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# Tikinagan

Child & Family Services



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Annual Report

2021 | 2022



# Contents

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| ፒዓኑ ዋፈሩ ርገዓልዱጋ .....  | 1  |
| በዋፈሩ ላይ .....         | 2  |
| ረረዳው ለዋፈሩ ላይ .....    | 3  |
| ከዋፈሩ ላይ ለራሱ ስራ .....  | 7  |
| ከዋፈሩ ላይ ለራሱ ስራ .....  | 12 |
| ራሱ ስራ ላይ ለራሱ ስራ ..... | 20 |
| ራሱ ስራ ላይ ለራሱ ስራ ..... | 29 |
| ራሱ ስራ ላይ ለራሱ ስራ ..... | 30 |
| ራሱ ስራ ላይ ለራሱ ስራ ..... | 31 |

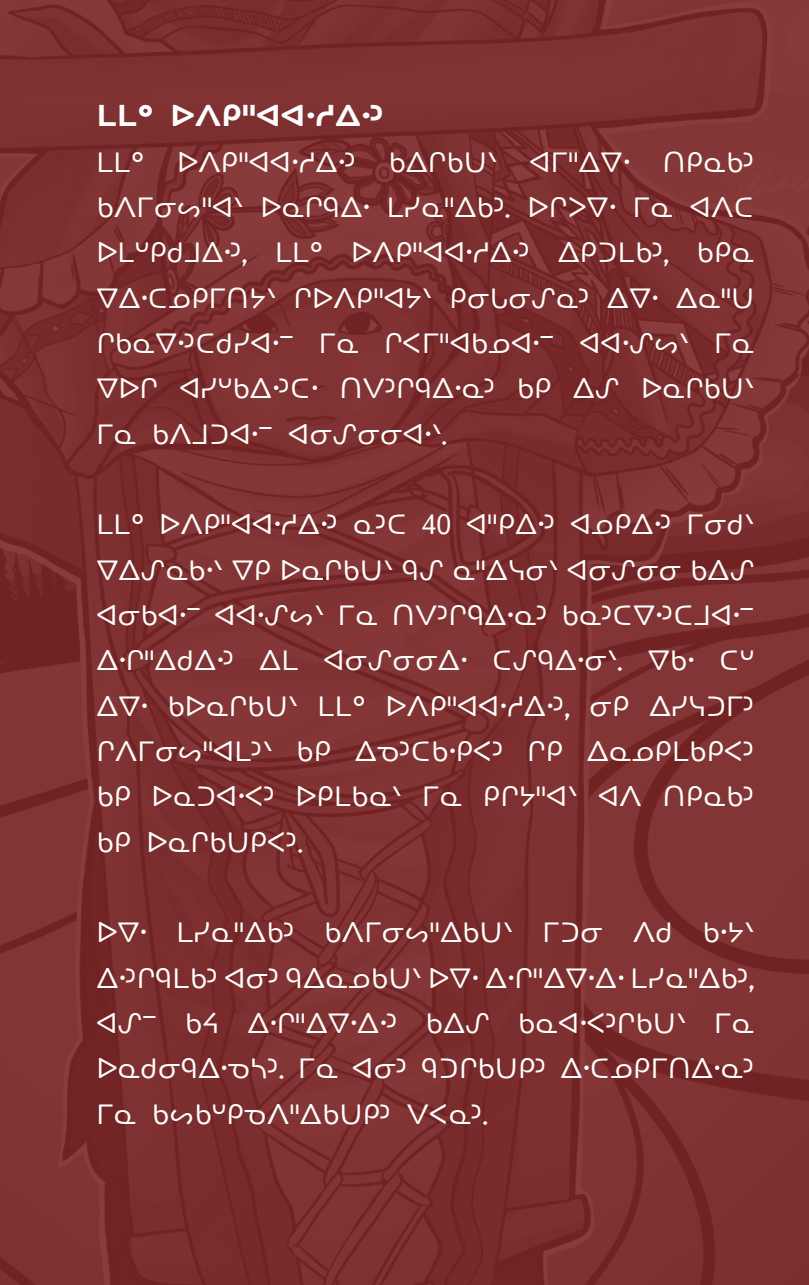
|   |    |
|---|----|
| Thank You to the Communities .....              | 1  |
| About Tikinagan Child and Family Services ..... | 4  |
| Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin.....                    | 5  |
| Message from Board Chairperson .....            | 7  |
| Message From the Executive Director .....       | 12 |
| Service Highlights .....                        | 20 |
| Financial Position 2021-2022 .....              | 29 |
| Staff Recognition .....                         | 30 |
| In Memoriam .....                               | 31 |





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# About Tikinagan Child and Family Services

Created by the First Nation leadership in our region back in 1984, Tikinagan is a community-based child wellbeing agency rooted in and accountable to the communities we serve. We are a large team of caring staff working in First Nations and supporting our families from our 30 First Nations.

We are here because we want to protect our children, help our families and nurture our communities.

## OUR MANDATE

We are also mandated by our Chiefs to provide services that are culturally sensitive to the needs of Indigenous children, families and First Nations. We are accountable to the Chiefs and to the communities for this responsibility.

Tikinagan Child and Family Services has a dual mandate. We are also one of 53 Children's Aid Societies in Ontario mandated under the Child, Youth and Family Services Act to protect children from harm. We are accountable to Ontario for this responsibility.



## OUR VISION

*The Answers Lie Within the Communities*

The Creator entrusted First Nations with the sacred responsibility of protecting our children and developing strong families and healthy communities. The Chiefs created Tikinagan to support and strengthen our children, our families, and our communities. The future of our communities is our children. They need to be nurtured within their families and communities. As such, community responsibility for child protection is an essential aspect of First Nations' self-government.







## **Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin**

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin is the Tikinagan service model. In Ojibway/Oji-Cree, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin means, “everyone working together to raise our children.” It is a system of protecting and caring for children and supporting families that has been designed and is delivered by First Nations people.

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin represents the culmination of almost 40 years of work to develop a culturally appropriate response to children and families who are in need of help in the First Nation communities. In developing Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, we have sought to be true to the original vision that the Chiefs and Elders had when Tikinagan was created.

Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin is designed to respect the inherent authority of First Nations to care for our own children. It acknowledges that our First Nation mandate supersedes provincial legislation and that our ultimate goal is the pursuit of complete First Nation jurisdiction over our own child welfare services. Until this goal is achieved, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin services are designed to be culturally appropriate and meet the needs of our First Nations and provincial legislation, regulations and standards.

## **CUSTOMARY CARE**

Customary care is an integral element of Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin. Within the customary care system, the First Nation Chief and Council have the authority to declare children to be placed in Tikinagan care when removal from their home is required. The First Nation, parents, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin caregivers and children in care sign a Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin Care Agreement for children coming into the agency’s care. Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin care puts the decision in the hands of families, extended family, communities, and First Nation leadership, and not mainstream Court systems.







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The Answers Lie Within the Communities









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Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin is the Tikinagan service model. In Ojibway/Oji-Cree, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin means, "everyone working together to raise our children." It is a system of protecting and caring for children and supporting families that has been designed and is delivered by First Nations people.







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traditional ways of raising children. Our agency strives to follow this philosophy to ensure children remain in their communities with those who understand their needs.

We need to support not only our children in care, but those who take care of their families without formal agreements. Caregivers come in all different forms – grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins – and they step in when parents need support. These people need to be supported so families can be reunited.

When a referral is made and we go to a home unexpectedly, I understand the instinct to feel attacked and the need to defend oneself. This is something I have experienced myself. After the initial hurt and anger, I took a step back to take a look at my life, to examine why someone would have made a call. I took that opportunity to make positive changes in my life which not only benefited me, but also the children in my care.

My hope is that when a referral is made and we go to a home, our families take that same opportunity to make positive changes. I hope they use Tikinagan as a resource to strengthen and empower



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themselves. We are there to support them and advocate for them. Tikinagan was created not to take children away from their families and communities, but to keep families together and support them in staying strong and resilient.

Our new initiative, Niigaanshkaawin, is our way forward to achieving the original Chiefs' vision where each community would implement and maintain their own child welfare laws. Since embarking on this new journey, we have seen an increase in communication with some communities and we look forward to more communication with other communities in an effort to determine how they would like to see Tikinagan provide support in the future.

Our first in-person Annual Chiefs' Assembly will be taking place this fall. The board, staff and I are overjoyed. Although meeting digitally and through other technologies has allowed us to make sure our services keep moving forward, the ability to talk about the future of the agency in-person will be a rejuvenating experience.

I would like to thank our communities for their continued support and dedication to their children and families who remain in their communities as well as those who live elsewhere. I am grateful for the support my fellow board members provide. Their wisdom and guidance have supported my role as Board Chair.

Tikinagan's leadership team and staff have worked hard during these changing times to ensure our families receive the services they need. I look forward to establishing our new normal and continuing to support our children, families, and communities.

Lorraine Crane  
Board Chair



# Message From the Executive Director

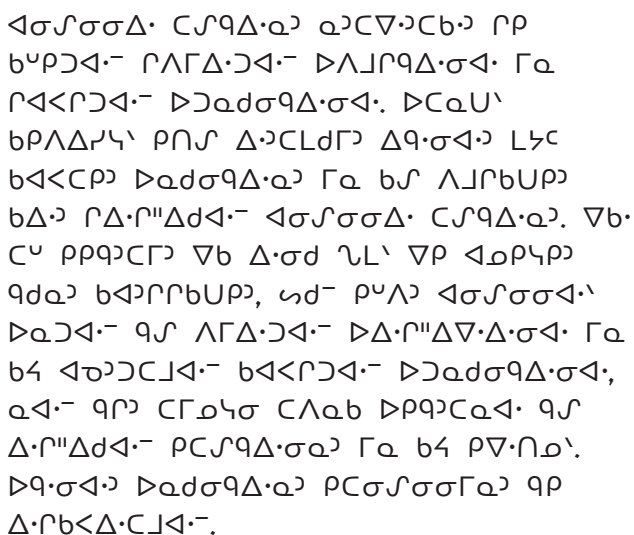
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**Thelma Morris**  
Executive Director

In our culture, children are regarded as sacred gifts from the Creator, not only to the family but also to the larger community of extended family members. Everyone shares in the responsibility of protecting and caring for that child. This is what Tikinagan is all about. Our service model.





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In our culture, children are regarded as sacred gifts from the Creator, not only to the family but also to the larger community of extended family members. Everyone shares in the responsibility of protecting and caring for that child. This is what Tikinagan is all about. Our service model, Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, which means “everyone working together to raise our children,” is rooted in our traditional customs of caring for children. This year, all the efforts we made embodied this approach.

In an effort to strengthen trust and create a safe space for trust and honesty, we made efforts to celebrate our relationships with our stakeholders. In March, we launched our first Foster Parent Appreciation Month, sharing success stories on our website and social media channels. I was amazed by reading and watching the stories on the impact our Foster Parents are making in the lives of our children and youth.

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services for our children and families.

I am pleased to share Tikinagan Child and Family Services' 2021/2022 annual report. This report highlights our activities for the year, statistics, financial position, and more. Thanks to the diligent work of our Elders, Board, Chiefs, Communities, and Staff, we have had a successful year in providing services to our children, families, and communities.

We continue to use the wisdom of our Chiefs, Elders and Board to guide our decisions and to ensure our work meets the needs of our people. The Chiefs created Tikinagan to support and strengthen our children, our families, and our communities. We continue this work today.

I look forward to another year of hard work, innovation, and moving forward in bettering the lives of our families and our communities.

Respectfully,  
Thelma Morris

# Foster Parent Appreciation

New this year, we launched a new annual campaign to honour and celebrate our Foster Parents. Every March, we will acknowledge Foster Parent Appreciation Month. This year's celebrations included highlighting our wonderful foster parents and creating Foster Connection, our special foster parent magazine that features incredible success stories. Get your copy today by scanning the QR code below or visiting our website - [tikinagan.org](http://tikinagan.org).



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## Foster Parent: Serenity Kashuba

Just a few months into her new role as a Foster Parent with Tikinagan Child and Family Services, Serenity Kashuba was thrown a curve ball. **Read more in *Fostering Connection*!**

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## Foster Parent: Emma Kejick

Growing up, Emma Kejick's childhood home was full of children coming and going as her mother regularly cared for her own family members and sometimes other children.

**Read more in *Fostering Connection*!**



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## Foster Parents: Jolene & Sims Roundhead

Six and half years ago in Mishkeegogamang First Nation, Jolene Roundhead heard about Tikinagan's need for foster families. She went home to talk to her husband, Sims, about it and they agreed to try it out. **Read more in *Fostering Connection*!**

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## Foster Parent: Shelly Meehan

Every child who walks through Shelly Meehan's door is invited to paint a stone, which represents more than just beautifully painted, unique artwork.

**Read more in *Fostering Connection*!**



TIKINAGAN.ORG

Get your  
copy!







## Pride initiatives at Tikinagan

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"In the spirit of Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, 'everyone working together to raise our children,' Tikinagan strives to be a diverse and inclusive organization that supports equality and is committed to fostering a supportive environment for all," said Associate Executive Director Rachel Tinney.

“Prior to COVID-19, we were running frequent 2SLGBTQ+ trainings for staff and foster parents,” she said. “We think it’s important the adults in the lives of our children and youth are providing effective, affirming, and equitable services for diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions.”

Tikinagan is also developing a resource to provide information about 2SLGBTQ+ definitions, rights, frequently asked questions, and more.

The 2SLGBTQ+ committee, which meets weekly, has launched an internal staff survey, created an inclusion statement for Tikinagan, and held and supported pride month events.

"We affirm the rights of all our First Nations children and youth to their identity, expression, and sexual orientation," Tinney said.

It's all part of an operating philosophy that attempts to transform traditional child service models, according to Tinney.

“Our agency is rooted in the fundamental value of respect,” she said. “We have respect for all creation and we are grateful for the gifts that we are blessed with every day... This respect is demonstrated through humility, a non-judgmental attitude, effective listening, clear communication, and recognition of the unique strengths of others.”

Our 2SLGBTBQ+ Committee hosted a staff contest this year to create a design for window stickers. Several submissions were made with the committee choosing the winner.

We are here because we want to protect our children, help our families and nurture our communities.

We are here because we want to protect our children, help our families and nurture our communities.





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schools, health professionals, or even from parents reaching for help for their family. We received 7,984 referrals with over half of these received from within the First Nations we serve.

The reasons for referrals range from low risks like lack of supervision, to higher risks like physical harm. The top five reasons for referrals are listed below. However, the majority of referrals including these top five are connected to alcohol, drug or substance abuse and chronic addiction. This is a long-standing issue in our region that continues to impact our families and communities.

## Top 5 Reasons for Referrals



## Inadequate Supervision



## Risk of Physical Harm



## Risk of Harm to the Caregiver



## Minimal Partner Violence



## Marginal Supervision

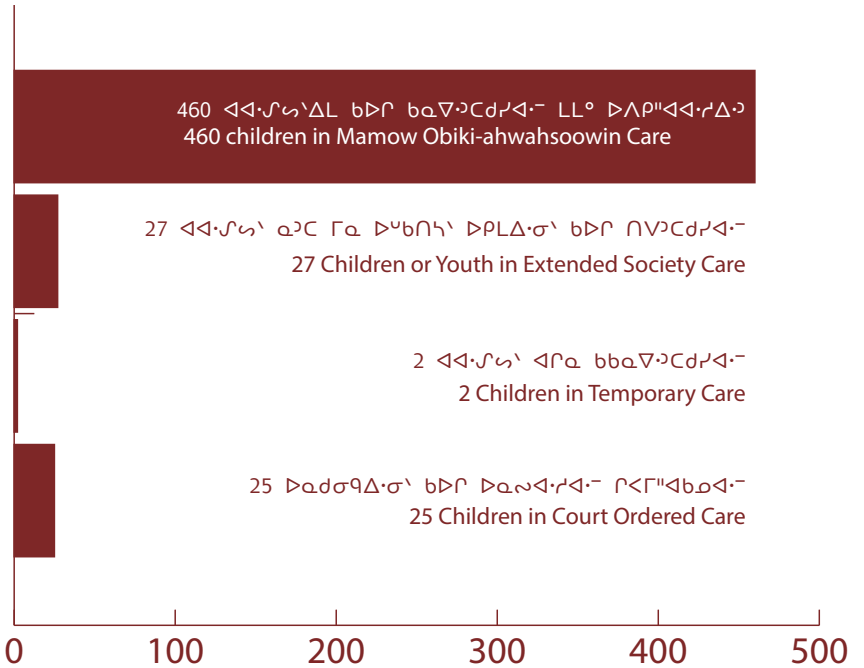
## Family Services

Of the 1,061 families we were providing services to at March 31, 2022, 854 have their children in their care – not in agency care. The Mamow Obikahwahsoowin priority is to keep families together. We have expanded and enhanced Family Services with expanded Admission Prevention supports. Admission Prevention focuses on supporting families before intervention is required with a family-centred approach. As a result, fewer





Number of children in care

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we connect with families and provide supports so that children can return home.

Using Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, Tikinagan has always had very low numbers of children in court ordered care, including Extended Society Care which was previously called “Crown Wardship.” Currently, there are 29 children in Extended Society Care. Tikinagan is working toward moving these youth into customary care with the ultimate goal of reunification.

Transitioning youth into adulthood has been an important focus. Tikinagan provides Continuing Care and Support for Youth for those aged 18 – 21. Due to the pandemic, we are able to continue this support past the age of 21 to maintain stability. Funding coming available April 1, 2022 will allow us to significantly expand our supports to young adults aged 18-25 who were in care.

# 116

**Youth supported  
by Tikinagan over  
the age of 18**



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 ᑲᓴ ᑕᐃᓐᓐ ᑲᓐᓯᓐ ᑲᐅᓂᓐᐃᓐ, ᐱᓐᓯᓴᐃᓐᐃᓐ  
 ᑲᐱᓯᐃᓐᑕᓐ ᑲᐅᓂᓐᐃᓐ ᓯᐃ ᑲᑕᓂ ᐸᓯᐋᑲᓂᐋᓐ  
 ᑲᑲᐃᐅᓐᑕᐃᓯᐋᓐ. ᐅᐅᓐ ᑕᓐ ᐃᓯᓴ ᐃᐋᓐ ᐅᑕᑕᓯᓴᓐ  
 ᑲᐅᓯ ᐋᐅᓂᓐᑕᐋᓐᑲᓂᐋᓐ OPR (ᑕᑲᓐ ᑲᐅᓯ  
 ᓂᑕᓐᐃᑲᓂᓯᓯ ᐃᓐᓂᓐᐅᓐᐃᓐᑲᓯᐃᓐ) ᑕᐱᐃᑲ ᓯᓴᑕᓐ  
 ᓂᐱᓯ ᐃᓐᓂᓐᐃᓯᓯ ᓯᐃ ᓯᓯ ᐋᓂᓯ ᓯᓂᓐᐋᓐ ᐅᓐᑲᓂᓴᓐ  
 ᑲᓐᓂᓂᓯᐋᓐ ᐃᓐ ᑲᐅᓯ ᐃᓐᓂᓐᐃᓐ ᓯᐃᓐᓂᓐᐅᓐᐃᓐ  
 ᐃᐋᓐ ᓯᐅᓂᓐᐃᓐᓐ ᐅᑕᓂᓴᐃᓐᓂᐋᓐ.

### ᐃᑕᓐᓴᐃᓐ ᐃᓐᓂᓐᐅᓐᐃᓐ

ᓂᓯᐃᑲᓐ ᐃᓐᓂᓐᐅᓐᐃᓐ ᓐᓯᐃᓐᐃᓐ ᑲᐃᐃᓐ ᐃᑕᓐᓴᐃᓐ  
 ᓐ ᑲᐃᑕᓐᑲᓂᐋᓐ ᓐᓂᓐᑕᑕᓴᐃᓐ ᐅᓯ, ᑲᐃᓐᓯᓴᓐ ᐅᓂ  
 ᐋᐋᓂᓴᓐ ᓯᐱᓐᓂᓴᓐ. ᐃᑕᓐᓴᐃᓐ ᓯᐱᐃ ᐃᓐ ᐅᓐᓯ  
 ᓴᓯᓴᓐ ᓐᓐ ᐅᐱᓯᓐᐋᐋᓐᓴᐃᓐ, ᑲᓯᐃ ᓂᑕᓂᓯᐃᓂᓐ  
 ᐃᓐᑕᓐᐋᓐ, ᓯᓴᐋᓐ ᐋᐅᓐ ᐃᑕᓐᓴᐃᓐ ᐃᓐᓂᓐᐅᓐᐃᓐ  
 ᑲᓂᑲᓂᓐᓂᓐ, ᓂᐅᓯᓴᐃᓐ ᐅᐃᓐᓂᓐᐅᓐ, ᐋᐋᓂᓴᓐᐃᓐᓯᓐ,  
 ᐋᐋᓂᓴᓐ ᑲᑕᓂ ᑲᐃᐅᓐᑕᐃᓯᐋᓐ ᐃᓐᑕ ᓯᐃ  
 ᑲᐱᓐᓂᓴᓐᐅᓐᐋᓐ ᓯᐃ ᑲᐃᐃᓂᓯᓴᐃᓐ. ᑲᓯᐃ  
 ᐅᐋᓐᑲᐃᓐᑕᓴᐃᓐ ᓯᓯ ᐅᓯ ᓐᓂᐃᓐᓴᓐᑲᓂᓯ ᓯᐃ  
 ᓯᐋᓐᑕᓐᑲᓂᐋᓐ ᓂᐅᓯᓴᐃᓐᐃᓐ ᐋᐋᓂᓴᓐ ᑲᓐᓴᓐ.

## Residential Services

Every child deserves a place to call home. Tikinagan has been working to expand our own residential services that includes First Nation and urban foster homes, agency operated homes and group care. This has led to less reliance on OPRs (Outside Paid Resources) because we are able to provide care and healing for youth with special needs in our own resources closer to their home community.

## Prevention Services

Tikinagan service model emphasizes prevention – prevention of harm, prevention of children coming into care. Prevention is not a separate service in Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin, it is a part of the work of all our service staff, whether they are a prevention co-ordinator, a family service worker, a child care worker, residential care worker or in intake.



Tikinagan staff providing support to a community in crisis.

# Thunder Bay Expansion

Because of our designation to serve the City and District of Thunder Bay effective January 2020, Tikinagan has had to rapidly expand staffing and resources to serve this large population in this very large geographic area. This means hiring and training staff, expanding office facilities and developing residential options for our children and youth in care, not just in Thunder Bay but throughout the District. However, in all this expansion, we have been mindful to maintain resources and focus on our on-reserve services, too.

The families we serve in Thunder Bay are all connected to our 30 First Nations, and our services to them are an extension of the services to our communities. These are families who can now be better connected with extended family and their affiliated First Nations. Also, our First Nations can now provide input and direction regarding their families living anywhere in the District of Thunder Bay.

We completed the final transfer of families and children in care in November 2021. In this transfer in the 2021/22 fiscal year, we were able to ensure over 30% of kids transferred were placed with extended family, community members or Indigenous foster parents. For others, the need to maintain placement continuity or provide require specialized supports is given priority at this time. However we will continue to move towards having all our children in care in the Thunder Bay region in placements that reflect their culture and connect them to their family and community.

[illegible]





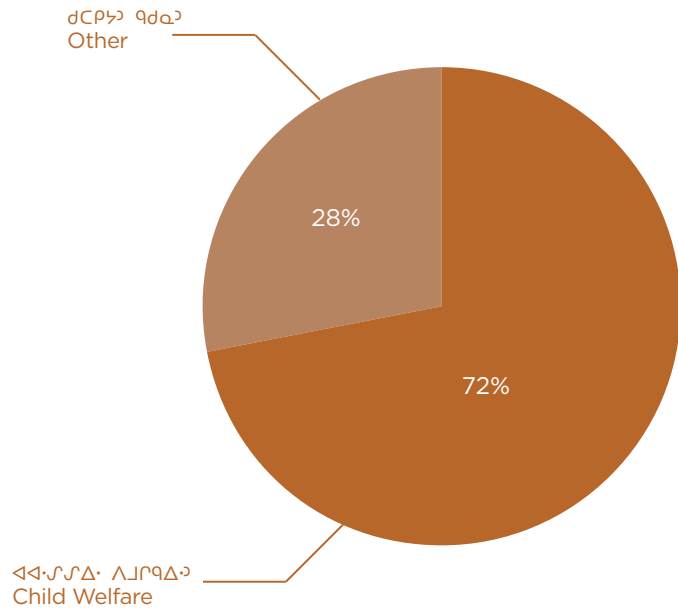




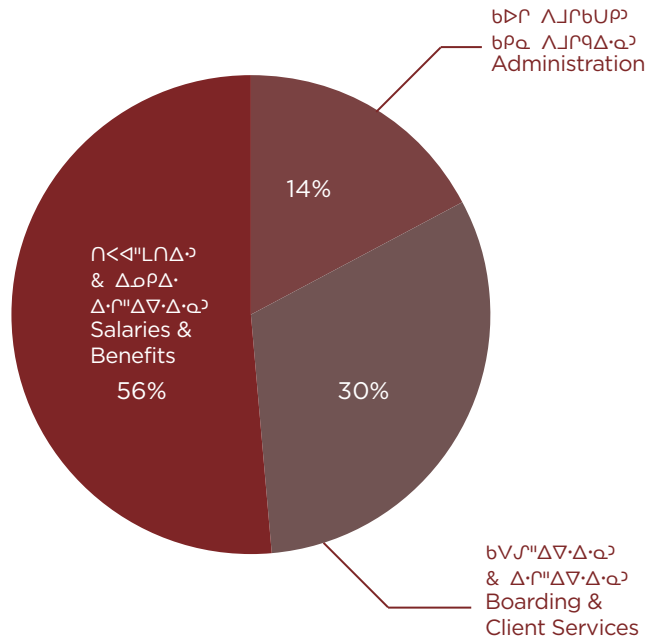
Customary care is an integral element of Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin. Within the customary care system, the First Nation Chief and Council have the authority to declare children to be placed in Tikinagan care when removal from their home is required.

# ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት የሚደረግበት Financial Position 2021-2022

## 2022 ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት የሚደረግበት 2022 Operating Revenue



## 2022 ለጋራ ልማት ገቢያት 2022 Operating Expenses



## STATEMENT OF CHILD WELFARE FUND

## ገቢያት 21/22 OPERATIONS 21/22

## ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት

| OPERATING REVENUE                   | 21/22          | 20/21          | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት<br>ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት           |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Child Welfare                       | \$ 73,066,928  | \$ 64,376,786  | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት                          |
| Other                               | \$ 28,224,514  | \$ 12,884,429  | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት                          |
| Total                               | \$ 101,291,442 | \$ 77,261,215  | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት                          |
| OPERATING EXPENSES                  | 21/22          | 20/21          | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት                          |
| Salaries & Benefits                 | \$ 52,121,526  | \$ 43,543,146  | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት & ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት            |
| Boarding & Client Services          | \$ 31,768,757  | \$ 23,255,155  | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት & ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት            |
| Administration                      | \$ 17,401,159  | \$ 10,462,914  | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት              |
| Total                               | \$ 101,291,442 | \$ 77,261,215  | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት                          |
| Fund Balance, Beginning of the year | \$ -           | \$ (6,135,848) | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት, ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት |
| Settlement of prior year deficits   | \$ -           | \$ 6,135,848   | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት  |
| (Deficit) or Surplus for the year   | \$ -           | \$ -           | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት  |
| Fund Balance, End of the year       | \$ -           | \$ -           | ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት  |

ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት ስሜት ለጋራ ልማት  
 A summary from Schedule 1 - Statement of Revenue and Expenses - Child Welfare -  
 compiled by MNP LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants



[illegible]

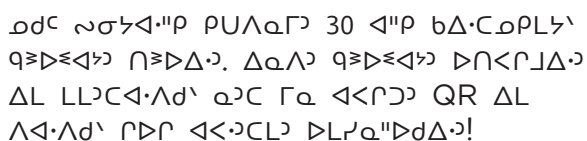
Tikinagan Child and Family Services would like to recognize employees who have reached their 10th, 15th, 20th and 30th anniversary of employment with the agency in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Our thanks and congratulations go to the following employees for their many years of dedicated service to the families and children of this region.

Christina Beardy  
Maria Mekanak  
Scott Whatley  
Kelly Wilson  
Lena Sagutcheway  
Jason Firminger  
Jennifer Cromarty  
Leah Quequish  
Jemimah Misseyace  
Allen Feeney  
Linda Nevins  
James Benson  
Amanda Kakekaspan  
Kimberly Mason  
Butch Magashazi

Cecilia Anderson  
Marilyn Shewaybick  
Kathleen Thomas  
Kathleen McKay  
Jessie Beaver

Victoria Carpenter  
Mary Mamakwa

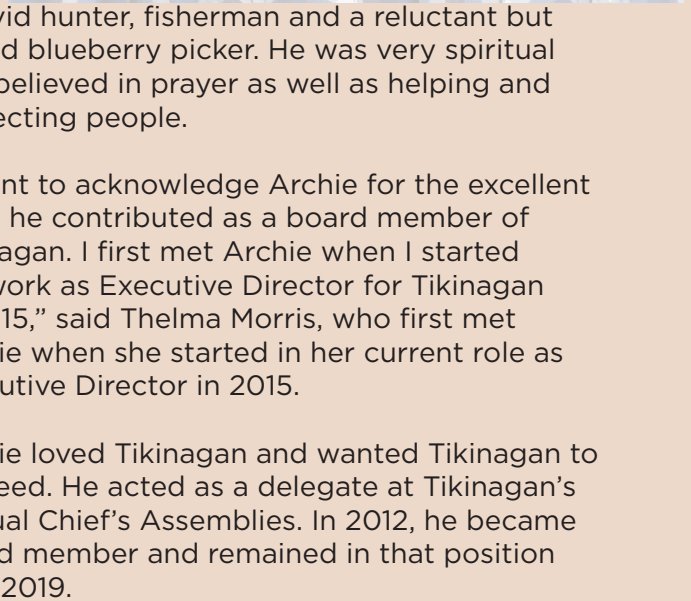
Marlene Boos  
Robert Cantin



Last fiscal year we celebrated the 30th working anniversary of Caroline Derouin. Check out Caroline's story on our YouTube or scan the QR code!



# Archie Troy Meekis





# Mawakeesick

በዋጪ ልዩነት & በሃገራዊ ለገገራዊ ገንዘብ ልዩነት  
 በመካከል ልዩነት ለሚከሰት የሚችል ሆኖ በሀገሪቱ ህግ  
 ስር ሊገኝ ይችላል፡፡ 75 በርዕስ፡፡

[illegible][illegible]

ጋሥ ዶጋዎርቲዓ በዐቤጎ ማር ሃዎ ልዎዐቤሙ፣ ሃዎ ልሊርቲ፣ ሸ ሃዎ ዐሮፕፍሊርቲ፣ 1997 ሄጋዐዐ፣ ሃዎርቲ ሃዎ ሊፍጋሃ፣ በሃዎዐዐ፣ ልጋ፣ 2000. ገሙ 2006, ዐርቲ ል በዐቤጎ ልሊርቲ፣ ሃዎ፣ ሃዎርቲ ሄ፣ ለዐሃ በሃዎርቲ፣ ዐሃ፣ ሃ ል ሄ፣ ሃዎርቲ፣ በሃዎዐዐ፣ ል፣ ሃዎ፣ 2009-2011. ሸ ሃዎ ሊር 2017, ዐሮፕፍሊርቲ ሃ ሊዐዐ፣

[illegible][illegible]

Tikinagan & Child Family Services mourns with Deer Lake First Nation on the passing of former Chief Moses Mawakeesick. He was 75.

Known as a wise and caring man to many, Moses is remembered for his prayers for and guidance of Tikinagan, reflected Thelma Morris, Tikinagan Executive Director, who knew him for more than 20 years.

“I am very sadden by our loss,” she said. “Moses has been a big part of Tikinagan. He contributed in every way, not only as a staff person but Board Member and Elder. I am sending my condolences to Deer Lake and the surrounding communities because he knew a lot of people; and most of all, his family for their tremendous loss. He impacted lots of people, both in his personal life and work life.”

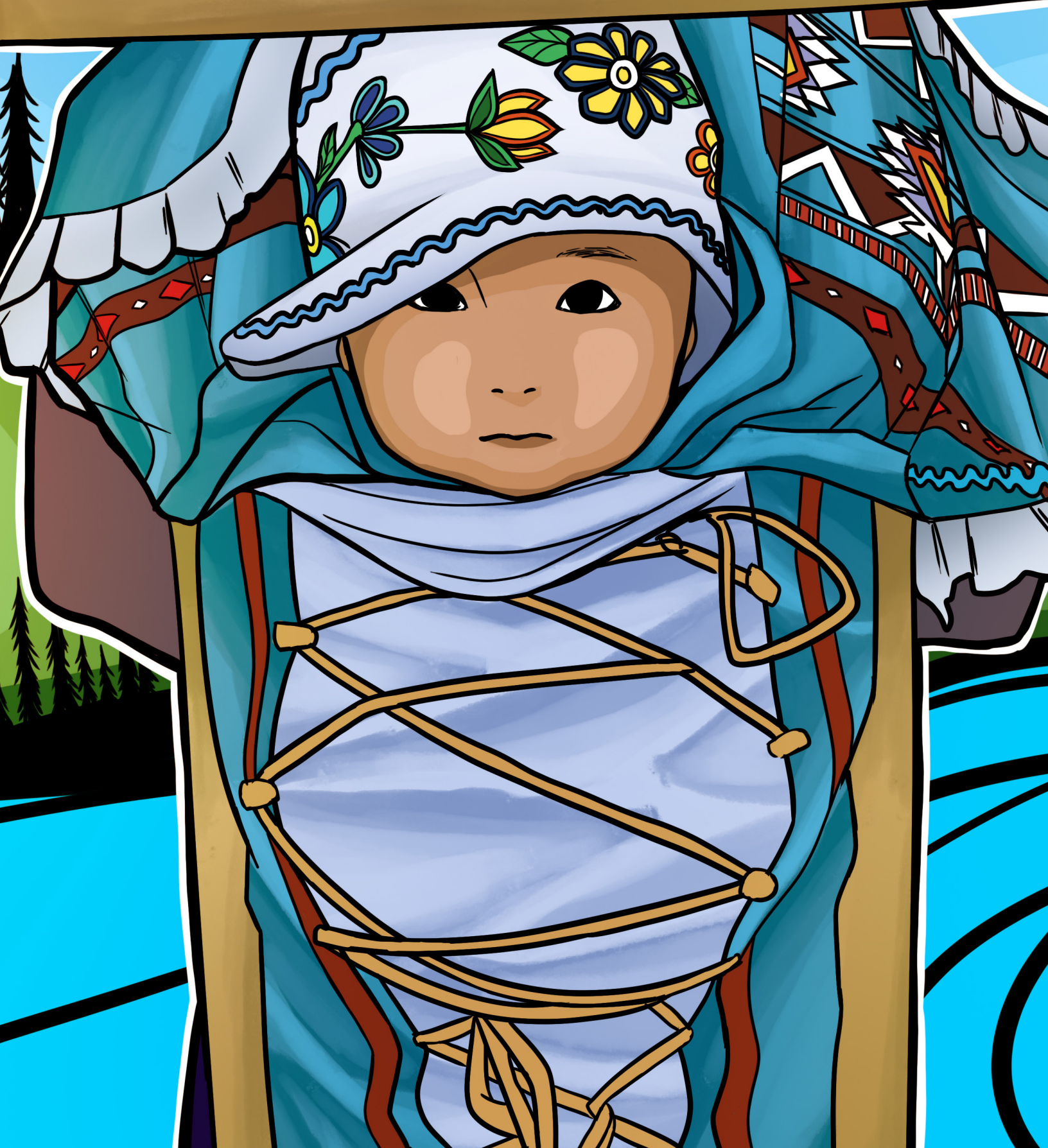
Moses served with Tikinagan as an employee, Board Member, and Elder. He began his career with Tikinagan in 1997 as a Family Counsellor until 2000. In 2006, he joined the Tikinagan Board as Keewaytinook Okimakanak's representative. He resigned when he returned as Family Service Worker from 2009-2011. And since 2017, he guided the agency on the Elders Council.

Morris added that Moses was easy to work with because he was always accepting of people.

“He always had valuable wisdom to share with the agency. He was the type of person that said what needed to be said and did it in a respectful manner. The way he said it was truthful and respectful and never offended anyone. He had the personality that people gravitated towards, and people sought out his advice and welcomed his wisdom.”



Բոլորիս համար ապագան մեր երեխաներն են։  
The future of our communities is our children.





# Shoshannah Fox



ᑎᑭᑭᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑭᑦ ᑎᑭᑭᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦ

**Tikinagan**

Child & Family Services

ᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦ ᑕᑦᑕᑦ | Mamow Obiki-ahwahsoowin  
**Everyone working together  
to raise our children**



1-800-465-3624  
Available 24/7

[Tikinagan.org](https://Tikinagan.org)

