



2020—2021 Oasis 28th 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 28th Annual General Meeting.

We thank 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 Elders, Cultural leaders, participants, funders, volunteers, members, supporters, and donors that provided support this year. This year we received numerous donations from the community. Programs that are being offered through the Nipawin Oasis have provided positive results for program participants.

This year we expanded our supports by purchasing three supportive homes, we doubled the family support case load, and remained open throughout the pandemic. Our staff continue to meet the challenging work environment due to the ever increasing needs in the community. We do not receive any core funding, nor funding from the Town of Nipawin for operations and we pay property taxes for the homes and the centre. We are able to be sustainable due to our low administration costs, numerous volunteers and continued support from the funders and donors. We are grateful for the continued funding and support we receive for the programs and your part in making the Nipawin Oasis a valuable and much needed organization in the community. Stay safe everyone!

Senator Philip Head
Board President
Joy Hanson

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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.

We appreciate donations that we receive.



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 80-90 families a month and 30-40 individuals use the supports and services monthly at the Oasis.

The Centre operates its activities and conducts its affairs under the Co-operative, 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 2020/21

President

Senator Philip Head

Vice—President

Debbie Peifer

Treasurer

Jean Hosaluk

Secretary

Diane Berge

Directors:

Samantha Bear

Sundance Umpherville

Jonathon Mckay

Sheila Seiferling

EMPLOYEES (2019/20) (CURRENT)

Joy Hanson

- Executive Director

Sonya Charles

-Family Support Coordinator

Leigh Landry

- Homelessness/Housing Co-ordinator

Melisa Bear

Jenine Burns

Danesha Head

Pamela Nyberg

Sherrine Umpherville

Wilma Nickel

– Program Support Workers

Reta and Ivy Nawakayas, Harriet Burns, Mary Dussion, Clarence Whitehead Cultural Leaders

Clarence Whitehead

Joe Stringer

Christopher Smallboy

Maintenance and Program Support (Casual)

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, members, volunteers, and local fundraising), local, regional and provincial agencies.



2020—2021 OASIS PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTS

Family Support Program (3 FTE)

Youth Nutrition, Literacy, Culture Program (1 FTE)

Reaching Home Program (1.5 FTE)

STATISTICS 2020_21

Meals Delivered/Served	3200	# of Homeless - couch surfing and street this year	200 +
Individuals housed	142	# Mandated direct service hours— Family Support—total for year	894
After school program participants	1654	# Diversion direct service hours Family Support—total for year	2442
Individuals/families on case load in homelessness/housing	280/106	Family Support Program # of Families per month	35-50
Social Media Facebook page	1100		



FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Family Support Program has been funded for a seventh year by the Ministry of Social Services under two contracts, mandated and diversion, to provide support and education to families. We offer wrap around services in the Family Support Program. We have seen our case load double this year and are working with anywhere from 80– 90 families a month, both in Mandated and Diversion.

The Family Support Program staff members are: Sonya Charles - Family Support Co-ordinator, Melisa Bear, Jenine Burns, Sherrine Umpherville, Pamela Nyberg - Program Support Workers, who are providing assistance in the healthy development and support of families and children in the Northeast area by completing home, office visits, and visits by phone due to the pandemic.

The Family Support Program staff attended training on Traditional Parenting with Janet Fox to improve on services provided to families. This year we developed numerous workbooks to work with our families such as Anger Management, Parenting, Communication skills, Stress management, Relapse Prevention, ADHD, Family Violence, Grief, Respect in the Home, and Traditional Parenting. 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

- In Addition our goals:

- To increase the strength and resilience of families while respecting and supporting their culture and traditions.

- To support parents as they help their children with special needs achieve their full potential.

- We also assist the families with making connections with other resources in the community and online.

- We also do fun and recreational activities that support the entire family.

- We also do family advocacy.



CHILD NUTRITION, LITERACY AND CULTURE PROGRAM

This program funded by Ministry of Education, Community Initiatives Fund and TIP, 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, gardening, cooking, preserving, Cree culture and language, literacy and outdoor activities. Due to the pandemic and outbreaks in our area we needed to make some changes to our program. We made and dropped off activity bags, doing

online programming such as Bingos, recipes with all the necessary ingredients, cooking and measuring utensils, nutritional information, Canada Food guide, diabetes education, budgeting, delivering of school supplies, craft supplies, cultural supplies and nutrition for the youth and families. We did cooking and activities as a family to follow the public health guidelines. We also provided nutrition to families that were isolating due to Covid. We also delivered food bank boxes to families. We also saw an increase in donations this year for nutrition from the Community Foundations, Red Earth, Shoal Lake and Cumberland House Cree Nations. We also provided cleaning and PPE to families as well as cloth masks. We planted a garden with participants looking after it.



CULTURE AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAM



Culture programming is funded for the most part by SaskCulture. Due to the pandemic it has been definitely a struggle. We regularly hear from the participants that they sure miss the weekly traditional time. We have been able to regularly connect with the Elders and assisting with their basic needs and nutrition. We also provide beadwork supplies and materials. We also had cultural leaders picking medicine. We lent out several of the drums to the youth and assisted with forming a drum group at LP Miller. We did have some beadwork sessions with Elders, small groups of participants and had our drum and dance, beadwork, and cultural Facebook group to regularly connect with the participants.



Reaching Home—Homelessness/Housing Program

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 and cultural programming. We have been assisting families, individuals and youth with donations items and emergent food needs. Several families/individuals we work with are housing numerous couch surfers and some with extremely high numbers. We are working with tenants and landlords to access available housing and to prevent eviction. We worked with over 200 homeless this fiscal year.

Supportive Housing—the Oasis purchased 3 homes this year (another in April 2021) for a total of 4 supportive housing homes to house and support those with chronic homelessness or living in unsafe and unsuitable conditions. This is going very well and we have heard from participants that this has been life changing.

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, applying for income assistance, workplace literacy and essential skills.

Life skills development and support to improve clients' social integration; We provided life skills – such as health and wellness, financial literacy, budgeting, cooking, hygiene, gardening, home and yard upkeep, safe food handling, nutrition, Cree culture, family literacy and transportation for emergent needs. We developed a housing manual for participants upon move in on how to keep a home. We also developed several manuals to assist families with relapse prevention, anger management, parenting skills, communication skills, stress management and traditional parenting.

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, family support, mental health support, phone, computers, internet, fax and photocopy, laundry, filling out forms, ID, nutrition, cultural resources, cultural advisors, and literacy. Assist with emergent and basic needs – such as emergent transportation to hospital, Dr. Appt's, immediate emergent food issues and housing.

Outcomes in:

Reduction in accessing higher costly services such as health, corrections and emergency services.

Reduction in homelessness and assist the Reaching Home clients with supports and services to obtain housing, access benefits, increase self sufficiency and prevent evictions.

Improved community inclusion and social integration through cultural programming, Cree language, sense of belonging and provision of opportunities.

What difference has the Oasis made?



How the ripple effect worked here.....It began, with a donation and an offer to help make up food boxes from a kind, caring woman from East of Carrot River. Knew we needed to do this but how? With the restrictions on, and the need greater than what our staff could handle made it impossible. Thought well, maybe there are more people like her in the community that would like to help and maybe we could match a donor to a family. So did a post on Facebook Dec. 5 requesting a need for food boxes - match, shop and drop. Within 6 days - 35 families were matched, \$1100 was donated, 30 + meals donated, 10 additional hampers. We were "Wowed" by the response. Now 20 days later - 62 families matched with food boxes (42 from the community and 20 Oasis), \$1600 donated - (\$600 donated anonymously, \$500 and large donation of food and supplies from Jessica Brost and family of NE EMS, \$500 from Marlon Zacharius of

Aerus, 18 food hampers from the women east of Carrot River with sausage donated by "the Outback butcher", 30 + meals for Christmas Day from "The Dam Smokehouse", new toys donated by Murray Dunn GM, close to 50 new coats donated by the Knights of St. Eugene Parish, and Nipawin Chrysler Dodge a large food donation. Prince Albert Community Foundation provided additional funding to make up food boxes. Thankyou to everyone that made this possible 😊 it truly has been amazing....what a wonderful community...some of the photos and comments from the donors and recipients are below.

"I didn't expect much but I'm very thankful they did this thank you this means a lot "



"Happy to help! Thank you for organizing - such a great idea! "

"I was so overwhelmed by the amount of groceries that we received that I didn't get the lady's name that dropped them off! Could you please, if you don't mind, pass along my gratitude to her again. I really was so blown away by what was purchased! My daughter was so happy with her treat and especially the fancy new toothbrush 😊 You are all so amazing for what you do, thank you! ❤️ "

"Please tell them our family had nothing but praise for the scrumptious meal..it was awesome to just sit & enjoy the prepared meal without being too tired to enjoy. Thank them & to you too for all your work ❤️ 🙏 Merry Christmas! 🎄

What difference has the Oasis?

People like them to take the time to do what they did dropping of food . makes this Christmas Day special & I would also like to Publicly give thanks to all the ladies from oasis for the job they do their



kindness & Support & Willingness making people feel welcomed I am over Overwhelmed in a good way

Thank you so much ❤️ Merry Christmas to all the people in Nipawin and God bless you and your families”

“I absolutely loved the message! I’m soo happy that they are excited! I’m so glad I could give her and her kids some joy this holiday season. I’m going to be wrapping the gifts tonight , and delivering them on the 24th”

“Perfect. We can do all of that. Thank you for running such a wonderful program! I will message you on Saturday to let you know what time I will deliver.”

“I cannot express my gratitude enough to what me and my kids got blessed with tonight, by people we dont know. We need more people like this out there, who go out of their way to do something so thoughtful towards others especially people they have never met. Cannot thank you enough. ♥♥♥♥ “



“Our donations were awesome. The kids were happy with the bake goods we got...And we thought that was a lot

And kids said we hit the jackpot “



What difference has the Oasis ?



The older fellow said to me “why so much!” I didn’t say because I can’t control myself , lol

I got the vegetables I wanted n some extra for the young ones to have when they want something



THANKYOU :) FUNDERS, PARTNERS AND DONORS 2019-2020



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



Donations

- Eleanor and Vern Rourke
- Margaret Anderson
- Laura Beach
- Royal Purple Bingo
- Nipawin United Church
- Sask. Co-operative Association
- Diamond North Credit Union
- Heidi Isaac
- Beckman Holdings Inc.
- Dorothy J. Follensbee
- North East EMS
- Janine Brooks—Jean
- MD Zacharius Enterprises
- Outback Butcher—Carrot River
- Wayne and JerBear Books—books
- Tim & Glen Verklan
- Nutrien matching donation
- Wilma Nickel
- Maureen Kawa
- Knights of Columbus
- TSN Law
- Prince Albert Community Foundation



504 Railway Ave W
Box 3146
Nipawin, Sk. S0E 1E0



Nipawin
asis
Community Centre Co-operative Ltd.

Ph: (306) 862-5551
Fax: (306) 862-5589
Email: nipoasis1@sasktel.net
www.nipawinoasis.com

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S Safety and Security



*Providing Opportunities
for
Positive Choices*