

Background

History

The roots of the North-South Partnership extend back to 1998 when Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County partnered with Tikinagan Child and Family Services to provide staffing support to Tikinagan. Since 2001, a group of volunteers called Friends of Tikinagan has been sending donations of clothing and sports equipment to Tikinagan for distribution to the First Nation communities that Tikinagan serves.

For the past ten years, the Office of Child and Family Service Advocacy has had a special concern for the desperate needs of children and youth in the communities that Tikinagan serves. In 2005, the Advocacy Office, Tikinagan and Kinark Child and Family Services joined together to provide clinical consultation and community development services to Wunnumin Lake in response to community concerns and fears about the growing problem of youth suicide.

Representatives of Family and Children's Services of Guelph and Wellington County, Tikinagan Child and Family Services, and the Office of Child and Family Service Advocacy initiated the North-South Partnership in 2006 as a way to bring voluntary organizations together to build a larger circle of caring for children in northern First Nation communities.

The North-South Partnership

As a new and developing partnership, the vision, goal, objectives, and partners continue to evolve as we learn from our experience and secure critically needed resources to support our work.

Vision

A future where children, youth and families in the remote First Nation communities have their basic needs met and opportunities to achieve their full potential while embracing their culture and heritage as Aboriginal people.

Mission

The North-South Partnership for Children:

- responds to the identified needs of children, youth, families and communities in the remote First Nations;
- builds caring and supportive relationships between voluntary organizations and individuals in the south and the northern First Nations people;
- secures resources from voluntary sector organizations, individuals, the corporate sector and other funding bodies in order to meet basic needs and provide programs, training, and other forms of support.

Goal

In recognition of the desperate needs of children, youth and families in remote First Nation communities, our collective goal is to learn from one another and to support the dreams and efforts of remote northern First Nation communities for their children.

By working together in a partnership that includes and follows the lead of First Nations voices, we will build a network of caring relationships that will create, support and strengthen short- and long-term solutions to the urgent conditions and challenges faced by children, youth and families in remote First Nations communities.

Objectives

- To share information between northern and southern partners to establish a foundation of knowledge and understanding about the needs, rights and entitlements of children, youth and families within remote northern communities;
- To identify, understand and build upon the strengths, capacities, values, goals and visions of First Nation communities for their children, youth and families;
- To build a network of relationships that promote caring and understanding between north and south, between those in need and those with access to resources, between those who have dreams for their children and those who want to help realize them; and between those who understand the difficult northern reality and those who are seeking to understand;
- To learn about and complement existing services and other supportive initiatives that are working to address needs in these communities;
- To take a lead role in providing information and education to voluntary organizations and the general public about the needs, values and goals of First Nations communities;
- To explore and assess ways and means for voluntary organizations, individuals, and the general public to respond in collaboration with First Nation leaders and communities;
- To make decisions and to take leadership to mobilize resources to address identified needs; and
- To approach governments, voluntary agencies, foundations, service clubs, educational institutions and corporations, along with other potential contributors for the resources required to address identified needs.

Values

Sharing with Gratitude (“mamow sha-way-gi-kay-win”)

We are grateful for the resources and gifts that we have and for the opportunity to share these gifts with others. Ours is a spirit of giving, without expectation of reward, recognition or return.

Respect

We hold deep respect for the children, youth, families, communities, First Nation leaders, and Elders whom we are dedicated to serve. This respect is demonstrated through humility, a non-judgmental attitude, effective listening, clear communication, and recognition of the unique strengths of others.

Traditional Teachings

We recognize and aspire to work and live from the values that are embodied in the traditional Aboriginal teachings of respect, humility, love, honesty, bravery, truth and wisdom.

Aboriginal Culture

We know that culture is the basis for personal and family identity, pride and self-esteem and we recognize and seek to build upon the strengths of Aboriginal culture and the traditional teachings.

Language

We recognize that language is the key to cultural identity and to the preservation of culture. We strive to communicate effectively using the First Nation languages and to provide verbal and written translation of information wherever possible.

Elders

We hold the Elders in high regard, recognizing that they carry with them the history of the First Nation communities and the essence of Aboriginal culture. We will go to them and listen to their wisdom, guidance and direction, and traditional teachings.

The Four Elements of Being

We understand the need to respond to the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of the children, youth and families who will benefit from the work of the Partnership. We respect the right of all people to meet these needs in ways that reflect their own beliefs and understandings and we will not promote particular belief systems through the work of the Partnership.

Aboriginal Rights

We understand that First Nations have the inherent right to govern themselves, to care for their children, and to make decisions in their own best interests. We understand that Treaties are sacred documents in which the people of different nations agreed to share in the benefits of the resources of the land, and we want to see the resources shared in ways that meet the needs of children, youth, families and Elders in the remote First Nation communities.

Trust and Accountability

We are committed to being trustworthy, transparent and accountable in fulfilling the responsibilities as described in our Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win Terms of Reference. We will be responsible stewards of the funds and resources entrusted to the Partnership and provide financial statements and reports to all funders and donors.

Participation

We value the views and perspectives of many, including those of First Nation children and youth. We are committed to meaningful and ethical participation where the views of children and youth are taken seriously and where children and youth are supported to participate in the decisions and actions that will affect their lives.

Geographic Territory

The North-South Partnership is dedicated to providing support to children, youth and families within remote northern First Nations communities that are included within the Chiefs' Resolution (appendix A) and as shown in the list of northern partners (Appendix C). With plans to build on its beginning successes during the next few years, the Partnership recognizes the possibility of future expansion into other remote northern First Nations communities.

The Partnership Organization

The North-South Partnership is designed to leverage the support of many individuals and caring organizations in order to maximize contributions and support for children, youth and families in remote First Nations communities. In order to facilitate growing interest, and streamline decision-making and planning regarding complex needs and issues, the Partnership is structured into three circles of involvement, including the Governance Circle, the Partners Circle, and the Supporters Circle

Level 1. Governance Circle

The **GOVERNANCE CIRCLE** provides overall leadership to the Partnership and is responsible for addressing governance issues, in ways similar to a Board of Directors.

The Governance Circle is comprised of²:

- Founding members of the Partnership;
- The Executive Director and Board Chairperson of Tikinagan Child and Family Services;
- Three Chiefs appointed by the Tikinagan Chiefs in Assembly; and
- Chairpersons of the Working Groups that are established by the Partnership.

The Governance Circle meets as required and in a manner that is flexible to meet the changing needs of the Partnership. Meetings will be held in northern and southern locations, including teleconference participation as necessary.

² See Appendix C for a current list of Governance Circle representatives.

Responsibilities

- To provide leadership for the overall Partnership organization, including leadership for planning, priority setting and policy development;
- To set agendas for Partnership meetings and to take a leadership role in Partnership meetings;
- To establish Committees and Working Groups as needed to pursue in detail the identified areas of priority for the Partnership and to co-ordinate the work of Partnership Committees and Working Groups;
- To provide ongoing communication about the work of the Partnership to Partnership members;
- To oversee contracts between Partnership member organizations and external funding organizations for the provision of staffing and/or other resources to carry out the work directly initiated by and/or on behalf of the Partnership;
- To maintain agreements with one or more Governing Partner organizations in respect of finances that may be held in trust to support the activities of the Partnership.
- To provide leadership to and co-ordination of Partnership communications, including media relations, website development, and dissemination of information to the partners.

The **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** of the Governance Circle is responsible to provide leadership and to make decisions as needed between meetings of the Governance Circle. The Executive Committee includes the founding members of the Partnership, the Executive Director and Board Chairperson of Tikinagan Child and Family Services, and at least one of the Chiefs appointed to the Partnership.

The **MAMOW SHA-WAY-GI-KAY-WIN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TEAM** is responsible to manage the financial resources of the Partnership.

The Partnership has a formal Memorandum of Agreement with Tikinagan Child and Family Services for the management of Partnership funds through a joint Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win Management Team. Under the Memorandum of Agreement, Tikinagan receives financial donations on behalf of the Partnership, holds these donations in trust for the Partnership, and distributes these funds in accordance with the terms set out in the Memorandum of Agreement and decisions made by the joint Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win Management Team. Tikinagan Child and Family Services provides charitable receipts for all donations (\$20 or over) made to the Partnership (Charitable # 13000-5648-RR-0001).

The Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win Management Team includes representatives from the Partnership Governance Circle and Tikinagan Child and Family Services as described in the Memorandum of Agreement.

Level 2. The Partners Circle

The **PARTNERS CIRCLE** provides a forum for First Nation leaders and ‘southern’ organizations and individuals to come together to develop and drive forward the work of the Partnership, through sharing information, building relationships and making plans to deliver resources and programs.

The Partners Circle is responsible for establishing priority areas in which the work of the Partnership will be focused, and to review and revise these priorities on an annual basis.

The Partners Circle meets on a semi-annual basis, with meetings held in both northern First Nation and southern locations. Organizations or individuals in the Partners Circle are expected to visit a First Nation community at least once a year.

The Partners Circle includes:

- Members of the Governance Circle; and
- 30 participating First Nations³
- Northern Partners, First Nations and First Nation organizations and individuals who sign the Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win Commitment and meet the expectations as stated in that Commitment, and are accepted as Partners by the Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win Governance Circle.
- Southern organizations and individuals who sign the Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win Commitment and meet the expectations as stated in that Commitment, and are accepted as Partners by the Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win Governance Circle.

Please see Appendix C for a current list of Partners Circle members.

The Partners Circle meets as required and as decided by the Governance Circle. Meetings will be held in northern and southern locations, including teleconference participation as necessary.

Meetings are chaired by two co-chairpersons as appointed by the Governance Circle, with the chairpersons to include representation from both northern and southern partner organizations.

Responsibilities

- To receive detailed and ongoing information from the First Nations regarding needs and issues confronting children, youth and families in the remote northern First Nation communities;
- To set priorities for the areas of work that the Partnership will focus on, and to review and revise these priorities on an annual basis;

³ The First Nations partners have endorsed the Partnership through the Chiefs Resolution (Appendix A) and have designated three Chiefs to represent them at Partnership meetings.

- To receive and disseminate information among the Partners regarding their respective activities in support of the remote First Nation communities;
- To explore, develop and sustain opportunities for the contribution of donations, mutual education, joint program development, professional secondments, economic development, and other collaborative projects, programs and ventures;
- To build effective relationships with members of the Supporters Circle and to co-ordinate contributions from these organizations and individuals to support children, youth and families in the remote northern communities.

Level 3. The Supporters Circle

The **SUPPORTERS CIRCLE** includes individuals and organizations who support the Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win vision, mission, values, goals and objectives and wish to make specific contributions to the work of the Partnership, such as providing financial donations, donations of goods or services, or volunteer resources.

Members of the Supporters Circle will receive regular information updates about the work of Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win, including annual reports, information about First Nation community assessments and community needs, the ongoing work of the Partnership, and opportunities to participate and contribute.

Members of the Supporters Circle are not expected to attend Partnership meetings, but they may be invited to attend public meetings, conferences and workshops that the Partnership may hold from time to time.

WORKING GROUPS⁴ are established by the Governance Circle from time to time on an as needed basis, and in response to identified needs.

Reporting on a regular basis to the Partnership Circle, the Working Groups are responsible:

- To review and assess First Nation needs and issues in the priority area(s) that have been identified for the Working Group to address;
- To explore and consider alternative courses of action in response to the identified needs;
- To develop action plans and make recommendations to the Governance Circle and Partners Circle as to how the Partnership, partner organizations and individuals and outside resources can be mobilized in order to address the identified areas of need;
- To take leadership as endorsed by the Governance Circle in carrying out the recommendations and action plans, in a manner reflecting the values of the Partnership;
- To work with the First Nations and contributing organizations to evaluate the results of actions that are taken.

The membership of each Working Group includes at least one member of the Governance Circle or designate, and representation from both Northern and Southern Partners Circle members. On the decision of the respective Working Groups, the Working Group membership may be extended to include Supporter Circle members.

At the June 2006 Partnership Planning Conference in Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug, the Partnership identified the following as priority areas:

- Basic Needs for foodstuffs, clothing, sports equipment, books, toys, other
- Child Care
- Suicide Prevention
- Health Care
- Schools and Housing
- Economic Development
- Recreation and Play

The Community Assessments conducted in Webequie and Mishkeegogamang First Nations in 2007 identified the following key areas for action:

- Community Healing
- Land-based and cultural programs for children and youth
- Children and youth recreation programs
- Housing and community infrastructure development
- Economic development

⁴ See Appendix D for a list of current Working Groups and their descriptions.

Summary

Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win, the North-South Partnership for Children in Remote First Nation Communities, is a unique and developing partnership, established in collaboration with First Nation Chiefs, Elders, youth and community members living in remote communities in northwestern Ontario and caring individuals and voluntary organizations based in 'southern' Ontario.

Through the structure and membership of the Partnership, our collective goal is to build a network of caring relationships, learning from one another, and following the lead of First Nation leaders and communities, to create, support and strengthen short- and long-term solutions to the urgent conditions and challenges faced by children, youth and families in remote First Nation communities.

Appendix A - Tikinagan Chiefs in Assembly Resolution 06/07

Whereas a number of caring organizations have joined together to establish the “*Partnership for Children in Remote Northern First Nation Communities*”;

Whereas the goal of this Partnership is to explore opportunities for providing support and assistance, to develop plans and to take co-ordinated action in response to the impoverished conditions for children, youth and families in the remote First Nation communities;

And Whereas the interest by the members of the Partnership and the support and assistance provided to date in the form of groceries, used and new clothing, sports equipment, water purification equipment and furniture is needed in our communities and is very much appreciated;

Be It Resolved that the Chiefs in Assembly support the goals and efforts of the Partnership for Children in Remote Northern First Nation Communities; and

Be It Further Resolved that the following Chiefs be appointed to represent the interests of area First Nations on the Partnership:

Chief Donny Morris, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug

Chief Alvin Beardy, Sachigo Lake First Nation

Chief Connie Gray-McKay, Mishkeegogamaang First Nation

Dated at Webequie First Nation, Ontario the 13th day of September 2006.

Appendix B – Map of Participating Northern Communities



Appendix C – Membership – July 2007

GOVERNANCE CIRCLE

Micheal Hardy:	Founding Member; Executive Director, Tikinagan Child and Family Services
Maurice Brubacher:	Founding Member; Co-Chair, North-South Partnership for Children
Judy Finlay:	Founding Member; Chair – Fundraising Working Group
Harvey Kakegamic:	Board Chairperson, Tikinagan Child and Family Services
Chief Donny Morris:	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug; Co-Chair, North-South Partnership for Children
Chief Connie Gray-McKay:	Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation
Chief Scott Jacob:	Webequie First Nation
Kim Snow:	Ryerson School of Children and Youth; Chair - Children and Youth Activities Working Group
David Wood:	Youth Now Intervention Services; Chair- Housing and Infrastructure Working Group
Dick Meen:	Kinark Child and Family Services; Chair – Treatment and Healing Working Group
Antero Manninen:	Feed the Children; Chair – Donations Working Group
Ruth Hislop:	Office of Child and Family Service Advocacy; Chair – Youth Engagement Working Group
Lisa Wolff:	UNICEF Canada; Chair – Communications Working Group

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Micheal Hardy:	Founding Member; Executive Director, Tikinagan Child and Family Services
Maurice Brubacher:	Founding Member; Co-Chair, North-South Partnership for Children
Judy Finlay:	Founding Member; Chair – Fundraising Working Group
Harvey Kakegamic:	Board Chairperson, Tikinagan Child and Family Services
Chief Donny Morris:	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug; Co-Chair, North-South Partnership for Children
Chief Connie Gray-McKay:	Mishkeegogamang Ojibway Nation
Chief Scott Jacob:	Webequie First Nation

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TEAM

Michael Hardy:	Founding Member; Executive Director, Tikinagan Child and Family Services
Maurice Brubacher:	Founding Member; Co-Chair, North-South Partnership for Children
Judy Finlay:	Founding Member; Chair – Fundraising Working Group
Harvey Kakegamic:	Board Chairperson, Tikinagan Child and Family Services
Chief Donny Morris:	Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug; Co-Chair, North-South Partnership for Children
Arlene McClendon:	Tikinagan Child and Family Services
Hilda Ross:	Tikinagan Child and Family Services
Bill Clarke:	Kinark Foundation

PARTNERS CIRCLE – July 2007

The original members of Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win include the following northern and southern partners. With the introduction of the Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win Commitment in 2007, the list of Partners is being amended to include those organizations and individuals who have signed the Commitment and who are actively involved in Mamow Sha-Way-Gi-Kay-Win activities.

PARTICIPATING FIRST NATIONS

- Aroland First Nation
- Bearskin Lake 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

OTHER NORTHERN PARTNERS

- Tikinagan Child and Family Services

SOUTHERN PARTNERS⁵

- Centre of Excellence for Child & Youth Mental Health at Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario
- Christian Horizons
- Family and Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington County
- Feed the Children Canada
- Kinark Child & Family Services
- Laidlaw Foundation
- Office of Child and Family Service Advocacy
- Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies
- Ontario Libraries Association
- Rotary District 7040
- Ryerson University
- Save the Children Canada
- UNICEF
- Voices for Children
- Senator Landon Pearson

⁵ Pending formal endorsement by the Boards of Directors of each of these organizations. All Partnership member organizations are asked to provide written documentation from their Board of Directors in support of the Partnership Terms of Reference and authorizing the organization's representative to contribute to the Partnership on behalf of their organization.

Appendix D – Working Groups – July 2007

Based on the identified needs and priorities, the Partnership currently has established Working Groups in the following key areas:

CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES WORKING GROUP

- Responsible to build plans together with First Nations and southern Partners for the development and delivery of activity programs for children and youth

COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

- Responsible to develop and implement ongoing communications and advocacy strategies for the Partnership, including preparation of media releases and management of the Partnership Website.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP

- Responsible to develop an appropriate community assessment model and to develop plans for and to conduct comprehensive community assessments in designated communities as a means to generate broad awareness of the needs and to provide a foundation for advocacy and the development of increased resources in response to these needs.

DONATIONS WORKING GROUP

- Responsible to co-ordinate the procuring and distribution of food, clothing, sports equipment, books, toys, and other gifts; and to work in close collaboration with the Tikinagan staff designated to co-ordinate distribution among the remote northern First Nations.

FUNDRAISING WORKING GROUP

- Responsible to advocate with key stakeholders and secure financial resources, ensuring the Partnership's objectives are realized.

HEALING AND TREATMENT WORKING GROUP

- To support existing services in communities, develop a knowledge base and assist in further resource development, addressing the extreme trauma experienced by community members as a result of residential schools, poverty, abuse, recent suicides and deaths.

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP

- Responsible to assess needs, set priorities and develop plans for assistance in the areas of:
 - Housing
 - Economic Development
 - Food provision and cost of living
 - Clean water and sanitation, and
 - Energy production

Activities include the collection and distribution of information concerning needs and opportunities, building and maintaining a resource network and planning projects and actions.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

- Responsible to explore ways and means for the Partnership to support First Nation communities to fulfil youth program initiatives in ways that respect the knowledge and skill of youth, along with the wisdom and guidance of Elders and other community leaders.