



ᑭᑎᑎᑎᑎ

Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.

“those who lead”



2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT

MAMAWIIBIIMOHSAAYING GIIDAANHIIOMBIGIIMIN

‘WALKING TOGETHER AS WE GROW’

KANIKANICHIHK.CA



WALKING TOGETHER AS WE GROW



Mamawiibiimohsaaying Giidaanhiombiggiimin

This past year has been a powerful reminder of the strength and unity within our community at Ka Ni Kanichihk. Our theme, Mamawiibiimohsaaying Giidaanhiombiggiimin, or, Walking Together As We Grow, speaks to the journey we've taken together—grounded in the values and traditions that connect us all.

This year, we have grown in ways that reflect the needs and aspirations of the community we serve. With your support, we've expanded our programs, welcomed new opportunities for cultural revitalization, and increased our ability to walk alongside our community. This growth is not just organizational—it's a shared achievement that belongs to everyone who has walked with us.

Our community's guidance, wisdom, and partnership have shaped this progress. The stories and milestones featured in this report reflect your strength, commitment, and vision. Every step we take is inspired by the deep relationships we've built with those we serve, and it is through these relationships that we continue to thrive.

As we celebrate this year's accomplishments, we honor the community's role in our journey. Together, we are creating lasting change and laying the foundation for future generations. We invite you to continue walking with us as we grow, build, and dream for the future.



ᑭᑎᑎᑎᑎ

Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.

"those who lead"



A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS



With heartfelt gratitude, we extend our sincerest thanks to everyone who has supported Ka Ni Kanichihk over the past year.

Your unwavering dedication and generosity have been the cornerstone of our success and growth.

To our participants, thank you for trusting us with your stories, your dreams, and your journeys. Your strength inspires us every day and drive us to continue our mission with renewed vigor.

To our dedicated staff and volunteers, your hard work, passion, and commitment are the lifeblood of our organization. You have gone above and beyond, especially during these challenging times, to ensure that our programs and services continue to reach those who need them most.

To our partners, funders, and donors, your belief in our vision and your generous contributions have made it possible for us to expand our reach and impact. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones, and we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts.

To our entire community, thank you for standing with us, for your solidarity, and for your ongoing support. It is through our collective effort that we are able to create meaningful change and build a brighter future for Indigenous peoples.

As we reflect on this past year, we are filled with hope and anticipation for what lies ahead. We are committed to continuing our work, guided by the wisdom of our ancestors and the strength of our community, to promote healing, empowerment, and cultural revitalization.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we will continue to move forward, hand in hand, towards a future where Indigenous knowledge and empowerment flourish.

With deepest gratitude,

Sydney Levasseur-Puhach & Ken Sanderson
Co-Chairs



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I am honored to present the 2023-2024 Annual Report for Ka Ni Kanichihk, highlighting a year of remarkable achievements and growth. Ka Ni Kanichihk continues to be grounded in the community and growing roots, thanks to the dedication of staff, volunteers, and the unwavering support from our partners, funders, and community.

This past year has been one of both challenges and triumphs. The ongoing pandemic has tested our resolve and adaptability, but it has also underscored the importance of our mission. Despite these obstacles, Ka Ni Kanichihk has remained steadfast in delivering essential programs and services that foster cultural revitalization, education, healing, social justice and economic development.

One of the significant highlights of this year has been the further development of the 455 McDermot Avenue building! Structures are up and driving by you can already see the beauty this space will bring to the community. Chi-Miigwetch to those who have given to this critical project.

We are also proud of the strides made in our health and wellness initiatives. By integrating traditional practices with contemporary health services in the Sexual Wellness Lodge, we have continued to promote holistic well-being in our communities. The success stories of those who have benefited from our programs are a testament to the strength and efficacy of our approach.

The continuation of strengthening our youth programs has provided critical support and opportunities for young Indigenous people. The Youth Huddle and the newly revised Kistesimaw program are examples of programs that imbue leadership through mentorship, education, and cultural engagement, to assist youth to envision and pursue brighter futures. Our commitment to nurturing the next generation remains at the heart of our efforts.

Furthermore, our partnerships have played a crucial role in our accomplishments. Collaboration with local and national organizations has enabled us to extend our reach and impact, ensuring that more individuals and families receive the support they need. We are deeply grateful to our partners for their shared vision and commitment to our cause.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the possibilities the future holds. We will see a new building and outdoor space for our community to gather, learn, and grow in the year 2025 and cannot wait to open those doors to help support our community and its ever growing needs.

We remain dedicated to our mandate and inspired by the strength of our community. With your continued support, we will strive to build on our successes and address the evolving needs of those we serve.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Together, we are growing.

In solidarity,

Dodie Jordaan
Executive Director



OUR CAPITAL EXPANSION

The Community is Building Sakihewin Lodge - Thank You!

Sakihewin Lodge is going up!

Construction on the second storey of Sakihewin Lodge is underway at 455 McDermot Avenue, Ka Ni Kanichihk's home. This expansion has been in the works for over ten years and we're so grateful for those who have supported the journey with their expertise, guidance and donations. When it reopens a year from now, there will be more than double the space for community to gather, heal, and celebrate.

In the photo above, you can see the original building peeking out of the right of this beautiful, large addition the community has been asking for, for some time.

The new cultural space has been framed out and covered along with the new wellness and training rooms. The two floors of Sakihewin Lodge will include access to everything people need on their journeys to transform their lives – dedicated healing, cultural and ceremony spaces; a medical clinic; training and education spaces; access to Elders; a nurturing daycare; and a much-needed community resource hub. The space will be nestled in a peaceful inner-city green space.

Funding for this project provided by the Governments of Canada and Manitoba.

The City of Winnipeg
Access Credit Union
BMO Financial Group
Canada Life
Carolyn Sifton Foundation
Jewish Foundation of Manitoba
Jonathan Paterson & Angeline Rivard
Johnston Family Foundation
Kristie Pearson and Doug Pollard
Leslie Spillett
Mary Jane and Richard Brownscombe
Manitoba Credit Unions
Assiniboine Credit Union
Flin Flon Credit Union
Compass Credit Union
Fusion Credit Union
Me-Dian Credit Union

Swan Valley Credit Union
Westoba Credit Union Ltd.
Cambrian Credit Union
Steinbach Credit Union
Sunrise Credit Union
Pollard Family Foundation
Power Corporation of Canada
Qualico
The Asper Fund – The Winnipeg Foundation
The Thomas Sill Foundation
The Winnipeg Foundation
UNIFOR Social Justice Fund
United Way Winnipeg
UFCW, Local 832
Wawanesa Insurance
Winnipeg Kinsmen
& 12 Anonymous Donors

"In recognition of Shirley Elizabeth Loewen by her loving family"

The expanded campus will provide even more culture-based programs:

- New prevention programs will help eliminate education and employment gaps, reclaim Indigenous culture, revitalize Indigenous languages and break destructive cycles.
- The medical clinic will offer culturally grounded care in a safe, welcoming community setting.
- The outdoor gathering space will be open for everyone in the community and provide an easy entryway to programming and supports.
- The cultural centre will be used often for events and ceremonies.
- People will have access to healthy food skills training in a new demonstration kitchen.
- 48 daycare spaces will provide more parents with the opportunity to take part in programs.
- A central, one-stop hub will connect Indigenous youth to resources.
- More classrooms and training spaces will expand the opportunities for community.

This expansion keeps services and programming space in the heart of Winnipeg and central to where our relatives live and gather.

Miigwetch. Ekosani.

Many, many thanks to the donors and community supporters who are making this expansion possible. You are creating a stronger community for all of us.

THANK YOU!



OUR PROGRAMS & THEIR IMPACT

Butterfly Club

Builds positive coping and leadership skills and peer support for girls and Two-Spirit youth aged 9 to 13 years.

Heart Medicine Lodge

Offers culturally-based support for women who have experienced violence.

Honouring Gifts

Helps single mothers build employment skills.

Mushkowzee Ikwe Strong Woman's Empowerment Project

Mentors youth and young women who are involved in youth street gangs or are justice-connected to support them in making lifestyle choices.

Restoring the Sacred

A peer mentorship program for youth who come to Winnipeg from their home communities to continue their secondary education.

Medicine Bear Counselling

Builds on the strengths and resilience of families impacted by the tragic loss of missing and murdered loved ones.

Social Innovation and Community Development

A partnership with Red River Polytech to provide an educational and work experience certified program to prepare women for community development careers.

Mino Pimatisiwin Sexual Wellness Lodge

A community-based, culturally safe model of care for people with sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections to increase treatment participation rates.

Kistesimaw, My Eldest Brother

A mentorship program for boys aged 8 to 12 years, who are in danger of becoming in conflict with the law.

Velma's House

A 24/7 safe space for women and 2SLGBTQ+ community members identifying as female. It serves as a place of safety, comfort and connection for those experiencing homelessness, violence, or exploitation.

Leading Black Wolf (Formerly 'MYTEAM')

Offers youth leaving the care of Child & Family Services one-to-one support, mentorship, and guidance as they work toward independence.

Huddle Ka Ni Kanichihk

Provides wrap-around supports for youth aged 12 to 29. It offers peer support, drop-in and cultural programming, navigation of systems, primary care, harm reduction and referrals to mental health supports.

Kotawêw: Indigenous HIV Doula Project

A research and peer support program which connects those diagnosed with HIV & STBBI's with an Indigenous Doula who will support and guide them through their journey.

Sexual Assault & Intimate Partner Violence

Our SA & IPV program was designed in consultation with survivors and service providers, aiming to remove barriers preventing SA & IPV survivors from accessing physical, cultural, mental, and emotional care.

White Wolf Speaking

Provides sexual and reproductive health education, community supports and distribution of safer sex and harm reduction supplies.

Waniska Centre

Provides Indigenous research on HIV/HCV/STBBI and provides peer support for individuals living with HIV.

Medicine Children's Lodge

A licensed day care centre for children of those taking part in educational programs.

Gender-Based Violence Prevention Network

This three-year project is focused on developing GBV prevention and intervention tools to work within all sectors. The project's goal is to provide information on how to collaborate and end violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people.

For more information, please visit:
kanikanichihk.ca/programs



MINO PIMATISIWIN SEXUAL WELLNESS LODGE

This past spring, Mino Pimatisiwin Sexual Wellness Lodge celebrated its second anniversary. Mino Pimatisiwin means ‘the good life’, which has been the lodge’s goal for all community members and relatives from its inception. The lodge houses many different supports and services. Community members can come in for free harm reduction and safe sex supplies, cultural supports and medicines like cedar baths or smudging or Kookums, HIV/STBBI testing and naloxone kits, or simply a meal, hot drink, and a shower if they need it.

One of the lodge’s projects is Waniska, an Indigenous-led research centre for HIV, Hepatitis C and other STBBI’s based out of Saskatchewan and Manitoba, working in partnership with Ka Ni Kanichihk. Melissa Morris, our Waniska Coordinator, explained why the project is important to those living with HIV and STBBI’s.

“My position is in research... we recognized that Winnipeg and Manitoba are really failing in that peer-to-peer support, so the overlap is offering a wide range of services to community members, such as peer-to-peer support through the [monthly] HIV & STBBI sharing circles,” said Morris. “Regulars at our sharing circles have said they don’t get this type of connection to other people living with HIV outside of the sharing circles.”

Skye Wikjord, a Systems Navigator and Auntie at the lodge, walked us through her role in supporting relatives who have experienced sexual assault and intimate partner violence (SA/IPV). Wikjord also works in Kotawêw, our Indigenous HIV Doula project, which connects those diagnosed with HIV or STBBI’s with one-on-one support through their journey. If someone comes into the lodge who has experienced sexual violence, they can choose to see a nurse, or connect with cultural supports like the lodge’s kookums or aunties. A Systems Navigator like Skye supports individuals going through this process by helping file a police report if they choose, and advocating for them in these systems.

“There’s no pressure,” said Wikjord. “We’re all about healthy, positive sexual identities and sexual health... If they have any concerns about their health, they know they can come into this space and see somebody without being judged, or facing racism, or any of those other structurally oppressive things at all kinds of different levels that they’re facing out there.”

“It’s a holistic approach, it’s not just coming in for treatment for an STBBI, it’s there to have spiritual, mental, physical, and emotional support bound in a culturally safe Indigenous space that connects them to community,” says Wikjord. “We hope to create a space – and I feel it every time I come in to work – that feels like a warm hug. It feels like a caring, loving, supportive family member greeting you at the door... and offering you anything you need to feel loved and safe.”

Evaluations are also an important part of the lodge’s services. If a community member is interested, they can fill out an evaluation, which helps the lodge know what’s needed or missing, and if there is anything the lodge can improve upon in its supports and services.

Ann Favel, a peer support worker and Auntie, further explained why Indigenous cultural practices are so important to the lodge’s services.

“We welcome them, and I think by having Indigenous people working in the healthcare system, it helps stop the stigma of say, a houseless person coming in and being looked down upon and being victimized again and again – here, we do not do that,” said Favel. “That’s what community does in Indigenous communities: they feed their people, they love their people, they make sure they’re taken care of, and that’s what Mino Pimatisiwin is about. They are welcome in the lodge. If any relatives wanted to connect with any one of the people in this lodge, they’d be in good hands.”

If you want to learn more about the Mino Pimatisiwin Sexual Wellness Lodge and its services, you can attend their pipe ceremony and sharing circle on the first Thursday of every month, or visit during drop-in hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The lodge is located on the first floor of the Social Enterprise Building at 765 Main Street. You can also visit their website at goaskauntie.ca.

CELEBRATING OUR RELATIVES



Erica, a member of Little Saskatchewan First Nation and mother of two, shared her transformative journey with Ka Ni Kanichihk and the Mino Pimatisiwin Sexual Wellness Lodge. After experiencing the loss of her two brothers, her mother, and leaving a challenging domestic relationship, Erica sought support through the Ka Ni Kanichihk community.

She described how, upon first seeking help, she was in a difficult emotional state. The warm reception she received at Ka Ni Kanichihk helped her begin to heal and find strength.

"When I first found myself needing resources from here, I was a complete mess. My head was all over the place. To actually be able to walk in here, and it's nothing but smiles, I found myself painting a smile on my face. I actually started letting more people know [about the lodge's services]. Knowing that they're here to help me, and it's good for the public to know that they're here."

"Just to have that communication – if they don't hear from me, they'll just send a text like, 'are you okay', or, 'do you still have a plan'. Having the workers reaching out to me, or just seeing them, I think I've come far – a lot further than where I was in the last six months."

The unique approach of Mino Pimatisiwin Sexual Wellness Lodge, its Community Hosts, and Aunties stood out to her.

"At Ka Ni Kanichihk [and Mino Pimatisiwin], I find that they reach out to you or check up on you. You don't get that from a lot of organizations. I really like that I know when I do have a bad day that I can always reach out to them and that's something that's really good. I really like that."

Reflecting on her journey, Erica spoke about her initial challenges and the progress she's made. Erica was in a women's shelter for three months. Prior to this, she was attending school full-time, but had to drop out. She is happy to say she's starting anew, having recently began Child & Youth Support Worker courses.

"To go from having absolutely nothing to moving into a home, like, I have a home now."

Erica's favorite part of the lodge's services is the staff.

"They're such an amazing group. I just feel like I can connect with them. There's just so much love in here."

She also decided to move her daughter closer to the lodge because of the strong support network she found there.

Looking ahead, Erica hopes to help others in similar situations, particularly women leaving shelters. She notes that many are hesitant to seek help due to a lack of trust but believes her experience can make a difference.

"I think me being in that situation, I can personally help a lot of people by just being here."

Erica's story is a testament to the power of community, cultural connection, and the critical support provided by Ka Ni Kanichihk. We are honored to be part of Erica's journey and will continue to support her and others as they move forward with hope and confidence.

IN MEMORIAM: VALERIE GARNEAU

In Memoriam: Valerie Garneau August 1966-February 2024

It is with profound sadness that we honor the memory of Valerie Garneau, a cherished member of the Ka Ni Kanichihk family, who tragically lost her life in 2024. Valerie's dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to our community left an indelible mark on everyone she touched. Her spirit and contributions were instrumental in our collective journey of growth and empowerment.

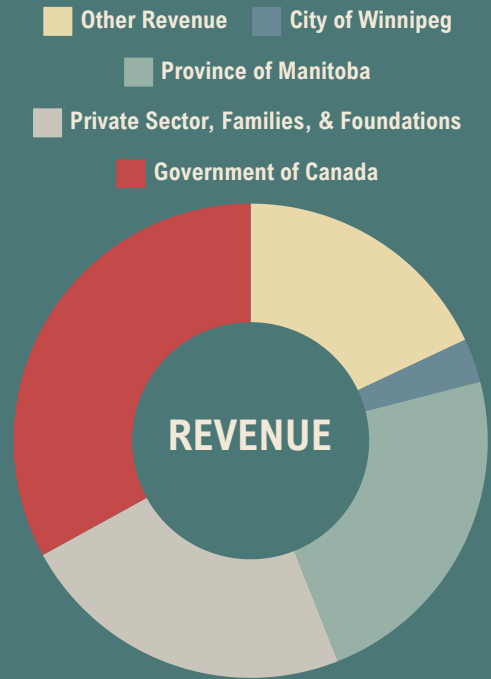
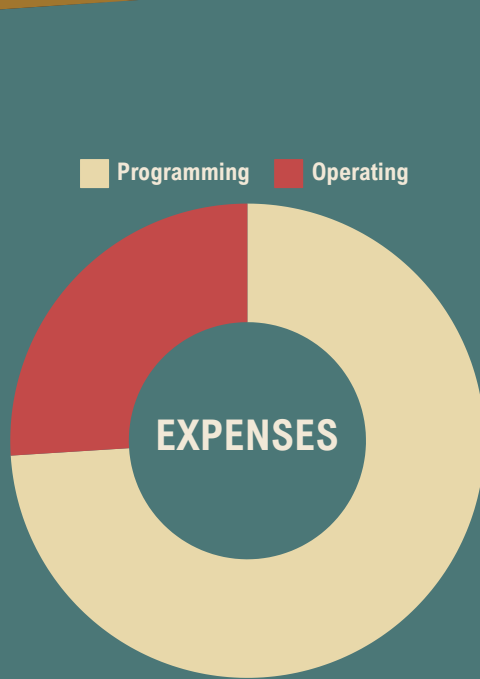
Valerie was not only a colleague but also a friend and family member to many. Her work at Ka Ni Kanichihk was a testament to her deep belief in the power of community and the importance of preserving our culture and heritage.

As we continue to walk together on our path of growth, we carry Valerie's legacy in our hearts. Her memory inspires us to strive for excellence and to foster a community where everyone feels valued and supported.

We extend our deepest condolences to Valerie's family and loved ones. Her spirit will forever be a guiding light for Ka Ni Kanichihk.



2023-2024 FINANCE & STATISTICS



STATISTIC COMPARISON OF SERVICES PROVIDED (WITH PREVIOUS YEAR)





COUNCIL & STAFF

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jesse Howell	Elder
Sydney Levasseur-Puhach	Co-Chairperson
Ken Sanderson	Co-Chairperson
Carter Wilson	Treasurer
Herb Zobell	Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Audrey Richards	Layla Freig
Nike Bello	Deidre Dewar
Eman Agpalza	Marissa Moar
Danielle Carriere	Amber Balan

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

Dodie Jordaan	Executive Director
Dana Connolly	Associate Executive Director
Ieesha Sankar	Director of Programs & Services
Samantha Harris	Director of Healing Programs
Zen Ihsan	Human Resource Specialist
Asif Siddiqui	Finance Director
Cathy Menard	Fundraising & Campaign Coordinator

Janel Lavallee	Executive Assistant
Shawn Webster	Network Administrator
Sheila Chua	Sr. Financial Analyst
Ivy Camaclang	Finance Clerk
Kim Kulbacki	Finance Clerk
Christine Harper	Administrative Assistant
Kyle Weidman	Communications Coordinator
Gladys Marinko	Knowledge Keeper

STAFF RECOGNITION

We are pleased to recognize and thank these long-serving Ka Ni Kanichihk staff members for their years of dedication and service to our community.

FIVE YEARS:

Lori Bage	Christine Harper
Denise Cook	Janel Lavallee
Valerie Garneau	Jacqueline Poersch-Burns

TEN YEARS:

Dodie Jordaan
Diane Barron

**Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc. would like to thank all of our
community partners and funders for their support.**

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development
–Indigenous Skills and Employment Training
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs
Canada
Department of Justice
Early Learning and Child Care
Indigenous Services
Infrastructure Canada
PrairiesCan
Public Health Agency of Canada
Public Safety Canada & Emergency Preparedness
Public Services
Urban Programming for Indigenous People
Women and Gender Equality

GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

Art Culture & Sport Fund
Children and Youth Opportunities
Education and Training
Family Services and Consumer Affairs
Family Services and Labour – Child Protection
Branch
Healthy Child Manitoba
Health and Seniors Care Health and Seniors Care
Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations
Jobs & Economy
Justice – Crime Prevention Branch, Lighthouses,
Victim Services
Mental Health, Wellness and Recovery - Tracia's
Trust: Manitoba's Strategy to Prevent Sexual
Exploitation and Human Trafficking
Status of Women
Urban/Hometown Green Team

CITY OF WINNIPEG

Aboriginal Youth Strategy, Community Services
Indigenous Relations Division

PRIVATE SECTOR

Canadian Women's Foundation
Catherine Donnelly Foundation
Community Food Centres Canada
End Homelessness Winnipeg
Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg
Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund
Manitoba Arts Council
North End Revitalization Inc.
Red Cross Canada
Sexuality Education Resource Centre
TD Bank Group
The Winnipeg Foundation
United Way of Winnipeg
University of Saskatchewan
UNIFOR
Canadian National Railway Company
And the many, many community donors

101-1065 PORTAGE AVENUE

WINNIPEG, MB R3G 0R8

PHONE: (204) 953-5820

FAX: (204) 953-5824

CHARITABLE #: 854941135 RR0001



KANIKANICHIAK.CA