



**MANIWAKI NATIVE
FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
CENTRE D'AMITIÉ
AUTOCHTONE DE MANIWAKI**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Mission
 - Words from the Interim Executive Director
 - Maniwaki Native Friendship Center Board of Directors – Team
 - Programs and Services
 - Youth Development – Urban Partnership
 - Mamahawadig – Family Violence Prevention – AANDC
 - School Retention – MEES
 - Special Activities - Informal Sessions
 - Financial Resources
-



MISSION

The Maniwaki Native Friendship Center strives to improve the quality of life of the urban aboriginals by providing support services, advocacy, information and referrals on programs and services developed for aboriginal families living or passing through the region of Maniwaki.

The Center promotes healthy living through holistic approach means, offers cultural activities and eases the transition to living in an urban area. It provides a link between the urban aboriginal population and the local communities by acting as a liaison and promoting cultural awareness.



Words from the Executive Director

Kwey Kakina,

I wish to share with you a few words in this new undertaking I have of found myself involved with. My initial involvement of the Friendship Center begun by being recruited to complete a needs assessment for the Aboriginal population of Maniwaki. This process really provided me with a better understanding of urban living in a rural town and the issues that come with that.

In my mind, the word Aboriginal was always something you were and lived with as your way of life. I had always believed that I knew the town of Maniwaki since I lived in the region most of my life. Through participating on several discussion panels and speaking to Aboriginal residents, I was awakened with a new reality and was quickly educated on the many things I did not know. I decided at that point that I wanted to contribute to improving the quality of life for my people. I felt that with my experience, commitment and determination that I can make a difference and was ready to dedicate my energy to this journey. I honourably accepted the challenge as Interim Executive Director.

As a new venture and definitely a learning experience for all involved, a three member Board of Directors was created as a legal incorporated entity. At the onset we managed to secure five (5) funding projects and quickly recruited an interim staff comprised of First Nation individuals with a skill set necessary to make these services work. The focus was on the people and the mission and vision would keep this in mind.

The next step involved a location which was found and was leased for one year within the downtown core of Maniwaki. It was collectively decided that we would prioritize services for the youth for the fiscal year 2016-2017. Furthermore, we would spend time developing partnerships and create a solid foundation which the expand services and the center can grow into the place we wanted and need it to be.

The doors opened in September 2016 for limited programs as it was important to be ready for when school started. Many of our projects had an end date of March 2017 which gave us a short time frame of seven (7) months to successfully deliver quality support services and to engage our youth to access them. We saw this as a challenge and were prepared to put in the hard work and long hours.

Throughout the year we managed to evaluate the needs and participated in sixty (60) meetings with service providers in Maniwaki. As a team we promoted a prevention program that was Culturally adapted to meet the needs identified by the clients as well as identified in the needs assessment. The team dedicated many hours to ensure that we would reach our objectives. Various activities such as: cultural camps, socials, workshops, teen nights and etc. were well planned out with thoughtfulness and good faith. As a partnership with the CISSSO we delivered Cultural Sensitivity training to Service Providers of various organizations and I am proud to mention that we educated sixty-six (66) service providers from Maniwaki.

In May 2017, I again had to do some soul searching and decided if this was my path and should I continue on this journey. As recently having made the decision to retire I had to reflect on my next steps and what my original intention of doing so was. As I reflected on the youth and how this center has eased the transition for them and watching them grow I then knew that I was making a difference. I was given with this opportunity to know more about the gift of my Culture and contribute to the success and well being of our children. I have learned so much in such a short-time and in this has been such a rewarding experience. This is when I made the decision to apply for the full- time position and knowing that I had to successfully pass an interview and then become full time and not interim anymore. There is still so much to develop and improve upon for the coming year and we need to grow as an organization and sustain the operation of the center.

2017-2018

The plan for this year is to secure funding for the next 5 years and to obtain a new address for the center. The next step is to develop a strategic plan and to recruit a team on a full- time basis. As our membership has increased so has our social issues. We need to come up with better solutions that will work for us. We need to determine what type of Friendship Center do “we” want to be and what type of programs and services do we want for our people. We need to ensure that the centre addresses the needs of our people.

I cannot determine this alone and need the support from our communities as I continue my journey. I can promise one thing for sure is that I will devote my energy to ensure our people will be treated with respect and have equal access to services. I will work towards keeping our children safe and share as much knowledge as I can and provide them with love and support. In such a short time I have reached one of my personal goals that we as Anishinabe people can come together and create a place of our own in the urban setting of Maniwaki. The Center has accomplished many milestones and is has become a valuable contribution to the town of Maniwaki.

Migwetch

Charlotte Commonda
Interim Executive Director



**MANIWAKI NATIVE
FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
CENTRE D'AMITIÉ
AUTOCHTONE DE MANIWAKI**

TEAM:

Charlotte Commonda
Executive Director (Interim)

Jamie Commonda
Youth Employment
Coordinator (Interim)

Steve Wawatie
Cultural Coordinator
(Interim)

Teri-Anne Cote
Education Retention
Coordinator (Interim)

Joanne Odjick – Ryder Cote
Tutors

**Dean Nottaway, Julianne
Dumont, Sonny Papatie,
Alicia Wawatie:**
Youth Workers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Norm Odjick
Lynn Whiteduck
Maryline Poucachiche



**SUPPORT
WORKERS:**

21 -CULTURAL
RESOURCES
6 - SPECIALIZED
RESOURCES
5 - SUPPORT
WORKERS





PROGRAM AND SERVICES



COMMUNITY CAPACITY SECRETARIAT OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS	YOUTH DEVELOPMENT URBAN PARTNERSHIP	FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	EDUCATION RETENTION AND HOMEWORK SUPPORT	CULTURAL AWARENESS TRAINING	MAMU - ATTUSETAU
<p>Support services, advocacy, information and referrals on programs and services developed for aboriginal families living or passing through the region of Maniwaki.</p> <p>Membership: 350 Followers on facebook: 637</p>	<p>Increasing Youth Engagement Fostering Youth Empowerment Understanding and Integrating Cultural Identity</p> <p>44 pre-employment sessions. Visited 20 local organizations 23 weekly visits to the Adult Ed. Center 14 Workshops 2 College visits 1 Career Fair organized 17 Cultural workshops 2 fundraising activities</p>	<p>The project will promote family violence prevention activities that will be culturally adapted and will bring awareness to available services by involving partners in the delivery of the program.</p> <p>Number of visits: 420 Weekly Cultural Act.: 22 Cultural Special Act.: 22 Number of participants for special activities: 750 Number of visit from teens: 1413 Average attendance per day: 20-25 Teen activities: 43 Teen Workshops: 24</p>	<p>The Native Friendship Centres play a natural role in providing liaison between the schools, the families and the communities.</p> <p><u>Homework Club</u> School support is available for students 3 days a week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 – 4:30. Bi-lingual tutor available.</p> <p>35 youth participated</p>	<p>To bring awareness opportunities to service providers to learn about Aboriginal culture and educating the general public with the hope of changing attitudes and improve relationships.</p> <p>2 training sessions were organized 66 Service Providers were trained in Cultural Awareness 1 Cultural Workshop for the general public delivered on June 21, 2017.</p>	<p>Mamu Attusetau is an advocacy strategy that aims to improve the quality, cultural relevance and coordination of services in early childhood, family, and health and social services offered to urban Aboriginal people. This strategy, relies on the establishment for implementation, in leading consultation forums and on developing and enriching collaborations with local, regional and provincial partners.</p> <p>Number of partners reached: 29 Number of partner meetings: 60 Number of Table d'accessibility mtgs: 5</p>

• Youth Development

- The Youth Development Program is targeted and accessible to youth 15 – 24 years of age living in the Maniwaki area. The program is to help with personal development in a culturally sensitive environment and to help youth transition to become capable and responsible young adults. This program is designed to link youth with available resources and services, that are geared towards education, employment and skills development. The Youth Development Coordinator creates an action plan in collaboration with the youth and partners that will address the barriers identified in the needs assessment.



• Family Violence Mamawihidig Project

- Weekly cultural activities (drumming, regalia making, mukluks, mitts, beading, hand drum making)
- Weekly youth activities (Teen Nights)
- Special Family Activities (Drum Social, Step Dancing Competition)
- Girls/Boys Clubs
- Mom and Me Groups
- Men's Group
- Prevention Workshops on Family Violence, Healthy Lifestyles
- Nobody's Perfect

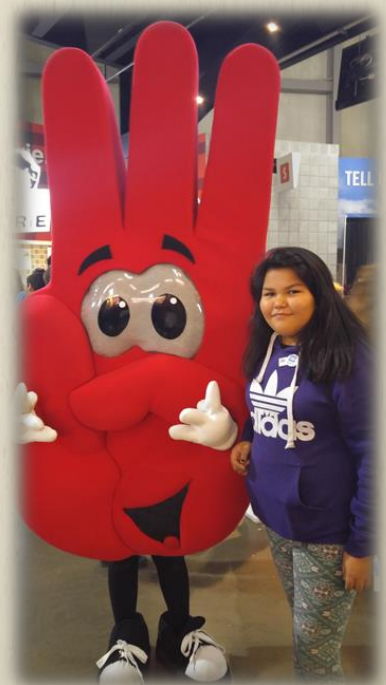


• School Retention Program

The School Retention Coordinator acts as a liaison between the students, school, and parents.

Homework Club

- The Homework Club is available for students 3 days a week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Bilingual tutors are available on site.



• Special Activities

- Halloween Dance
- We day in Ottawa
- Drum Social
- Mawandoseg – Indian village
- Niigan Nabin – Career – Job – Training fair
- Women`s day
- Family square dance
- Women`s Cultural Camp
- Baby Week
- Christmas Baskets



Participate:

Table de developement social de la
vallee Gatineau

Securite Alimentaire

Table education Outaouais 16+

Mental Health Team

KZ - Wanaki

INFORMAL PARTNERS:

Maniwaki Woodland

Maison Famille

I Love First People

Kitigan Zibi Health and
Social Services

Wanaki Center

CISSEO

FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

Maniwaki Native Friendship Center:

