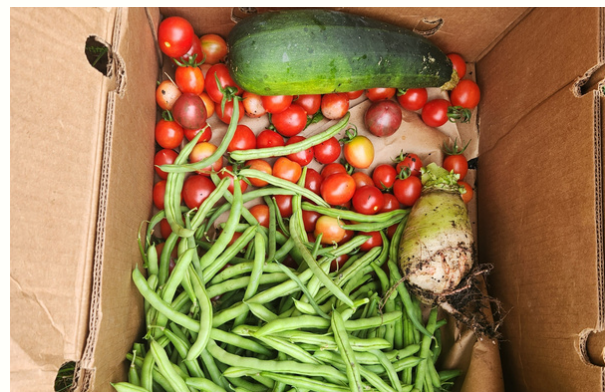
CHALLENGES

Increased Foot Traffic and Demand: Due to rising cost of living and food insecurity, more urban Inuit families are relying on our services. We currently serve about 300 Inuit bi-weekly and 1,100-1,500 families monthly. This has put additional pressure on our resources and ability to meet demand.

Securing More Funding: With the increase in community need, finding additional funding has become critical to sustaining and expanding our services. We are actively seeking new partnerships, grants, and fundraising opportunities to help meet the growing demand.

Food Donations Lower than Expected: Donations from the Ottawa Food Bank have been lower than anticipated, particularly as the cost of living rises and the demand for food assistance increases. We have had to be more resourceful with our existing stock and are exploring alternative sources for food donations.

a growing team, we have the infrastructure to meet growing demand, but funding and food donations remain critical to our continued success. We will continue to work closely with our partners, seek new resources, and explore innovative solutions to ensure sustainable food security for Inuit families in Ottawa.



CONCLUSION

The Food Security Program is facing an increasingly complex environment, but we remain committed to supporting the urban Inuit community in Ottawa. With new space, expanded services, and



HEALING AND WELLNESS PROMOTION

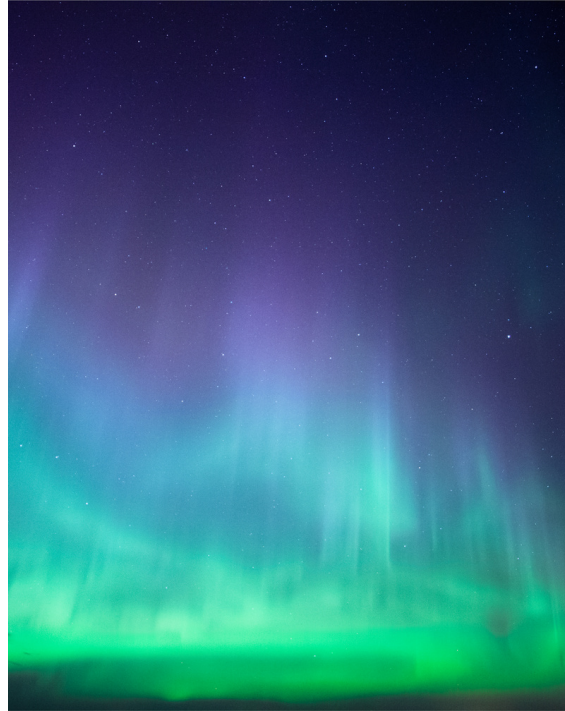
The Healing and Wellness Promotion department is the umbrella of 4 programs: Counselling and Navigation, Research department, Healing and Wellness Promotion program, and Cancer Care.

The goal of this department is to support the healing and wellness initiatives of our community, in collaboration with the provincial health entities and TI programs. The department connects TI to various tables and health organizations so that our community can have a larger voice within provincial health programs, system updates, system navigation, and health care processes. In addition, this department aims to promote our 4 programs across the province.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- Secured funding from Ontario Health, created job description, and hired an Ontario health liaison within TI; Manager of Healing and Wellness (Carly Little).
- Support in applying for a grant from the National Sixties Scoop Healing Foundation of Canada to create an Inuit-led and directed film about the Sixties Scoop for educational purposes.
- Secured collaboration with the Ottawa Heart Institute to develop a heart health pamphlet that is culturally in line and useful to our Inuit community.
- Sat on many tables such as Urban Indigenous Health (UHT) with Ontario Health, Joint Ontario Indigenous Health Committee (JOIHC), Ontario Chief Medical Officer etc. with the common goal of increasing Indigenous representation within healthcare and improving health outcomes for our Urban Inuit community.

- Supported the facilitation of the in-person Not Deciding Alone research group, in Ottawa.
- Established initial connections with various branches of Ontario Health such as Digital solutions and Indigenous Kidney Care.
- This program has established multiple new Ontario Health connections and continued to strengthen existing connections.
- The program is working with community partners to establish a position for a health promotion educator within the team to support community members to make informed decision about their health care.



CHALLENGES

The re-shaping of this department presented the challenge of making the healing and wellness promotion services available, known to the organization. With time and consistent follow-up, this department is now being sought out by provincial entities and within TI itself, for all things healing and wellness promotion.

Inserting the manager of healing and wellness into already established tables and projects, but this individual was welcomed and integrated well. Director, Kelly Morrissey, ensured thoughtful handover and provided solid foundation for new manager to step in.

CONCLUSION

The department is committed to advancing healing and wellness initiatives within the community and hopes to hire an Inuk educator to integrate Shared Decision Making techniques and culturally relevant lessons into hospital settings for health care providers serving Inuit patients.

In addition, the department aims to continue seeking funding to grow its three branch programs and further expand the healing and wellness branch to better meet evolving community needs.



HOUSING SUPPORT SERVICES

TI's Housing Services serves clients who are chronically or episodically homeless. The goal of the program is to move people into permanent housing and then provide additional supports once settled.

Housing Services is comprised of two teams: Housing First and Housing Support

Housing First workers receive their clients through a centralized waitlist from the City of Ottawa. When they are next on the list, they will get paired with a Housing-Based Case Manager who will provide intensive case management.

Housing Support receives referrals through walk-ins, word of mouth, or other agencies. If interested, they will assist clients with completing an Intake Form to join the waitlist that will match them to a Housing First worker.

In the meantime, Housing Support will assist with any housing barriers. Housing Support can also provide one-time services in the event the client does not want a Housing First worker.

In the past year, we saw an influx of clients and community members having various needs. A major one is Identification, which is crucial to starting the housing process. Among the other needs were clothing and food provisions. Luckily, Housing was well equipped to supply all these needs.

SUCCESS STORY

A Housing Support client arrived in Ottawa pregnant, fleeing an abusive relationship. She briefly stayed with a relative in the region, but when they asked her to leave, her situation became critical, and she began using hard drugs again.

We encouraged her to stop for her health and her baby's future and assured her we would be there every step of the way. We helped with food bank access, bus tickets, ID replacement, and Housing Registry applications, relentlessly advocating to prioritize her case.

By the time she gave birth, she had secured a beautiful rent-geared-to-income apartment, fully furnished through Matthew Housing. She was moved to tears on move-in day, overwhelmed with gratitude and determined to never look back. Today, she's living a stable, fulfilling life with her newborn baby, drug-free and hopeful for the future.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- Completed Intro to Inuktitut to help us connect better with our clients and the community.
- Surpassed the previous year by providing Case Management to over 350 individuals and families.
- Housed 15 clients in the newly built Shepherds of Good Hope Supportive Housing on Murray St
- Prevented a high number of evictions
- Saw a higher number of clients interested in Mamisarvik

CHALLENGES

As it was last year, we continued to persevere through high staff turnover, doing the best we could to serve the community with limited personnel.

We saw an influx of families and single mothers showing up at our doorstep, needing emergency placement.

A major trend in the past year was the high number of clients needing assistance with rental arrears.

CONCLUSION

Our future looks bright. Housing Department has always had a solid core of workers who are great at what they do. Even when we lose some of our stars in the program, there is so much talent that applies to TI's Housing program. This lets me know that working at TI Housing is highly sought after.

We hope to continue housing the Inuit community at every opportunity that presents itself.



“

“TI Housing Program has helped me tremendously. The program assisted me in getting my life back on track. Coming out of foster care, I ended up homeless. A Housing Case Manager helped me secure housing and connected me with income resources. I have been living with my two children and girlfriend for the last two and a half years in a safe area in which TI helped me secure. They gave me the help I needed. I thank the Housing Team for it.”

– Housing First, Youth client



ILLIPALIALISAAQTIUGU EARLYON CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE

Ilipalialisaaqtilugu EarlyON Child and Family Centre welcomes all Inuit families, and families with Inuit children ages 0-6 and siblings welcome. We offer programs, and supportive services to enhance child well-being, parent/caregiver bond(s), cultural knowledge, pride, and identity.

Our programs provide early years cultural activities & teachings, reading, storytelling, and circle time. Early Years provides a chance for families to connect with each other, and our Elders, as well as having an opportunity to access other Tungasuvvingat Inuit services and community resources.

Families can also receive support from our trained professionals in Early Childhood Development such as the

Canada Pre-Natal and Nutrition Program (CPNP) and Community Action Program for Children (CAPC), as part of our partnership with the Public Health Agency of Canada.

All programs and services under Illipalialisaaqtilugu EarlyON are completely free of charge. We also provide food & bus tickets for participants.

MEET THE EARLY YEARS TEAM:

- **Wendy Rahman** – Illipalialisaaqtilugu Manager
- **Courtney Illman** - Early Years Program Coordinator
- **Norma Ventura** - Community Action Program for Children Worker (CAPC)
- **Diamond Angel-Garrett** - Pre/Post Natal & Nutritional Worker (CPNP)

PROGRAMS

Ullaakut: Every second Wednesday; A collaborative CAPC/CPNP program where the community comes together for a nutritious breakfast, learning about various health supports, and resources, and connecting with community & culture.

Unnukut (Summer-Outdoor): Every Monday; a fun, relaxed evening playgroup that promotes play, and other childhood milestones.



Cultural Workshops (Spring, Fall, Winter): Three weeks out of the month on Thursday's; families are invited to come together to create culturally relevant items for their children, enjoy traditional country food, and strengthen community connections and natural supports.

Atauttikkut Ilinniaqatgiiktugut (We are learning together as one) Program: A partnership with CHEO's First Words program, along with Inuktitut Literacy & Language Program (Early Years) for children learning or starting to speak Inuktitut 18mths-4 years old.

Ilagiit Program: One Saturday a month families come together for games, crafts, cultural activities, and sharing in delicious country food.

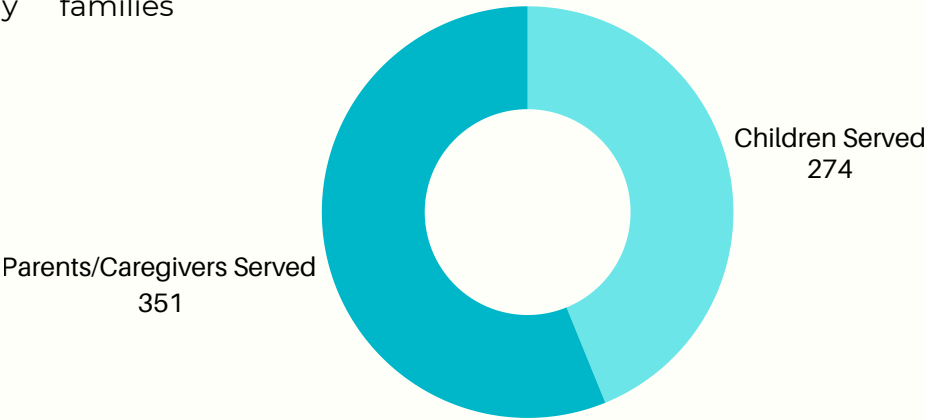
Family Time Visits: We facilitate and support the process of family reunification in a safe holistic space, and following IQ Principles.

Community Events: Sharing experiences with our families through community outings or special events.

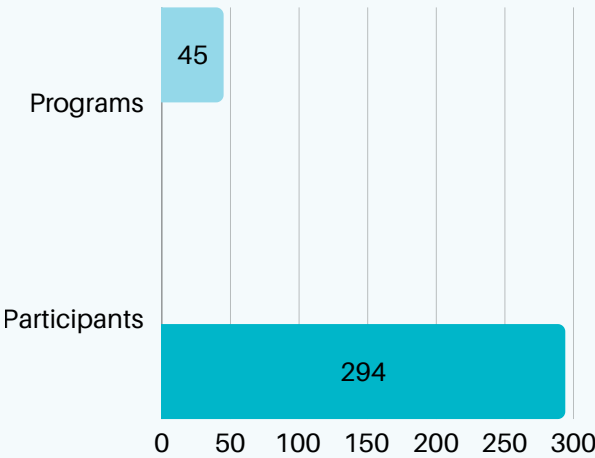
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

We had the pleasure of connecting with many children and families this past year through EarlyON, CAPC, and CPNP services. Here is a look at how many families accessed our services:

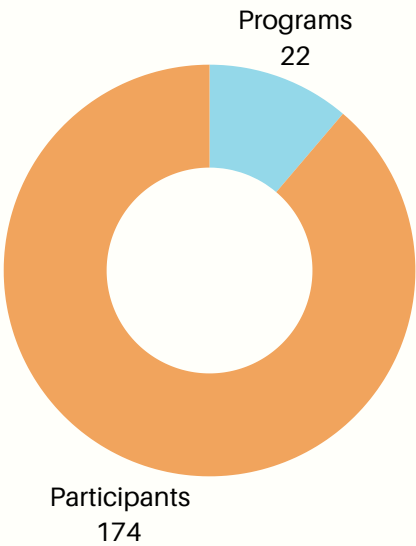
EarlyON:



CAPC:



CPNP:



Early Years strives to maintain a strong united team, together we focus on developing a healthy and effective program.

During the 2024-2025 year the Early Years team acknowledges the shift in programming due to the transition of the organizational move and EarlyON space, however Early Years worked diligently to continue facilitating programs and services.

While we recognize that some programs may have been impacted or decreased, we used this time to develop and implement new cultural programming.

Other highlights include connecting to the land, sharing stories, and eating the most amazing country food!

Additionally, the Illipalialisaaqtilugu team was seen supporting multiple TI events;

- Inuit Wellness Day,
- Fall Family Fun Day,
- Toronto Christmas Feast
- Toronto Berry Picking
- As well as taking part in the Resilience Day event with IEYC (Indigenous Early Years Circle)



TRAINING

During the 2024-2025 fiscal period, the early years team took part in a few different trainings such as Trauma Informed Approaches, Trauma-Informed Practice, Trauma and Addictions, and Supporting Inuit Families. Taking part of these trainings helped the early years team develop more skills and knowledge on how to best support individuals and their families.

FUNDING SOURCES

We are thankful for the continuous support of our funders, The City of Ottawa, and the Public Health Agency of Canada. Without their support, we would not be able to deliver programs and services to the community.

Through our funding, we can support program supplies, food, newborn kits, cultural kits, workshops, one-on-one services, and family time visits.

THE PATH FORWARD

With a solidified vision that is guided by the IQ Principles, we are excited for the future. We aim to recruit and build capacity with community members who are passionate about the Early Years sector and who are dedicated to supporting Early Childhood Development and supporting families.

We are committed to enhancing community engagement through increased events while also ensuring that as we move forward with all our programs, there is a strong connection to language and culture. This is the focus of the upcoming year.

Additionally, we are looking to bring in new community partners that will support the growth of the Early Years programs and help create resources for the community to access. We have received a lot of feedback from the community about the challenges of finding childcare, respite support, and support during school breaks. These points have been a pressing concern for our team. We are currently seeking solutions for these much-needed services in the near future.

CONCLUSION

We are thankful to all the families who come and support our programs, and who are committed to seeing the Inuit community thrive.

We are grateful for all the wonderful support we receive from our Leadership team, and most importantly for the hard work of our dedicated Early Years team.

It is an honour to be a part of our family's journey, and we remain committed to ensuring that our families receive the supports they need.





KAMATSIARNIQ PROGRAM

Kamatsiarniq means “Taking better care through wisdom”

Acting on behalf of Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK) as party under the CYFSA as the designated Listed Community Representative, the Kamatsiarniq Team strives to ensure the rights of Inuit children, youth, and families are respected and upheld.

The team provides advocacy, case planning, system navigation, and service coordination to families who are involved in child welfare or experiencing circumstances which could lead to child welfare involvement.

The team delivers support and advocacy through trauma-informed, culturally responsive practices grounded in Inuit societal values. The Kamatsiarniq program vision is for all Inuit children and youth in Ontario to grow up thriving in the care of their family and community with a strong sense of cultural identity.

The team provides community centered, culturally responsive support and services including:

- System navigation and support in completing applications, identifying needs and accessing services.
- Cultural and emotional support during CAS involvement.
- Ensuring families understand their rights and advocate for the best interest of families.
- Youth-centered trauma-informed, culturally responsive support through workshops, classes and cultural programming, all designed to empower young people to strengthen their ties to community and culture.

OUR CULTURALLY SAFE CARE FOR INUIT FAMILIES:

Kamatsiarniq Listed Community Representative

The Listed Community Representatives are authorized to receive and respond to notifications from approximately 52 children's aid and child wellbeing agencies across Ontario. They offer advocacy, case planning, system navigation, and service coordination to families who are involved in child welfare.

The team provides community centered, culturally responsive support and services which include:

- Accompanying families when meeting with CAS. This can include answering questions, ensuring families understand their rights and advocating for the best interest of families.
- Participating in consultations and decision-making regarding safety plans, cultural safety plans, placement decisions and reunification planning.
- Ensuring Inuit children and youth rights are protected and promoted by ensuring they remain connected to their family, community and culture.
- Completing referrals to internal and external partners to foster a circle of support for families by providing ongoing lasting connection to meaningful support, services and programming.
- Ensuring child welfare decisions and interventions are culturally appropriate and specific and do not promote assimilation or further harm to Inuit identity.

CONTACT US

If you require support, program referrals or information please email the Kamatsiarniq team at

KAMATSIARNIQ@TIONTARIO.CA

Or visit our webpage below



Kamatsiarniq Cultural Coordinator

The Cultural Coordinator is responsible for guiding and overseeing all cultural support and programming offered to Inuit children, youth, and families who are or who may be experiencing challenges which could lead to child welfare involvement. The cultural coordinator facilitates opportunities to develop strong positive cultural identities and fosters a sense of community belonging. The Cultural Coordinator collaborates with Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations and institutions to promote Inuit cultural competency and awareness. They are also responsible for providing expertise and guidance to the Kamatsiarniq team and management to ensure program development and policy design are grounded in Inuit societal values.



Kamatsiarniq Inuit Family Court Worker

The Inuit Family Court Worker supports Inuit individuals and families involved in the family court system, including those navigating separation, custody, or child welfare matters. They provide advocacy, system navigation, and case planning to help clients understand their rights, responsibilities, and options when appearing in court. The Family Court Worker offers ongoing support both in and outside of court, helping clients access services, coordinate care, and stay informed throughout the legal process, all through a culturally responsive and community centered approach.

Kamatsiarniq Child and Youth Worker (CYW)

The CYW supports Inuit children and youth involved in child welfare who are facing personal, social, or emotional challenges by promoting well-being, cultural connection, and positive development. The CYW provides services through a trauma-informed, youth-centered, culturally responsive approach which guides all workshops, classes, and cultural programming with the goal of empowering young people and strengthening their ties to community and culture. They collaborate with and provide consultation to families and caregivers by offering cultural connections, cultural safety planning, and programming.

Kamatsiarniq Youth in Transition Worker (YITW)

The YITW supports Inuit youth transitioning out of the child welfare system by promoting independence, well-being, and connection to community. They help youth develop life skills, navigate housing, education, employment, and daily living. Through personalized planning and trauma-informed, youth-centered, and culturally responsive support, the program empowers young people to thrive.



Kamatsiarniq Inuit Family Care Coordinator

The Inuit Family Care Coordinator works from a trauma-informed, strength-based, culturally responsive approach which encourages strong connections to caregivers and community resources. They aim to provide preventative support to families with the goal of mitigating child welfare involvement. This could include providing short-term financial support for childcare services or respite, providing emergency support or resources, and connecting families with service providers in situations where there is no existing child welfare involvement.

The Inuit Family Care Coordinator works with families to assess their needs, help them navigate services, develop support plans to prevent child apprehension, and assist with several application processes. The goal of the Inuit Family Care Coordinator is to improve outcomes by supporting the overall well-being of Inuit families in Ontario.

Kamatsiarniq Education and Training Coordinators

The Kamatsiarniq Trainers facilitate Inuit Cultural Sensitivity training for service providers who work with Inuit. This training is designed to give participants an understanding of the historical, legal, social and political circumstances of Inuit in the South. The training supports participants in increasing their awareness of Inuit culture, traditional parenting practices, and the effects of colonization and urbanization on Inuit families. The trainers are pleased to provide both in-person and virtual training sessions which can be tailored to meet the learning goals of participants.

CHALLENGES

At any given time, the Kamatsiarniq program supports over 300 families involved with child welfare or experiencing challenges which could lead to child welfare involvement. This is done with 7 team members. The Kamatsiarniq Teams biggest challenge is managing the amount of support and advocacy which is critical to the welfare of Inuit children, youth, and families involved with child welfare with a small team. The Kamatsiarniq program requires additional funding to hire more team members to continue to work in the way the community deserves and requires.

CONCLUSION

The Kamatsiarniq team remains committed to providing trauma-informed, culturally responsive practices grounded in Inuit societal values to the children, youth, and families they are honored to support. The team has many great initiatives which will begin in the upcoming year, so please stay tuned for more information!





MAMISARVIK HEALING CENTRE

Mamisarvik Healing Centre offers compassionate, culturally grounded support for Inuit adults healing from substance use and trauma. Participants can access 6–8-week residential treatment programming, designed to foster recovery in a safe, welcoming environment. Services include group programming, one-on-one counselling, cultural activities, communal outings, and nutritious meals.

Drawing on Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) principles, programming addresses coping with trauma, addiction, urges, grief, loss, and anger management while building life skills and confidence.

Admission is open to Inuit individuals 18 and older who are motivated to heal and not currently on withdrawal medication. Whether you are beginning your recovery journey or seeking continued support, Mamisarvik is committed to walking beside you every step of the way, helping you reclaim balance and well-being.

This year at Mamisarvik Healing Centre has been marked by meaningful

growth and deep commitment to supporting Inuit healing. The team provided both residential and day programming, blending trauma and addiction treatment with Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit principles. Participants engaged in group sessions, individual counselling, community outings, and cultural activities, building skills and confidence in their recovery journeys. Community awareness of the program continued to expand, helping more individuals access services. Staff training and development remained a priority to ensure consistent, culturally safe care. Despite challenges, including high demand and limited capacity for Inuktitut services, Mamisarvik upheld

its vision of creating a welcoming, respectful space where clients could reconnect with themselves, their culture, and their strengths. The year closed with renewed dedication to growth, collaboration, and community impact.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- 6-8 Week Residential Treatment Cycles: Inuit-specific programming addressing substance use and trauma recovery.
- Comprehensive Intake & Discharge Planning: Individualized assessment, medical evaluation, and tailored discharge plans to ensure continuity of care.
- Group Programming: Sessions on coping skills, grief and loss, anger management, life skills, and cultural healing.
- One-on-One Counselling: Personalized support from experienced counsellors.
- Cultural Activities & Communal Outings: Recreation and cultural connection opportunities.
- Daily Meals & Snacks: Nutritious food provided during programming.
- Cultural Integration: Programs incorporating Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ) principles and recognition of historical trauma (e.g., Residential Schools, Relocation).

“

“I am proud of myself for being here at Mamisarvik.”

-Anonymous

“I have learned so many strategies and coping skills.”

-Anonymous

- Collaboration with External Supports: Coordination with probation officers, CAS, healthcare providers, Elders, cultural counsellors as needed and the continued support and collaboration with MCCSS.
- Staff Training & Development: Ongoing training for counsellors and Community Support Workers.
- Participant Outcomes: Client's report increased cultural connection, stronger coping skills, and progress toward recovery goals.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)

- Relocation and opening of the new centre at 1071 Richmond Road.
- Hosted an Open House to welcome community members, Elders, and Tungasuvvingat Inuit departments to experience the newly created space.
- Ongoing staff training and professional development initiatives.



CHALLENGES

The construction of the new center led to some disruptions in programming, which delayed the start of our first residential cycle by several weeks. However, during this downtime, we successfully launched a Day Program, welcoming participants to engage in four weeks of healing and recovery.

CONCLUSION

The future of Mamisarvik Healing Centre is focused on strengthening its role as a trusted, culturally grounded resource for Inuit healing. Increased community awareness will help more individuals learn about and access the program, ensuring that those seeking recovery can find support rooted in respect and cultural connection. Efforts to retain skilled, compassionate staff will remain a top priority, recognizing that a dedicated team is essential to delivering consistent, high-quality care.

As demand grows, Mamisarvik plans to expand programming to reach more clients and offer additional services tailored to evolving community needs. With a commitment to continuous learning, cultural integration, and collaborative partnerships, the centre is poised to grow sustainably while staying true to its vision of helping Inuit reclaim balance, wellness, and belonging.



ONTARIO INUIT CANCER PROGRAM

The Tungasuvvingat Inuit (TI) Ontario Inuit Cancer Program (OICP) is a one-of-a-kind community-driven initiative that serves the Urban Inuit population within Ontario. The program seeks to address the ongoing cancer related health disparities that exists between Urban Inuit and the general population in Ontario.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- Recognize and integrate Inuit-specific principles, Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ values) into project activities. This would encompass the Inuit system of values, teachings, decision-making, knowledge sharing and sustainable practices. This will be guided by the advisory groups.
- Expand the current project initiatives to other (or additional) urban centers within Ontario with limited capacity to deliver culturally appropriate care for Inuit; actively engage youth.
- Improve existing programs and services to meet the needs of individuals at all stages of the cancer journey.
- Increase Inuit knowledge (health literacy) about different cancer (breast, cervical, colorectal and lung), prevention strategies, cancer screening, treatment options, and Shared Decision-Making approaches through learning events and activities.
- Increase access to prevention, screening, and treatment services in the cancer system in Ontario by identifying barriers, developing strategies, and implementing initiatives to address the barriers.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES (CONT'D)

- Increase knowledge amongst non-Inuit health professionals (pharmacists, social workers, and oncology nurses) about Inuit culture and traditional practices (cultural safety and sensitivity).
- Build and strengthen relationships with partners (refer below to Table 1) to collaborate to achieve the outcomes of the project and ensure Urban Inuit in Ontario have access to services beyond the OICP.
- Contribute to the growth of Inuit-led research and improve the accessibility of Inuit-specific data within the cancer system.



“

“Since you came to Toronto, I have taken steps to get healthier. I even had my pap test less than 2 months ago.”

-Inuit community member in Toronto at smoking cessation workshop

- Consulted with Elders and community members to co-create story telling videos that focused on healthy living activities, quitting smoking, cancer screening, Elder's cancer journey, caregiver's perspective in cancer care and integrating Inuit culture in cancer care.
- Completed the community evaluation of the OICP with Ottawa Inuit and Toronto Inuit. This evaluation focused on current program initiatives and sought suggestions/feedback on improving programming in a good way to better benefit the community.
- Hosted successful and well attended Inuit Wellness Day events with 78 attendees in Ottawa and 28 community attendees in Toronto.

CHALLENGES

The program continues to seek sustainable funding to support its ongoing initiatives and long-term impact. As part of the transition to our new building, we're also working to secure dedicated space for programming that meets the needs of our participants.

CONCLUSION

We are currently awaiting a 3-year funding from our partners-Canadian Partnership Against Cancer from 2025 – 2028.



“

“All the things we do here, eating together, playing together, making sure we live a better life and have more discussions about these topics, we can start to see that we will have a better future. People who deal with cancer, the whole family are affected. It is very important as Inuit that we have to make sure that there are programs that are run for Inuit like this one”

– Inuit Elder in Ottawa at community gathering



PISIKSİK JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

The Pisiksik Justice Department assists Inuit 18 years and older who are at risk or involved in the criminal justice system. Pisiksik staff specialize in Gladue Writing, Restorative Justice, Legal System and Probation Navigation.

The Legal System Program (LSP)

continues to be a collaboration between Tungasuvvingat Inuit and Inuuqatigiit, with staff hired separately by each organization. This program provides direct system support and navigation to individuals with criminal, family or human rights matters, as well as facilitates general information sessions and events. During 2024-25 staff supported over 200 clients in this program.

The Restorative Justice (RJ) program provides alternatives to the western justice system to Inuit who have come into conflict with the Criminal Justice System. The RJ Liaison and Caseworker assist clients in navigating the justice system through a culturally

supportive diversion process, offering specific resources to support with a goal to reduce future or further contact with the justice system offering alternatives to incarceration for specific minor crimes.

The Gladue Program supports individuals at the sentencing stage of the criminal justice system by preparing Gladue reports. When a judge orders a report, the individual is referred to the program by either the Crown attorney or defense counsel. A Gladue Writer meets with the individual for several interviews to prepare a comprehensive biographical report outlining their life history, including community and cultural background, family and childhood

experiences, intergenerational and personal trauma, and any significant losses, substance use, or health challenges. The report also provides sentencing recommendations that focus on healing and rehabilitation, such as culturally appropriate counselling, housing and employment support, and addiction or mental health treatment. Over the past year, the Gladue Program has supported 2 individuals, helping many reduce incarceration and access services that better meet their needs, including the Mamisarvik Healing Centre, counselling, and employment supports.



SUCCESS STORIES

Pre-Charge Assault

This client entered the program with no prior criminal record after receiving an assault charge. From the outset, she was committed to addressing the root causes of her anger and actively engaged with the counselling team. Throughout the process, she maintained consistent communication with her caseworker, regularly visiting the office and staying in close contact. As a result of her dedication and participation, the client successfully completed her agreement and graduated from the program.

Post-Charge Theft

This client has had lifelong involvement with the criminal justice system and faces complex challenges,

including addiction, memory loss, and serious health concerns. When community businesses were unable to participate, the client worked closely with our facilitators to take responsibility, restore balance, and begin healing in a meaningful way. Our team provided culturally grounded, wraparound support—accompanying him to medical appointments, assisting with treatment applications, securing stable housing, and connecting him with an Inuktitut-speaking counsellor who understood his hearing needs. Through this support, the client successfully completed the program and his probation, secured housing, and is now on a path to receiving long-awaited medical care.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- The Pisiksik Justice Department (PJD) developed a program logo (see right)
- Restorative Justice staff presented at the Restorative Justice Symposium in Ottawa.
- Restorative Justice staff attended Uneven Scales RJ Training June 18.
- Meeting with BC First Nations Justice Counsel & Ottawa Police Services – Apr 23rd, 2024.
- Pisiksik staff participated in ASIST training provided by TI staff.
- Legal Support Program supported 47 clients in Q4 of 2024.
- The Annual Pride Coffeehouse brought together over 30 participants, including more than 20 members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community and allies, in partnership with Inuuqatigiit, TI, and ODAWA, fostering an inclusive and affirming community space.

CHALLENGES

Occasional delays in receiving pre-charge police files due to current assignment processes.

Opportunities to strengthen referral pathways to ensure Inuit clients are consistently connected with Pisiksik for culturally specific support.



CONCLUSION

Moving forward, the program will continue to build visibility and strengthen its presence in the community to increase awareness and referrals. Staff will actively participate in restorative justice conferences, including attending an RJ conference this fall and presenting at a provincial conference in fall 2025, to share best practices and advocate for restorative, community-based approaches. The program will also implement restorative justice training for new hires to ensure consistency, cultural grounding, and

high-quality service delivery. These efforts will support program growth, strengthen partnerships, and enhance the program's capacity to meet community needs in a meaningful and responsive way.



RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

The Research Department leads the Qanuippitaa? National Inuit Health Survey (QNIHS) in the National Capital Region (NCR), contributes to the Our Health Counts (OHC) National Partners Network, and supports TI departments with research and data needs.

QNIHS BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

Launched in 2019 by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the QNIHS is a permanent, Inuit-led health survey supported by \$82M in federal funding over 10 years. It emphasizes Inuit data sovereignty, community capacity-building, and culturally grounded research. National oversight is provided by ITK and the four Inuit Treaty Organizations (ITOs), along with key Inuit partners.

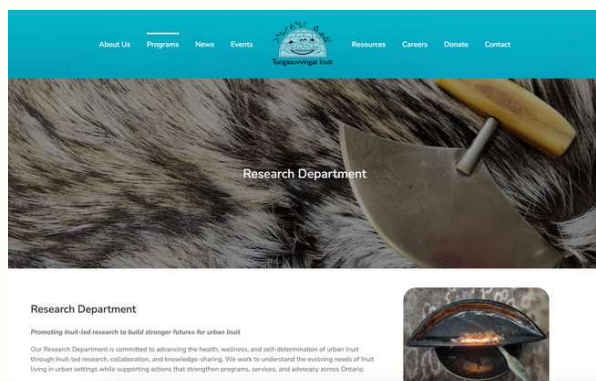
In Ottawa, the QNIHS is guided by a local Steering Committee composed of ITK, Akausivik, Inuuqatigiit Centre,

and TI. Over the past year, the team streamlined the survey to reflect urban Inuit realities, hired MEL consultants and a communications strategist, and planned an Elder Engagement session. Elders' insights continue to shape survey content, foster trust, and strengthen cultural relevance. A major achievement has been deepening collaboration among community partners, leading to stronger relationships and more inclusive, effective research.

OUR HEALTH COUNTS (OHC) UPDATE

Since 2010, TI has participated in OHC, a population health assessment initiative for urban Indigenous communities. This year, work began to establish a new Indigenous legal entity to govern OHC data and uphold data sovereignty. Efforts to expand urban Indigenous health data included linking OHC cohorts with provincial systems (e.g., ICES, MCHP) and exploring connections to GEMINI datasets.

OHC also developed dashboards at four Indigenous Primary Health Care Organizations (IPHCOs) to integrate clinical and population data, and launched policy forums to connect data with decision-making. Training programs were introduced to grow Indigenous data science capacity.



INTERNAL DEPARTMENTAL SUPPORT

The Department continues to support TI teams by providing research and data related to urban Inuit programs. Future efforts will focus on expanding internal capacity to support funding applications, strategic planning, and interdepartmental collaboration.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

A core goal of the Research Department is to hire, mentor, and support the development of Inuit researchers. Historically, non-Indigenous researchers have dominated the field—shaping research questions, designing methodologies, analyzing data, and disseminating findings—often excluding Indigenous voices, perspectives, and knowledge systems. Inuit researchers are essential to advancing research that is inclusive, culturally grounded, and community-driven. They bring deep understanding of cultural relevance and sensitivity, center Indigenous knowledge, empower communities, and help foster trust and reconciliation. These contributions are key to addressing long-standing health inequities and improving outcomes for Inuit and society more broadly. TI is committed to growing a research team comprised of Inuit community members and scholars.

In November 2024, TI hired its first Inuk Research Assistant, Jaylene Ukpaticu, to support QNIHS. Since joining the team, Jaylene has completed one certificate program, “Essentials of Community-Based Research,” delivered by the Centre for Community-Based Research in collaboration with Conrad Grebel University College and the University of Waterloo.

- In December 2024, Alex and Jaylene attended ArcticNet’s Change Conference in Ottawa. Jaylene represented TI at the “Making Research Work for Nunavummiut” workshop hosted by the Nunavut Research Institute.
- In February 2025, Jaylene was invited to present at Qaujisanirmut Pilimmasarniq Research Week in Iqaluit, organized by the Nunavut Network Environment for Indigenous Health Research and the Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre.
- Both Jaylene and Alex completed a two-day training on Trauma-Informed Care and Vicarious Trauma.
- Following TI’s relocation from 1071 Richmond Road to 282 Dupuis Street in Vanier, Alex joined TI’s Art Committee, which is creating a culturally safe and welcoming space. The committee is currently working with Inuit artists to commission original artwork, including murals and wall hangings, for the new head office.



CHALLENGES

The QNIHS team has taken the time it needed to develop a feedback process for content development. This took longer than expected, however we are now moving at a quicker pace and should be done reviewing and providing feedback for the adult survey by the end of April. The timeline for data collection has been pushed until the fall/winter of 2025 which is six months later than anticipated.

However, all partner agencies agreed that this delay has allowed for deeper conversations and continued collaboration. TI continues to advocate for certain questions to be included in the survey, such as those around child welfare and adoption. Many of the questions proposed by TI have been adopted.

CONCLUSION

Looking Ahead: Research Department Goals

As we reflect on the past year's progress, the Research Department remains committed to advancing Inuit-led research and strengthening community partnerships. Our goals for the coming year include:

Expanding Inuit Research Capacity

We will continue hiring and mentoring Inuit researchers, and support their ongoing education, training, and participation in conferences and community-based research initiatives.

Advancing the QNIHS Urban Pilot

We aim to launch and complete the QNIHS survey in Ottawa, ensuring that Elder voices shape the analysis and that findings are shared in ways that are accessible, respectful, and useful to the community.

Strengthening Community Partnerships

Ongoing collaboration with Akausivik, Inuuqatigiit, ITK, and other partners will remain a priority, with a focus on co-developing resources that reflect community needs and values.

Supporting Indigenous Data Sovereignty

We will contribute to the creation of a new Indigenous legal entity to govern OHC data and begin developing internal data governance policies that uphold Inuit control and stewardship.

Enhancing Internal Research Support

The Department will continue to provide tailored research and data support across TI, helping programs access the evidence they need for planning, funding, and evaluation.

Building Indigenous Data Science Capacity

We will explore partnerships to offer data training opportunities for Inuit community members and future researchers.

Fostering Knowledge Sharing

Sharing our work through conferences, publications, and community reports will help ensure Inuit-led research is visible, valued, and impactful.





SOCIAL NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

The Social Systems Navigator program saw significant progress this year, marked by enhanced internal collaboration, expanded staffing, and increased service impact. A key highlight of the year has been the effectiveness and cohesion of the team, whose commitment, adaptability, and mutual support have directly translated into stronger client outcomes and program delivery.

While some challenges arose in interagency coordination, the team's consistent performance, strong communication, and problem-solving capabilities remained a central strength of the program's success.

HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEAM DYNAMICS

The team demonstrated strong alignment, proactive communication, and a shared commitment to client care. Staff consistently collaborated to cover gaps, adapt to evolving needs, and support one another in high-pressure moments. Expanding the staff offered flexibility: With the

addition of new team members, the program gained increased coverage and flexibility, allowing more consistent availability to clients. Team members worked cohesively to ensure continuity of care, even outside of formal programming. This resulted in a Safe and Supportive Work Environment: A trusted and respectful environment allowed team members to share openly, reflect honestly, and

support one another in both professional and emotional capacities enhancing team morale and client engagement. We were collaborative Planning and Execution: Program planning was energized by a diverse set of team perspectives. Team members brought creativity and initiative to the table, resulting in thoughtful, responsive, and client-centered programming. This was particularly evident at Baffin Larga and CHEO.

SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS

Strong Internal Communication:

Clear and open communication was a major strength. The team demonstrated the ability to resolve challenges quickly and collaboratively, keeping client needs at the forefront. Complementary Skill Sets: Team



members brought a wide range of skills including administrative coordination, community engagement, and direct client support which allowed the program to operate smoothly and effectively across different functions. Positive Interagency Engagement: While coordination was at times uneven, several collaborative efforts with partner agencies led to more integrated service delivery and stronger client outcomes. The work can be particularly emotionally taxing so providing emotional support and debriefing capabilities in real time has been beneficial to the team.

INTERAGENCY COLLABORATION: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

Coordination Gaps: Some interagency planning efforts experienced some challenges with continuity. There were some challenges integrating teams from different organizations. These gaps present chances to enhance communication and accountability. We continue to have ongoing healthy dialogue clarifying roles and expectations. Continued dialogue and shared goal setting with partners will help align responsibilities and enhance overall program coordination. Client access logistics: In some settings, logistical factors influenced timely access to clients. Continued relationship-building and communication with partners will support smoother processes moving forward.

LESSONS LEARNED AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Leverage Team Strengths: The strength and effectiveness of the internal team were the driving forces behind most program successes. Continued investment in team development and leadership growth will amplify program impact. Clarity in responsibilities, paired with recognition of team members' strengths, will help optimize planning and service delivery. **Ongoing engagement:** Ensuring all team members are supported, engaged, and empowered remains a top priority, especially in the context of very demanding work.

REFLECTIONS AND FUTURE FOCUS

The Social Systems Navigator team has proven itself to be resilient, adaptable, and highly committed. Their performance this year highlighted their capability to operate effectively even in challenging or uncertain circumstances. In the year ahead, the program will continue to:

In the year ahead, the program will continue to:

- Strengthen internal planning, systems, and communication
- Deepen partnerships through transparent and consistent collaboration



- Support ongoing team development, well-being, and leadership. This will be achieved through training, joint training opportunities.
- Remain client-centered, flexible, and responsive to evolving needs

CONCLUSION

The Social Systems Navigator team serves as the cornerstone of this program's ongoing achievements. Their unwavering dedication, professionalism, and strong sense of collaboration have empowered the program to deliver tangible improvements in both client service and system navigation. By fostering a culture of mutual support and continuous growth, the team has established a firm foundation that positions the program for even greater accomplishments in the year ahead.

Looking forward, the team's adaptability and openness to innovation will be crucial as they respond to emerging needs and new challenges within the community. Their collective efforts have not only driven measurable results but have also strengthened relationships with partners and clients alike. These qualities continue to shape a program that is resilient, client-focused, and deeply committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve.



SUMMARY OF SERVICES DELIVERED

Individual Services Provided

Over the course of the year, 645 one-on-one support services were provided to individuals. These services included personalized assistance such as counselling, help with obtaining ID, form filling, transportation, access to basic needs, and emotional support. Each of these interactions was tailored to meet the specific needs of the client during their stay in Ottawa.

Group & Community Activities

A total of 915 group and community-based engagements took place. These included social events, community gatherings, group visits (e.g., to CHEO or Larga Baffin), Elder outings, and culturally focused community-building activities. These events played a vital role in reducing isolation, strengthening community ties, and fostering a sense of belonging.

Inuit Cultural Safety Training

To help improve culturally safe practices among service providers, the program delivered:

- 14 Inuit Cultural Safety Training events
- Reaching a total of 73 participants

These sessions aimed to build awareness and understanding of Inuit history, values, and experiences, promoting respectful and effective service delivery across systems of care.





TORONTO PROGRAMS

The Toronto office consisted of Family Wellbeing, Youth Life Promotion, Health Promotion, and Social Systems Navigation. The Manager and the External Relations Coordinator also work together to strengthen our relationships with the Ontario government, particularly the Indigenous Affairs and First Nations Economic Reconciliation department and the Indigenous Women's Advisory Council.

Family Wellbeing organized a variety of programming to support Inuit and their families. This included cultural programming and wellness and safety programs. Youth Life Promotion supported youth ages 10-18 and hosted youth game nights.

Health Promotion supports Inuit navigating the Indigenous and mainstream health care services and

hosts informative programming that promotes health and wellness.

Social Systems Navigation runs food security programming, and supports Inuit in navigating social services such as the justice system, obtaining identification, housing etc. They also ran the Reaching Home reducing homelessness program, supporting Inuit experiencing, or at risk of homelessness.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

- Community Agreement discussion, 25 participants
- 2x kayaking events, 25 participants
- Berry picking with 20 participants
- Inuit Wellness Day collab with Regional Cancer Program
- Weekly Food Bank by Second Harvest
- Biweekly Health Clinic with Auduzhe Mino NeseWINong



- Monthly Food Hamper giveaway
- Monthly Country Food giveaway
- Quarterly feasts
- YMCA family camp with 26 Inuit; parents and their kids
- ASIST training for 3 staff in Inuit specific suicide intervention training
- Becoming Inummarik Inuit specific mental health training with 4 Toronto staff, 4 Ottawa staff in October 2024
- Attending the Strategic Plan launch in Ottawa in July 2024

CHALLENGES

Our office continues to be inaccessible for wheelchair users and unsuitable for expanded food security programming because of a lack of a sink. So, we have had to explore programming in other locations that are accessible and have a kitchen, and we are exploring moving into a more accessible and well rounded space in the future.

Staff turnover is a new issue. Two of our longest lasting staff no longer

work at TI, creating a different culture and energy in the office, and the need to rebuild corporate knowledge and some programs.

CONCLUSION

TI Toronto continues to grow, with the potential for other positions such as a Community Support Worker and an Arsaniq program coordinator. Continued focus on building municipal funding agreements and relationships, as well as private donors.



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2025, with comparative information for 2024

	2025	2024
Revenue:		
Programs and projects (note 10)	\$ 14,863,462	\$ 15,000,788
Donation revenue	200,956	153,060
Other income	231,062	140,466
	15,295,480	15,294,314
Expenses:		
Bank charges	5,576	5,330
Computer-related services	187,711	142,602
Contracted services	280,310	260,642
Food and program materials	1,977,953	2,346,898
Insurance	70,608	119,257
Interest on long-term debt	37,690	29,227
Occupancy	1,264,186	944,435
Professional fees	858,245	1,304,233
Repairs and maintenance	25,855	488
Salaries and benefits	9,220,039	8,561,177
Service agreement and honoraria	216,184	192,797
Supplies and equipment	387,878	235,479
Telephone, fax and Internet	61,298	50,253
Training	431,963	493,447
Travel	586,857	460,242
Other	24,663	117,138
	15,637,016	15,263,645
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses before the undernoted	(341,536)	30,669
Revenue (expenses) related to other items:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	(190,986)	(192,864)
Amortization of deferred capital contributions related to tangible capital assets	46,058	82,602
Amortization of deferred leasehold improvement allowances	40,025	—
	(104,903)	(110,262)
Allowance for doubtful accounts	(275,546)	—
	(380,449)	(110,262)
Deficiency of revenue over expenses	\$ (721,985)	\$ (79,593)

