

Summary of mission...

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In remote northern communities in Ontario, an imposed history of colonialism, residential schools, inequitable distribution of resources and geographical isolation have all contributed to a depth of impoverishment not seen elsewhere in the province. First Nations communities have historically suffered a loss of land, education, language, culture and identity. In many instances, children are descendants of residential school survivors who were frequently abused and alienated from their culture. Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win: North-South Partnership for Children represents a coalition of individuals and organizations from southern Ontario who have partnered with thirty First Nations communities. The collective goal of the Partnership is to learn from one another while addressing the needs of these First Nations. Southern partners are dedicated to following the direction of northern partners in identifying issues, priorities and potential solutions. The work of the Partnership exemplifies the respectful relationships needed to improve the conditions of First Nations communities.

The strengths of Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win are its unique partnership with First Nations, its ability to bring a broader public awareness to the conditions of their communities, its long term commitment to these communities, its non-partisan approach and its independence from governmental systems.



Greetings from the Co-Chairs



HONOURABLE LANDON PEARSON

Partnership is the most important element of Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win, and this year has shown some remarkable examples. Our governance circle, which is now comprised of six aboriginal and five non-aboriginal members, has met and discussed a variety of issues in a spirit of mutual affection and respect. Southern communities have successfully twinned with northern communities, and strong friendships have developed between youth leaders. Mutual learning is well underway through the schools, and through the Searching Together process.

Here in the South, our partnerships with the Trillium Foundation, the Laidlaw Foundation and the Atkinson Foundation have enabled us to find our feet as an organization this year, ensuring our long-term stability. We express our gratitude to Tikinagan Child and Family Services, who have now stepped back.

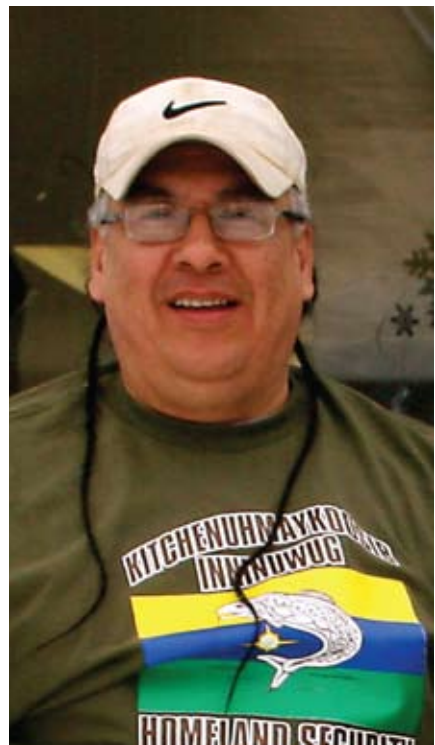
I look forward to another year of growing friendship, building together on the strengths and hopes of the youth so that they can feel respected and supported as they look to their future.

Greetings to our Elders, Chiefs, Governance Circle members and partners, and thank you to the community of Neskantaga First Nation for hosting the 2010 Annual Chiefs Assembly.

I want to thank all of our participating communities for continuing to work with the North-South Partnership. I have faith that one day we will achieve our goals with this organization, in bringing solutions to our communities for our youth, for jobs, for health. Ultimately, I think the housing initiative is our biggest challenge and priority, and I am pleased that we have been able to hire a full-time project manager for housing and capacity development.

He has already been to three of our communities to discuss our concerns, ranging from mould to the need for training young people in construction.

It is a struggle for us to be patient, after so many years, but I believe the Partnership is a new way forward. The road is long, but we will get there. Rome, as they say, wasn't built in a day. But the building has begun.



CHIEF DONNY MORRIS

Message from the Special Advisor



This has been an exciting year for the Partnership, as a number of donors have stepped forward to enable us to gather momentum.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, Atkinson Charitable Foundation, the Laidlaw Foundation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council have all provided us with critical new funds. This has allowed us to assemble a dynamic team of individuals to begin finding solutions to the priorities identified by our Northern partners in the 'searching together' process. They are:

DR. JUDY FINLAY Mike King, Project Manager for Housing and Capacity Development, comes to us from Beausoleil First Nation on Christian Island in Georgian Bay. Mike has over thirty years' experience in housing, and is familiar with First Nations conditions across Canada. He has already met with the housing managers for Summer Beaver, K.I. and Sandy Lake, and is busy drafting plans and seeking out resources.

Ines Lincho, Youth Engagement Coordinator, is a graduate of Ryerson University's degree program in child and youth care. Ines has been volunteering with the Partnership since its inception, and joined as a staff member this year. She previously worked for the Katarokwi Native Friendship Centre in Kingston, Ontario.

Patricia Pearson, Communications Advisor. A seasoned journalist and author, Patricia joins us part-time to help get the messages of our Northern partners across to the people of the South.

Anna Nagy, Director for Mamow Ki-ken-da-ma-win. A doctoral candidate in psychology at the University of Toronto, she will be overseeing the 'searching together' process, and training facilitators in northern communities to work on a salaried basis with the Partnership.

We now turn our attention to finding an Executive Director, who we hope to have in place by the autumn.

Now is the time that we will begin to see meaningful change in the lives of our children in northern First Nation communities.



Governance & Structure

The Governance structure is designed to build enduring relationships. It consists of two co-chairs, one from the north and one from the south, six northern First Nations representatives and five southern representatives.

GOVERNANCE CIRCLE

Chief Donny Morris
Co-chair
Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug

Honourable Landon Pearson*
Co-chair
Landon Pearson Centre for the
Study of Childhood and Children's Rights

Chief Connie Gray-McKay
Secretary
Mishkeegogamang First Nation

Ted Dunlop
Ryerson University

Chief Adam Fiddler
Sandy Lake First Nation

Lisa Wolff
Unicef Canada

Harvey Kakegamic
Tikinagan Child & Family Services

Keith Zehr
Chreighton Youth Services

Chief Gordon Anderson
Kasabonika Lake First Nation

Marty Molengraaf
Duff's Presbyterian Church

Felicia Sagutch
Eabametoong First Nation

***Dr. Judy Finlay**, Ryerson University
will resume co-chair position upon the
appointment of an Executive Director.

PARTNERS

The relationship forged between 30 remote northern First Nations communities and over 100 southern individuals and organizations is truly unique. This relationship is built on respect, meaningful knowledge exchange, and a "giving back with no expectation of a return." The nurturing of these relationships is key to the success of the organization.

30 FIRST NATIONS

Aroland First Nation; Bearskin First Nation; Cat Lake First Nation; Deer Lake First Nation; Eabametoong First Nation; Fort Severn First Nation; Kasabonika Lake First Nation; Keewaywin First Nation; Kingfisher Lake First Nation; Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug; Koocheching First Nation; Lac Seul First Nation; McDowell Lake First Nation; Marten Falls First Nation; Mishkeegogamang First Nation; Muskrat Dam First Nation; Neskantaga First Nation; Nibinamik First Nation; North Spirit Lake First Nation; Pikangikum First Nation; Poplar Hill First Nation; Sachigo Lake First Nation; Sandy Lake First Nation; Saugeen First Nation; Slate Falls First Nation; Wapekeka First Nation; Wawakapewin First Nation; Weagamow First Nation; Webequie First Nation; Wunnumin Lake First Nation

SOUTHERN PARTNERS

The Atkinson Charitable Foundation
Between Friends
Centre of Excellence for Child & Youth
Mental health at CHEO
Centre of Excellence for Youth Engagement
Christian Horizons
Delphi Secondary School
Duff's Presbyterian Church
Durham District School Board
Family and Children's Services of Guelph
and Wellington County
Feed the Children Canada
Guelph Friends of Webequie
Humber College
Kenney Family Foundation
Kinark Child & Family Services
Laidlaw Foundation
Lakehead University
Landon Pearson Centre for the Study of Childhood
and Children's Rights
Mosaic Project
NATWIN
Office of Child and Family Service Advocacy
Ogilvie & Renault LLP

Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies
Ontario Libraries Association
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Rotary clubs of Ontario
Royal Bank of Canada
Ryerson University
Save the Children Canada
Scholastics Canada
Sheridan College
Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority
Students Commission of Canada
UNICEF Canada
University of Toronto
University of Western Ontario
Wasaya Airways
William W. Creighton Youth Services
Various Individuals





Highlights

FINDING NEW SOLUTIONS FOR HOUSING

Addressing infrastructure requirements for water and roads, improving housing conditions, and developing capacity have been identified as priorities by the northern Chiefs.

To this end, a Housing Symposium was held in February for members of the Governance Circle, the Housing, Infrastructure & Economic Development Working Group (HIED), and advisors from financial institutions and technical associations.

In June, a Project Manager for Housing and Capacity Building was hired to focus on management, governance and community commitment in the development of a sustainable housing strategy. The strategy will include planning models, housing policies, training and education initiatives and technical standards.

The designated pilot community of Sandy Lake will serve as a model for other communities as we develop the procedural guidelines and protocols. We are moving ahead on other reserves on more contained projects. In July, a Mamow-sha-way-gi-kay-win team visited Nibinamik (Summer Beaver) and Kitchenuhmaykoosib (KI) to meet with the managers of housing and public works.

Summer Beaver has requested our assistance to find skilled volunteers to help in the construction of four homes while teaching their youth how to operate power tools and develop skills in carpentry. This process is underway.

CHARITABLE STATUS

Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win obtained charitable status on May 21, 2010.
Our registration number is 814819553RR0001



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IN WEBEQUIE

The cultivation of vegetables is an important skill in communities that otherwise depend upon expensive, flown-in produce. With traditional knowledge of agriculture eradicated by the residential schools experience, some reserves are requesting help in rediscovering how to work the land. One is Webequie. This May, five members of the Guelph-based group, 'friends of Webequie,' traveled north at the invitation of Chief and Council to plant potatoes. Elders, council members and youths all collaborated to rake, hoe and fertilize the soil. They also planted squash, beans, carrots and peas, among other bounty. The children are now looking forward to home-grown pumpkins for Halloween.

Councillors envision producing an annual supply of fresh produce for their people, and selling to nearby communities.

The relationship between these two groups – Webequie and the Friends of Webequie – continues to strengthen. Future plans include a trip for reserve residents to Guelph, a return trip to the reserve to work together on housing repairs, and a joint search for a fire truck and snow tractor.

Funds for travel are raised by Marty Molengraaf's congregation at Duff's Presbyterian Church – a member of the North-South Partnership.



BUILDING THE FUTURE THROUGH YOUTH

Youth engagement is an essential component of Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win. Young leaders in the North are wise beyond their years because of the struggles and family hardships they have had to endure. Their voices need to be heard, and their energy and initiative rewarded. Many work tirelessly in their communities to counsel their peers about grief, young parenthood and substance abuse. On June 17th, the Partnership's Governance Council passed a motion to ensure that two young people be present on each committee and working group.

The Youth Engagement Working Group is co-chaired by Councillor Darryl Sainnawap of Kitchenumaykoosib Inninuwig First Nation and Pytor Hodgson of the Students Commission of Canada. Group members hail from Weagamow First Nation, Nibinamik First Nation, Sandy Lake First Nation and several other communities across the province.



In October, a group of eighteen youth between the ages of fourteen and nineteen were brought together in Thunder Bay from seven First Nations communities to share ideas about how to move the youth engagement strategy forward.

In July, Ines Lincho and the Working Group distributed questionnaires to the children and youth of Summer Beaver and K.I. Youth are also communicating with the Partnership via Facebook.

Priorities that are clearly emerging are the need for clean water,

mental health services, recreation and skills building, and the desire for youth centres. As well, they are hopeful for cultural exchange.

To this end, the Partnership is beginning the process of twinning schools. In February, the Durham District School Board of southern Ontario launched its First Nation Literacy Partnership Project, which pairs schools in their district with schools on reserve, beginning with Mishkeegogamang and Slate Falls.

On May 28th, members of the working group raised awareness about conditions in the north at the national youth leadership conference, Shaking the Movers, hosted in Ottawa by the Honourable Landon Pearson.

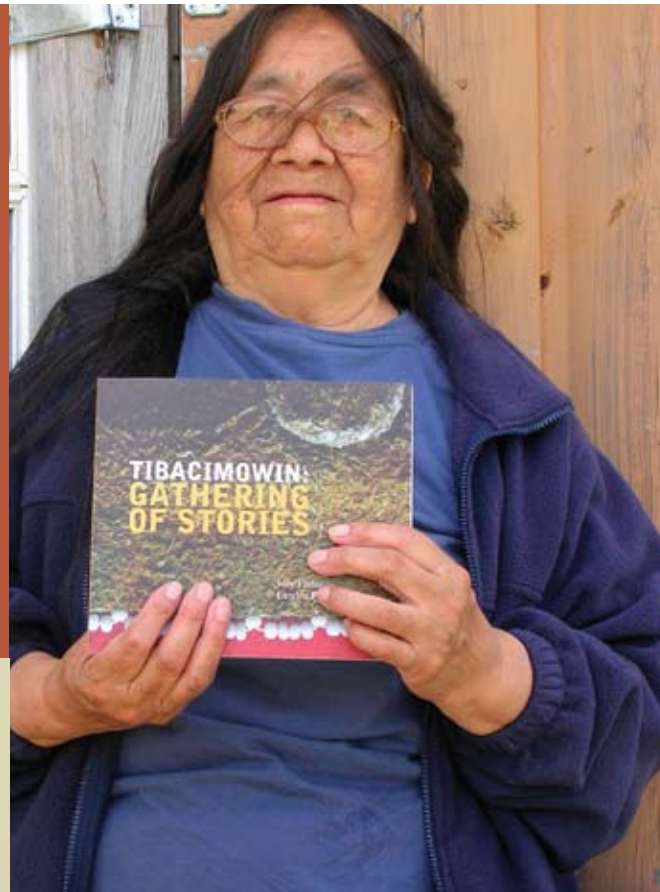
PARTNER DONATIONS

Our Partners continue to be thoughtful and generous, sending desperately needed items in collaboration with shipping partners Feed the Children Canada and Wasaya Airways.

Scholastics Canada delivered 30,000 carefully-chosen books for the children and youth at every community.

Ontario's Ministry of the Attorney General sent 50 bicycles to North Spirit Lake, having teamed with Shkoday in Thunder Bay.

Other donations included food, sports equipment, diapers, baby car seats, winter apparel and toys.



TIBACIMOWIN: GATHERING OF STORIES

When youth can connect their present to their history, they have a stronger self-awareness, which in turn reinforces their ability to influence their future. It was for this reason that Dr. Judy Finlay and Hon. Landon Pearson traveled at the request of Chiefs to seven of our Partner communities in June, 2009, to interview 25 Elders. Working with a translator, Finlay and Pearson 'gathered' their stories and published them in a book produced by Ryerson University and funded by the Provincial Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health at CHEO.

"We were greatly privileged, Judy and I, to have this experience," says Landon. The stories were, and continue to be, presented to youth so that they can resume the interrupted tradition of learning from their Elders.

**MAMOW KI-KEN-DA-MA-WIN:
A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH TO COMMUNITY WELL-BEING**

The day-to-day reality of First Nations people on reserve involves living with layers of well-meaning but ineffectual governmental policies that often don't take into account true conditions. Square pegs do not fit round holes. If we want to help build healthier communities, it is essential that the 'helpers' understand priorities and approaches from a local First Nations perspective. This is what the "searching together" process has been about, and by now the seven community-driven assessments of need that have been completed are directing our work in the South. This year, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, via their Community-University Research Alliance program, committed \$1 million in funds to enable this process to continue for at least five years. The funds, which are being matched in kind by the Universities of Ryerson, Toronto, Lakehead and Western Ontario, will take the Mamow Ki-ken-da-ma-win process deeper, so that the communities can not only ask themselves 'what are our priorities?' but how can we address these priorities? In this sense we are engaging in capacity building, while making a contribution to public education.

Beginning with a pilot project in 2010 in Sandy Lake, locally-based facilitators will be hired to undertake these assessments, in collaboration with a local governance body comprised of two youth, two Elders, two community leaders and two Band Council members. They have chosen to call their committee Mamow do-da-mo-win, "taking action together."



PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL ABORIGINAL EXCHANGE

In February, Dr. Judy Finlay and Governance Circle member Ted Dunlop of Ryerson University traveled to New Zealand to connect with academic leaders in five universities and one poly-technic/institute of technology, in order to explore the potential for research partnerships with an emphasis on Indigenous education and development. They also wanted to investigate the possibility of supporting exchanges of band/tribal leaders under the aegis of Mamow Sha way-gi-kay-win, the North-South Partnership for Children.



An immediate result was the exchange of ideas between Maori and First Nations leaders when Richard Jefferies, Provost of Tribal University of Awanuiarangi came to Toronto in June, and met with Chiefs Adam Fiddler of Sandy Lake First Nation and Chief Lorraine Crane of Slate Falls First Nation, among others. Jefferies spoke of how the Maori are reclaiming their traditions – “walking backwards into the future.” Several Chiefs will visit New Zealand in the spring of 2011.



Financial Reporting

Condensed Financial Statement for the year ending March 31, 2010

Revenue	2010	2009
Contributions	\$ 397,003	253,378
Interest	1,683	1,057
Total	398,686	254,435

Expenditures

Children's Needs	23,110	17,132
Travel	107,042	88,408
Wages and Benefits	200,724	14,377
Building Occupancy	6,750	—
OACAS and Memberships	70	—
Office Administration	11,818	510
Purchased Services	47,809	—
Technology Costs	3,209	—
Training and Recruitment	13,063	—
Total Expenditure	413,595	120,427

Opening Balance	159,218
Closing Balance	144,309

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