

Document 2:

Aboriginal Working Committee Accomplishments 2016-2017

The following summary highlights various, though not all, accomplishments of the Aboriginal Working Committee (AWC) from the last two years. All initiatives were developed and implemented in collaboration with Committee partners and Indigenous communities.

Ottawa Public Library

- Hosted a June 2017 online book club with Michel Jean, author and editor of *Amun*, and Patti Laboucane-Benson, author of *The Outside Circle*.
- Hosted a reconciliation tour with residential school survivor, Margaret Pokiak-Fenton and her daughter-in-law, Christy Jordan-Fenton, who has written Margaret's experiences in several books.
- Tour partners presented to staff at the Children's Aid Society, a community centre and a middle school, as well as to Aboriginal service providers.
- Celebrated the heritage, contributions, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities in Ottawa with a series of programs for National Aboriginal History Month in June.

Recreation, Cultural and Facility Services

- Over **250** Aboriginal youth participated in the "I love to..." program series and the "I Love to Mentor" program in 2016 and 2017.
- Developed Algonquin Anishinabeg cultural initiatives in partnership with Kitigàn-zìbì Anishinabeg and the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn.
- Developed, installed and unveiled an outdoor Commemorative Artwork at Ottawa City Hall in full collaboration with Kitigàn-zìbì Anishinabeg and the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn.
- Increased access to cultural funding programs for local Indigenous communities through revisions to funding criteria, and assessment process.
- Commissioned Algonquin Anishinabeg artists and mentors for the fabrication and delivery of Public Art at Algonquin Pimisi light rail station.
- Over **50** City and partner agency staff participated in a cultural awareness session about Inuit Heritage and Culture.

Community and Social Services

- Home for Good funding increased housing investments in case management supports for Indigenous Youth experiencing, or at risk of homelessness.
- By November 2017, **51** Indigenous youth were served through Wabano's Youth Housing-Based Case Management services.
- Indigenous service providers for Housing First services are now able to assess youth who self-identify as Indigenous.
- Worked closely with Indigenous service partners to produce a community needs assessment and joint funding proposals, as part of the "The Journey Together – Ontario's Early Years Initiative."
- The Province approved up to **49** new Indigenous childcare spaces and increased early years services for Indigenous children and their families in Ottawa, delivered by Indigenous organizations.
- Over **30** participants attended Employment Ontario information sessions at various locations including Tungasuvvingat Inuit, Kagita Mikam and the Ottawa Inuit Children's Centre.
- Kagita Mikam referred **five** Inuit youth to the City's Youth Job Connection employment program that offers both paid workshops, and employment placements.
- Worked with **five** Aboriginal Service agencies to promote the Youth Futures 2017 – 2018 program, resulting in 3 youth accepted into the program.
- Hosted **two** meetings of the AWC leadership group and **four** meetings of the AWC subgroup.
- Over **350** City staff and partners attended the 2016 and 2017 Aboriginal Awareness Day events, which focused on the legacy of residential schools and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.
- Combined, the 2016 and 2017 Aboriginal Awareness Day events had a **99.5%** satisfaction rating.
- Increased use of a public acknowledgement of unceded Algonquin Territory and First Nations, Inuit and Métis people at the opening of major City events, as well as in the remarks made by the Mayor, City Councillors and senior management.

Ottawa Public Health

- In June 2017, the Ottawa Board of Health received a report on public health support for actions that promote reconciliation and advance Indigenous health equity. An Ottawa Public Health (OPH) Reconcili-ACTION Plan, addressing nine

(9) of the TRC Calls to Action, has since been developed and validated by Indigenous Elders. Implementation of this plan is ongoing.

- Launched a full service, culturally safe dental health clinic at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health in October 2016. In 2017, **523** patients were seen at **1,254** visits; preventative dental outreach included OPH participation at 87 First Nations, Inuit and Métis community programs and activities.
- Facilitated discussions related to the development of an Indigenous Health Strategy for Ottawa, including support for the 2016 community consultation that included First Nations, Inuit and Métis Elders, youth and 12 Indigenous and non-Indigenous health service organizations. Key engagement findings were shared at the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Community Forum in February 2017.
- Employees participated in multiple Indigenous Cultural Safety Training (ICST) learning opportunities, including Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health's 'Culture as Treatment' symposiums and an inter-sectoral Indigenous Agency Tour in June 2016, which included participation by three Board of Health members.
- Engaged First Nations, Inuit and Métis Elders and partners to participate at All-Staff and Board of Health meetings in 2017, in order to enhance understanding of individual and collective public health roles and resources to promote reconciliation and advance Indigenous health equity.

Ottawa Police Service

- **150** Police, service providers, students and members of the public attended the third annual Ottawa Police Service Human Rights Learning Forum, titled "Facilitating Reconciliation by Understanding the History of Canada's Indigenous Peoples" in December 2017.

Service Innovation and Performance Department

- Collected data about workforce representation of Aboriginal Peoples at the City and analyzed this against labour market availability, in order to identify potential opportunities to increase hiring of Aboriginal candidates.
- Provided this data to departments for use in the development of plans to increase the workforce representation of Aboriginal Peoples at the City **from 1.5% to 2%** by the end of 2018, relative to availability in the marketplace.
- Developed and shared recommendations for an Aboriginal Cultural Safety Training Program for city staff with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition for review and input.

- **100** City staff attended a Corporate Diversity Café in 2016 during which an active youth member of the Aboriginal community in Ottawa and an Aboriginal Coalition Representative shared their personal perspectives on racism and discrimination.
- Approximately **200** people, including community members and city staff, attended a Human Rights Learning Event in December 2017. Métis Senator Jo MacQuarrie of the Métis Nation of Ontario brought greetings on behalf of Aboriginal communities in the Ottawa region. A plenary session “Treaty Rights are Human Rights” featured Piita Irniq. This event was presented in partnership with the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

AWC Community Partners

- **150** Indigenous and non-indigenous students participated in the “Youth for Reconciliation” learning opportunity organized by local group Màmawi Together and hosted by the Ottawa Carleton District School Board and the Ottawa Catholic School Board.
- The students’ ideas were presented to the Honourable Senator Murray Sinclair and the Honourable Carolyn Bennet MR at a public event in May 2017.
- Ottawa Catholic School Board held IBear (Building Educational Awareness and Reconciliation) cultural training sessions for **60** teachers and school board staff in 2016.
- **125** students participated in an Ottawa Carleton District School Board Indigenous Youth Symposium in June 2017. The objectives of the symposium were to create pride, and to obtain guidance from youth about how the school system can do better for Indigenous students.
- Crime Prevention Ottawa (CPO) released the research paper, “Culture as a Catalyst: Preventing the Criminalization of Indigenous Youth”.
- In partnership with the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, CPO presented the research at the CPO Culture and Indigenous Youth Speaker Series event in February 2017.
- ART NOW program was created as a result of the United Way Ottawa facilitating a connection between the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition, the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa and an individual donor.
- United Way Ottawa donors contributed to play therapy for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children between the ages of four and 12 through the Children Who Witness program, run by Minwaashin Lodge.