

2017–2018 Oasis 25th Annual Report

On behalf of the Nipawin Oasis Board of Directors we would like to welcome you to the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre and thank you for attending our 25th Annual General Meeting.

We thank Joy Hanson, Executive director, and all of the employees for another successful year. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their support, dedication and their time they gave out of their busy schedules towards the success of the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre.

We would like to thank the participants, funders, volunteers, members, supporters, and donors that provided support this year. Programs that are being offered through the Nipawin Oasis have provided positive results for program participants.

We are thankful for the funding, financial and volunteer support we received during this fiscal year. 2017-2018 we received some capital funding assistance and with donations we added on a 24x48 addition. This much needed space allows us to enhance our current programming, offer additional programming and increases the capacity and sustainability of the organization to continue to provide program and supports for the community of Nipawin and surrounding area and region for years to come. We thank all of you that support the centre and its operations.

Senator Philip Head
Nipawin Oasis Board President

We had another successful year which is due to the funders and donors that continue to support the work we do, the participants that access the supports and services at the Oasis, the numerous Elders, Cultural leaders and volunteers that come weekly to assist with the programs, the board members that oversee and govern the organization and all of the dedicated employees. The addition is a dream come true and is a welcoming space for all to enjoy. Thanks again for your part in assisting the Nipawin Oasis in remaining a valuable and much needed organization in the community.

Joy Hanson
Nipawin Oasis Executive Director

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If you would like more information please email

nipoasis1@sasktel.net
or call 306-862-5551.
we also have a website
www.nipawinoasis.com.

Please like us on
Facebook :) Always
looking for donations
and volunteers :):):)



WHAT IS THE OASIS COMMUNITY CENTRE?

The Nipawin Oasis is a community resource centre that provides cultural, prevention, educational, and intervention programming, services, support and employment opportunities to the community of Nipawin and area in Northeast Saskatchewan. Approximately 150 individuals use the centre weekly.

The Centre operates its activities and conducts its affairs under the Co-operatives, 1996 Act and is registered with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Justice with the Corporation Branch. The Community Centre is also registered with the Government of Canada with the Canada Revenue Agency as a registered charity. There are no dividends or interest on share capital to the members or patrons and no part of the surplus is to benefit the members or patrons.

The Board of Directors serve in a solely volunteer capacity of the Co-operative and are elected from the membership. The board meets monthly along with the advisory committee to review the Co-operative's financials, mission and objectives while identifying potential risks and opportunities in consultation with stakeholders. The direction determined guides the operations of programs and services in the development of plans and annual goals.

The Nipawin Oasis Community Centre Co-operative Limited was incorporated in 1992.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017/18

President

Senator Philip Head

Vice—President

Chantal Diehl

Treasurer

Jean Hosaluk

Secretary

Diane Berge

Directors:

Debbie Peifer

Darlene Head

Angela Bighead

EMPLOYEES (2017/18) (CURRENT)

Joy Hanson

—Executive Director

Julia Mckay

- Homelessness Coordinator

Vickie Lake

- Family Support Program Coordinator

Victoria Usselman

—Family Support Specialist

Angeline Ironstar

– Family Support Specialist

Serena Garvin

—Youth Program Coordinator

Ethelena Bear

—Youth Program Leader

Reta and Ivy Nawakayas/

Hilda Roberts —Cultural Leaders (part time)

Terry Snider/Phyllis Snider – Janitorial (part time)

Support Staff – Cultural Advisors, Youth workers, odd jobs, building maintenance

VISION AND MISSION

Our Vision:

Our Centre will be a place where people care, belong, and get involved. Our Vision is to be one of the leaders in building an inclusive, supportive, safe and healthy community.

Our Mission:

We are a Community Resource Co-operative Centre that provides cultural, prevention, educational, and intervention programming, services, support and employment opportunities to the community of Nipawin and area in Northeast Saskatchewan.

We strive to provide opportunities and **CHOICES** along with the values of:

Caring, supportive, non-judgemental, and respectful, using a

Holistic approach that promotes wellness and that provides

Opportunities and uses as its guides

Integrity which is accountable, transparent and responsible valuing a

Community that works together and that is

Effective in meeting the needs of the community and provides

Security within a safe, respectful, supportive environment.

Our programming focus is on **CRAFTS** which also serves as a strong foundation for the cultural, personal and leadership development of the youth, individuals and families

Caring and Culture

Relationships

Action

Food and Fun

Teamwork and Time

Safety and Security

The Oasis was conceived as an umbrella that promotes sharing between user groups. The ownership, financial support, and responsibility for programs is shared by the local community (through the Board, volunteers, and local fundraising), local, regional and provincial agencies.

Where people can come together in an environment where they feel secure enough through care to belong and connect to themselves, peers, and mentors and given ample opportunity to succeed both in and out of the group. The groups provide a lifelong learning opportunity and the freedom to excel and build strong leadership skills for themselves, families, and community as a whole.



2017—2018 OASIS PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTS

Family Support Program—Northeast Region

Family Literacy Programming & Resources—Northeast Region Hub

Youth Nutrition, Literacy, Culture Program—after school (grades 1-12)

Summer Youth and Family Literacy program

Traditional Time—weekly—Northeast Region

Homelessness/Housing First & Drop in Support Services/Opportunities

STATISTICS 2017_18

Family literacy # Sessions/ #Participants	157/2996	# of Homeless - couch surfing and street this year	176
# participating in cultural programming	1919	# of Homeless that were re- housed	63
After school program # of meals/# of participants/# of sessions	2191/1421/126	# Individuals addressed with housing and support services	186
Summer youth & family lit- eracy program # of ses- sions/# of participants	72/1609	# of new intakes completed (homelessness)	75
Application assistance (# of individuals assisted)	196	# of Active Files (homelessness)	71
Family Literacy Bags Initia- tive as of Nov—March	22 families, 92 children and 83 bags	Family Support Program # of Families per month	30-45
Family Kitchens # of events/# of Participants	40/750	Family Support Program Direct Service Hours provided	2675 hrs
Summer kitchen program # of events/# of participants	36/889	Number of volunteers	28



“In growing up, a child should know some joy in each day, and look forward to some joyous event for the mor-

FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Family Support Program has been funded for a fourth year by the Ministry of Social Services under two contracts, mandated and diversion, to provide support and education to families drawing from resources such as the Saskatchewan Family Support Program Manual (Ages & Stages), Active Parenting Now; as well as supplemental resources such as the Financial Literacy Program which targets budgeting through grocery shopping, meal planning, comparison shopping using flyers, and FSP Kitchens; and the Family Literacy Program which targets literacy activities for children and parents to coincide with budgeting or compiling a resume. Furthermore, the Family Support Program staff attend various workshops to improve on services provided to families. These workshops include: Duty to Report, Truth & Reconciliation, Reconciliation Gathering, Domestic Violence, and Mental Health First Aid. The Family Support Program staff members are: Victoria Lake, BSW RSW (SK), as the Family Support Co-ordinator/Specialist, Angeline Ironstar as a Family Support Specialist, and Victoria Usselman as a Family Support Specialist providing assistance in the healthy development of families and children in the Northeast area by completing home or office visits.

The Family Support Program goals are:

- To maintain the family unit and well-being of the child or children
- To enhance family wellness
- To empower families
- To ease reunification between children in care and their families

Quotations from families of the FSP:

“My Family Support Worker is wonderful. She helps me understand my spending habits. I can plan a meal and know how much it will cost.”

“My Family Support Worker did a cooking session with me and my son. I really liked this because I could bring my son and not have to worry about finding a babysitter. And the meal I made was good.”

“My Family Support Worker provided me the necessary information I needed to remove myself from a domestic violence situation. She helped me through the whole process.”

“My Family Support Worker helps me work through my workplan.”

“My kids love my Family Support Worker. They wait for her at the door when she is to come for a home visit.”

“I like having home visits. We talk about the things I want to talk about.”

“If I want to have a home visit at my Family Support Worker’s office, it’s okay. This way it gets me out of the house.”

“My Family Support Worker helped me work at getting my kids back.”

“I’m learning how to parent differently. It’s hard, but I am doing it. My worker supports me.”

“My Family Support Worker doesn’t stop believing in me. She reminds me of how strong I am. She reminds me of all the positive things I do.”

FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMMING

The Nipawin Oasis is one of the Family Literacy Hub Service provider serving the northeast of the province with funding from the Ministry of Education— Provincial Library and Literacy Office.

The primary objective is to ensure that Northeast families have access to family literacy programs, services and supports to strengthen literacy development at home and in their community.

Current Literacy programs offered this year at the Oasis were:

Youth Literacy—after school Mon.—Thurs and some weekends (Grades 1-12)

Traditional Time—Family Literacy—Every Wed from 10—3

Summer Youth and Family Literacy —July & August

Family Literacy program—drop in and scheduled throughout year

Jan. 27 - Family Literacy Day Celebration

June 21—National Indigenous Peoples Day and Intergenerational Family Literacy

July 12—Family Literacy Day Celebration

Sept. 30—Orange Shirt Day Celebration and Family Literacy

Computer & Internet usage—public use

Library Resources - includes Cultural resources and Red Earth History

Community Literacy Events, Resources, and education



Facebook:

Nipawin Oasis Parenting group— <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1456353187932702/>

Nipawin Oasis Cultural group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1435786793328133/>

Nipawin Oasis Recipe group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/388745721263475/>

Nipawin Oasis Craft group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1487451708143078/>

Nipawin Oasis Literacy Group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/349294951927436/>

Nipawin Oasis Housing Group—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/123076314434669/>

Nipawin Oasis and Area Job Postings—<https://www.facebook.com/groups/337088190028546/>

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

This program teaches good nutrition practices for children, youth and families, and helps develop independent living skills for children and their families including new ways to prepare food, budgeting, shopping, safe food handling, preserving, Cree culture, literacy and outdoor activities. The youth are picked up at school and driven home after the program.

The after school nutrition program runs from Sept to June, for three to four hours each day from Mondays—Thursdays for students in grades 1-12. We had over 80 children involved in the afterschool and summer program this year. During the summer months we ran a family and youth literacy program. Other programming included Family kitchens, special events, weekends, and includes bridging to community pro-



grams and activities.

Since the program began youth have been learning kitchen safety and how to cook using simple yet healthy recipes by working together. Other activities : Cree language and culture, nature walks/hikes, learning about various local plants and animals, outdoor scavenger hunt, visiting Regional Park, literacy, sliding, swimming, Christmas party

with parents, carpentry, various arts and crafts, various games to increase social skills, community events, leadership skills, and self esteem building.

Youth Program Leaders are Serena Garvin and Ethelena Bear with support from Cultural Leaders Shirley Moostoos and Leanne Mckay, parents and volunteers.



SUMMER YOUTH AND FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM



The Nipawin Oasis youth and family culture, nutrition and literacy summer project followed a holistic approach working with youth and families. Activities included swimming, cooking, traditional

foods, outdoor cooking, gardening, shopping, budgeting, program development, nutrition, try a tool activities, carving lessons, cradle board making, Cree language lessons, sewing of

handbags, moss bags, bonnets, ribbon skirts, regalia, beadwork, field trips, ball, lacrosse, literacy and craft activities.



The project was extremely successful with high engagement level of the youth. We tried something new with involving the family as a whole more in the program. This went very well



with 3 generations attending daily. Due to the high interest in cradle board making we offered that this year which took 12 sessions to complete. We had 18 complete a cradleboard. Other successes were the Cree language, carving and the many sewing projects that were completed. We employed a summer student with Cree as her first language which greatly assisted the program. We had several elders daily taking part in the youth programming. Families would stay with their children versus dropping them off which was wonderful.



CULTURE AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAM

Culture and Cree language is included in all the programming at the Oasis. Weekly programming is Traditional time that is held every Wednesday from 10—3 with Elders and cultural leaders leading the program. The time is spent preparing and cooking traditional foods, sharing, beadwork, making moccasins, having fun and supporting one another. Activities have included singeing ducks, fish, moose, duck soup, goose that tastes like moose stew, bannock, traditional cake, participating in Wake service, Cree singing, Cree language, cradle boards, beadwork, moccasins, sewing, dresses, ribbon skirts, bonnets, moss bags, quilting, star blankets, cultural teachings, outdoor cooking, and loom-ing. Several of the women have gone on to start their own businesses. The women have also passed this onto their children and the girls are doing beadwork and making their own regalia.



Oasis celebrates National Aboriginal Day June 21

On June 21st, 2017 the Nipawin Oasis hosted its 4th successful National Aboriginal Day Celebration with Elders, and Cultural Leaders. We had a high number of youth and families attend the weather was beautiful, lots of volunteers and the hands on activities were enjoyed by all. The participation from the community. High interest and engagement. Weather was beautiful. The number and variety of activities that were held were:

Red Earth & Shoal Lake History, Teepee Teachings , Treaty Teachings, Bannock making & preparing lunch, Bonnets & Moss bags, Drumming workshop, Cradle

Board teachings & carvings , animal calling, Moccasin teachings, Bracelets, Key-chains, Cree Bingo and Art-work . This was followed by a dance with “Constant Reminder”.



Homelessness Partnership Strategy

Housing placement and housing loss prevention (only for families and individuals at imminent risk of homelessness);

We assisted and supported tenants with hauling garbage, furniture, giveaway items, emergent needs, cultural programming a, removal of bed bugs, and use of the washer and dryer. We have been assisting families, individuals and youth with items from the Oasis giveaway shed as well as assisting several families and individuals with emergent food needs. Several families/individuals we work with are housing numerous couch surfers and some with extremely high numbers. We are supporting them with emergent needs. We are working with youth for community service hours that are involved in the justice system, assisting with court conditions and court support. We also provided court support for the individuals we are working with. Working with tenants and landlords to access available housing and to prevent eviction.

Connecting clients to income support, pre-employment support, and bridging to the labour market:

Assisted several individuals and families with filling out forms, income tax, accessing job postings, resumes, interview skills, working with the public, handling money, volunteer opportunities, accessing available education programs, agency referrals, obtaining ID such as birth certificate, SIN, workplace literacy and essential skills.

Life skills development and support to improve clients' social integration;

We provided life skills and literacy programming – such as health and wellness, financial literacy, budgeting, cooking, hygiene, gardening, home and yard upkeep, safe food handling, nutrition, Cree culture, family literacy, lunch and learns, transportation to attend Oasis programming and weekly support program.

Connecting clients to education and supporting successes:

Assist with accessing education opportunities at the regional college, secondary school, online resources, and community educational opportunities.

Provide drop in support services – supportive listening, counselling services, family support, mental health support, phone, computers, internet, fax and photocopy, laundry, filling out forms, ID, nutrition, cultural resources, cultural advisors, tutoring, community service hours (justice) and literacy. Assist with emergent and basic needs – such as emergent transportation to hospital, Dr. Appt's, court support, immediate emergent food issues and housing.

Capital Improvements – Addition of 23x48 to the kitchen and dining room. This has provided much needed additional space. Includes a recreation area for all ages as well as a sitting area for group work. Included replacement of windows.

What difference has the Oasis made to you?

I am happy with the program and your doing a good job I have no complaints keep it up

Yes I enjoy the program at Oasis i enjoy meeting new people and i enjoy working with the kids and youth in

I love coming to the Oasis because it is a fun place to be and a lot of my friends come here from school.



I love the oasis program and what it provides it helps a lot of people out and I love it there feels like home...Older teen

I am happy with it. Because it benefits the people. It helps families grow in a positive way. I would mind seeing a program to help get my driver's license.

Parents get lessons for cooking, sewing, and other fun activities. . I see a positive, vibrant vibe when i enter the building. I enjoyed my time there and would continue to utilize all the elements that your organization offers.

Community member

Without the Oasis I would not have a home. They helped me fill out the forms and got me furniture through donations

The Oasis has helped me deal with my problems and gave me someone to talk to.

I learned to sew and made a star blanket quilt. The Elders are teaching me how to bead and sew moccasins. I can now pass on these teachings to my



The Oasis has helped me with literacy bags for me and my children and now I am reading more with my children and doing the activities in the bags.

They helped me do my resume and now I have a part time job.



THANKYOU :) FUNDERS, PARTNERS AND DONORS 2016-2017



Ministry of Social Services
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Education - Literacy Office
Status of Women Office



Funded by the Government of Canada
Financé par le gouvernement du Canada



2017—2018 Funders and Donors since April 1, 2017 for a total of \$8199.96

Shauna Grassing
CUPE Local 4875
Dawn-nica Mathieson
Joanne and Norm Thomson
Royal Purple
Lyle Adderly Memorial
Helen Remple
Myrtie Rempel
Janice & Ken Hobbs
Mary Lou Hamilton
Joyce Christianson
Douglas Pegg
Jean Marie Fogarty
Dennis & Alice Adderly
James WR Taylor
Lois & Billy Drobot
Allene Yasinski
Carol Adderley
Gail Hirsch
SaskPower—volunteer draw— Ken Hanson
Potash Corporation—matching donation Kevin Hobbs in Memory of Lyle Adderley
Pineland Co-op—fuel fundraiser and donation of paint (15 gallons)
Catherine Weseen
Dawn Gates in memory of Donald Rempel
Margaret Anderson
Janine Klaas
Ken Hanson
Nipawin and District Donors Choice
Diamond North Credit Union

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F Food and Fun

T Teamwork and Time

S Safety and Security



*Providing Opportunities
for
Positive Choices*