

2-SPIRITED PEOPLE OF THE 1ST NATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT

2022

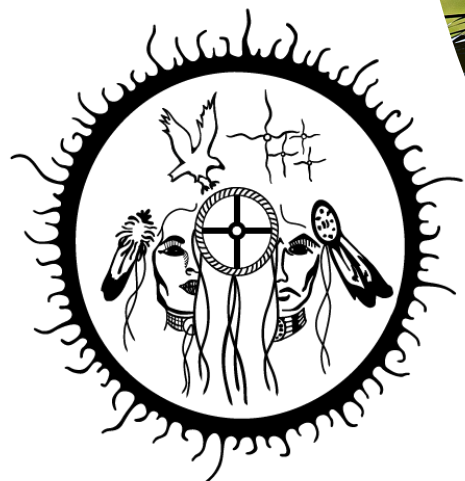




Table of Contents

04

Mandate and
Vision

05

Letter from
Board President

06

Letter from
Executive
Director

07

Letter from Pilot
Director

08

Letter from
Elder Blu

09

Board of
Directors

10

Meet the Team



15

TCCS Pilot

16

Pow wow

17

Pride 2022

18

New Location

19

2S Bursary
Program

20

Impacts

22

Shared
Appreciation

25

Our year at a
glance

31

Thank you



2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations Updated Mandate and Vision




Our Vision

We see a strong, healthy, and self-determining 2-Spirit community in Ontario where 2-Spirit peoples live with pride in their Indigenous heritages, values and roles in our communities. We see 2-Spirit peoples as continuing to celebrate our strengths and supporting community members to live with physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being.

Our Mission

We will continue to nurture and grow within our sacred roles and celebrate our strengths as 2-Spirit peoples to provide physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual advocacy. We support 2-Spirit peoples and First Nations, Métis, and Inuit community members who are at risk of or living with HIV, hepatitis C, and related co-infections; and we will continue to support community members who are facing the effects of historic and ongoing colonial violence so that we may thrive within our communities and nations.



Letter from the Board President

It has been a great honour for me to have continued on as Board President of 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations for another year.

In this time, our cherished organization has continued to improve the services we provide to the communities we serve. You have spoken and we have heard you. Our talented staff and our Board of Directors at 2-Spirits continues take action on and implement the advice and direction collected from our engaged community members.

Over the last year, 2-Spirits has worked diligently to develop a new Strategic Plan with the ambitious goal of expanding our reach and mandate to include all of Ontario. The 4 new strategic objectives are to: 1) Develop an Indigenous governance and leadership model, 2) Scale our services to meet an increasing and deepening need, 3) Strengthen our ability to advocate within and across our communities, and to communicate who we are, what we do, and 4) Increase and diversify our revenue to fund our work and support our strategic priorities.

The Board and staff of 2-Spirits are committed to the implementation of our new Strategic Plan and have developed a multi-year implementation plan to support our success. We will be evaluating our work. Each year we will report on our progress to our communities, funders, donors, and the 2-Spirits membership.

Our gratitude to the Creator and helpers who were with our team throughout our process. We'd also like to acknowledge that our Strategic learning and direction came from your community responses and engagement with 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations. We acknowledge that we are here for you, and you have shown that you are here for us - and for each other as well. You/we have already begun to take up our roles and responsibilities, and for that, ninanāskomonan we are grateful.

As 2-Spirits continues to grow and expand our services, we continue to celebrate our diversities, strengths and our shared values. 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations will continue to take on a leadership role to model the strengthening of our sacred 2-Spirit roles and responsibilities within our communities.

We see a strong, healthy, and self-determining 2-Spirit community in Ontario where 2-Spirit peoples live with pride in their Indigenous heritages, values and roles in our communities. We see 2-Spirit peoples as continuing to celebrate our strengths and supporting community members to live with physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being.

Trevor Stratton
Board President
2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations



A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Like everything, Covid-19 is a teacher and has taught us so much. It taught us to remember that not all members have the same accessibility and resources. It taught us to be innovative and try new ways of reaching out and new ways of sharing information. It taught us to be proactive and to not wait for members to walk through the doors but to find ways to come to them. It taught us that our physical, spiritual, mental and emotional health all need care and love and attention especially in a crisis. It taught us that we can protect ourselves as a community. It taught us that everyone has skills and gifts to share, and some were waiting for an invite to share. It taught us we need to make our own decisions as a community and self-determination will only be led by us. It taught us how to want for others and put community needs before our own when appropriate. It taught us to use the teachings we had from the current HIV pandemic as a guide. It taught us how vulnerable we are, yet how strong we are when we work together.

I want to thank everyone who walked beside us in this difficult time. Every facilitator, every elder, every teacher, every knowledge keeper, every helper, every staff, every board member, every community member, every student, every volunteer, every donator, every funder and every ally. Without you all, we aren't a community, and you all made this past year one I will never forget. I am honoured to keep working alongside our 2-Spirit Community and will keep trying to be as transparent and accountable as I can, remembering to be community led and share and lift voices. I always invite and welcome feedback in any way that can better guide the work we do as a team. I appreciate you all and look forward to the expanded programs and new ways to support one another. All My Relations.

Chi-Miigwetch



Keith McCrady
Executive Director



Without you all,
we aren't a
community, and
you all made
this past year
one I will never
forget.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

For those who do not know me, my name is Saige McMahon. I am Anishnaabekwe settler mix from Treaty 3, Rainy River First Nations, Bear clan. I am the Director of the Indigenous led Crisis Response Pilot (TCCS), and I am so proud to be a part of the team here at 2-Spirits.

I started at 2-Spirits as a student placement quite a few years ago now, and it has been such an honour to experience how the agency has grown over the past 4+ years. I am proud of our entire team, the board, volunteers, and the community for the dedication we have put into making 2-Spirits what it is today, and I am excited for what is to come. Thank you all for being such tremendous pieces of this agency, and my personal journey.

I am honoured to be in the role of the Director of the Indigenous led Crisis Response Pilot which launched earlier this year, aiming to provide our community with an alternative response when experiencing mental health related crisis. I do not take it lightly, and I hope this service truly encapsulates the care and love we are all so deserving of.



I want to thank all of the team members and community members who shared a laugh, some tears, food, knowledge and love with me over the last year. I hope we can continue to walk alongside one another with humility, kindness, and bravery.

All my relations,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Saige McMahon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Saige McMahon
Director of Indigenous led Crisis
Response Pilot



Letter from Elder Blu

A big hello to all today,

My name is Elder Blu Waters and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to 2-Spirit People of the 1st Nations.

As we head to a less covid environment I want to acknowledge all the hard work everyone at 2-Spirits did for the community. Many virtual programs, food baskets, street outreach, helping the community without judgment, or shaming and giving from a good heart.

Without the support and care that 2-Spirits give many would have gone hungry, deeper in trauma, and experienced greater depression.

The staff from the ED to the volunteers, truly make the community healthier, supported, and included.

Words cannot say enough how 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations are such a valuable organization and so needed not only in Toronto, but across Canada.

As members of the community, our voices are heard and our suggestions are always valued.

Please join me in acknowledging our gratitude to 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations.

Chi miigwetch for all the support you provide to the community.

Elder Blu Waters

BOARD OF Directors



Trevor Stratton
Board President
he/him



Randy Jackson
Board Member
he/him/they



Denise Booth
Treasurer
she/her



**Jada Reynolds-
Tabobondung**
Board Member
they/them



**Aaron
Bowerman**
Board Member
he/him



**Adam Garnet
jones**
Board Member



**J'net
Ayayqwayaksheelh**
Board member
she/her

Meet the Team



**KEITH
MCCRADY**

Executive Director (No preferred pronouns)



**SAIGE
MCMAHON**

Pilot Director (she/her)



**AMANDA
LOMAS**

Supervisor (she/her)



**NATASHA
MADASSA**

Pilot Manager (they/them)



**NICHOLE
LEVECK**

Wellness Coordinator (they/them/she/her)



**PAM
LAPOINTE**

Multi-generational Program Coordinator (she/they)



**BABE
WATERS**

COVID Pride Coordinator (She/Her/They/Them)



**SHANE
LYON**

COVID Pride Support (he/him)



**BRIDGET
O'CONNELL**

Volunteer Coordinator (she/her)



JEREMY REDDICK
Harm Reduction
worker (he/him)



SHIVA ACHARYA
HIV/AIDS
Educator/Researcher
(he/him)



COURTNEY WYNNE
Administration
Support (she/they)



KENDA HOFFER
Financial and
Operational
Consultant (she/them)



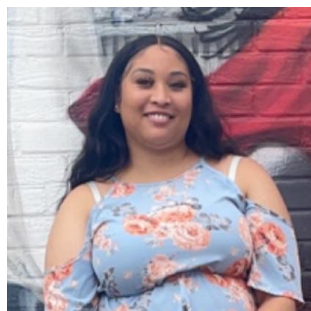
BROOKE BOWMAN
Support Worker
(she/her)



AMERICO ALBARRAN
Client Care
Coordinator (he/him)



**ROBIN KECHEGO-
PEGAHMAGABOW**
Harm Reduction
Worker (she/her)



KASHEENA REID
Community Peer
Research Assistant
(she/her)



MELISSA FISHMAN
2-Spirit Collaborator
(She/they)



**AMY
COOPER**
Harm Reduction
Worker (she/her)



**AARON
JACOBS**
Peer Support Worker
(she/they)



C ROSS
Crisis Response
Specialist (they/them)



**RAVEN
JACK**
Peer Support Worker
(he/him)



**SARAH
ANDERSON**
Harm Reduction
Worker (shey/they)



**SHANTEL
PLUMMER**
Crisis Response
Specialist (she/her)



**ANMOL
BUDHIRAJA**
Harm Reduction
Worker (he/him)



**SPENCER
VERSEGHY**
Peer Support Worker
(he/they)



**RONNY
AGAWA**
Crisis Response
Specialist (she/her)



**DAKOTA
WILLIAMSON**
Peer Support Worker
(he/him)



**JACK
IRELAND**
Case Manager
(he/they)



**MICHELLE
EDGAR**
Community Resource
Specialist (any)



**BECKY
LAFORME**
Crisis Response
Worker (she/her)



**JORI
WASKAHAT**
Crisis Response
Specialist (he/him)



**DANIELLE
HACHEY**
Peer Support Worker
(she/her)



**SERGE
CAMPFENS**
Peer Support Worker
(he/him)



**KIELLO
OSMOND**
Crisis Response
Specialist (she/they)



**TONIE
OGILVIE**
Harm Reduction
Worker (she/her)



**BILLY
CURTIS**

Community Health
Nurse (he/him)



**ROB
TURNER**

Community Health
Nurse (he/them)



MARZ ABI

Peer Support Worker
(they/them)



**COURTNEY
JUDGE**

Peer Support Worker
(she/her)



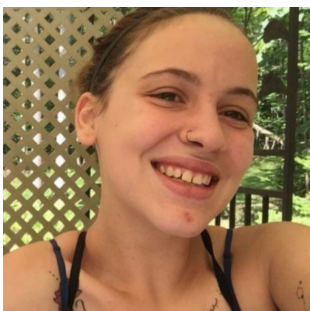
**DESIREE
SANDS**

Program Coordinator
(she/her)



**TINA
COPENACE**

Mental Health
Counsellor (she/her)



**KRYS
CONNOR**

Peer Support Worker
(they/them)



**FARON
JOHNSON**

On-call Supply
(he/him)



**TARA
KOBELITZ**

Mental Health
Counsellor (she/her)

*Not pictured, Char S - Crisis Response Specialist (she/her)



Toronto Community Crisis Service

Kamaamwizme wii Naagidiwendiiying - "Coming together to (heal or look after or to take care of) each other"



Indigenous peoples in Toronto have historically been and continue to be disproportionately negatively affected by police intervention in crisis situations. Creating an alternative framework for crisis response is fundamental to protecting our community from harm, continued forms of colonization and trauma. Two-spirit people were historically integral members of their communities, serving as Teachers, Knowledge Keepers, Spiritual Leaders, Healers, Caretakers, Interpreters and Mediators. Two-spirit people have always been leaders within their communities, caring for those who need it and sharing our traditional ways of knowing and being.

In partnership with Eshkiniigjik Naandwechigegamig - A place for healing our youth Aabiish Gaa Binjibaaying? - Where did we come from? - Youth Program (ENAGB) and Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre, we are honoured to walk alongside and support our communities in times of need.

KAMAAMWIZME WII NAAGIDIWENDIIYING is an Indigenous led pilot that responds to mental health related crisis' and wellness checks for individuals located within Division 14. It is rooted in community, it is relational, trauma informed, non-aggressive, and aims to always centre the individual in our approach to supporting their wholistic health and wellness.

Culture and traditional ways of being are fundamental to support our community. Our approach is flexible and responsive to the varying needs of people in crisis and those around them.

Our services include; primary care, harm reduction supports, basic life needs, system navigation, family/kinship support, crisis intervention, traditional supports, mental health supports and referral coordination.

Our pilot team is made up of our Executive Director, the Director of the Indigenous led Crisis Response Pilot, a Manager, a Program Coordinator, an Administration Support Worker, a Community Resource Specialist, (8) Crisis Response Workers, (2) Nurses, (4) Harm Reduction Workers, (9) Peer Support Workers, (2) Case Managers, On-call Supply staff. Our pilot is guided with support from our agency partners and with the Community Advisory Committee.

The crisis response pilot launched on July 11, 2022 and is operation 24/7 year round. In order to access the service (if you live in our current catchment area- Division 14) you can call 211. We operate in Division 14, which is:
 -West-Dufferin St. south to Queen St., West to RoncesvallesSouth from Roncesvalles to the shoreline.
 -North-Canadian Pacific Railway line
 -East-Spadina Ave., Lower Spadina Ave
 -South-Toronto shoreline.

There are 3 other pilots operating in various areas around the city being:

TAIBU:
 TAIBU Community Health Centre for the Northeast pilot.

Gerstein:
 Gerstein Crisis Centre for the downtown East pilot.

CMHA:
 The Canadian Mental Health Association of Toronto for the Northwest pilot.

Please visit our website/Facebook/Instagram for more information or send an email to manager@2spirits.org for any questions!



PARKDALE QUEEN WEST Community Health Centre



2-Spirit Pow Wow

On June 4th, 2022, 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations held the first annual 2-Spirit Powwow at Downsview Park.

The 2-Spirit Powwow was one of the first large community gatherings in the last few years due to COVID, and it was a beautiful celebration of community, resiliency and 2-Spirit identities.

We were joined by 6 food vendors, 17 information booths from various organizations sharing resources, and 56 market place vendors.

The community showed up in large numbers to celebrate, dance, enjoy food and gather. Community members from as far as 8 hours away joined us for this event! We are so proud of how the Powwow turned out, and excited to take all of our learnings from this year into making next year's Powwow even more *deadly!*

Chi-miigwetch to the emcee and all the vendors, dancers, volunteers, staff, partners, participants and community for making this event as special as it was.

“ I loved witnessing all the Indigiqueers/2S folks taking up so much space, comfortably! It was lovely to see everyone dressing however they want. So much joy! I appreciated that there were so many vendors, including food vendors. I also really appreciated the free professional photography to get fancy photos!”

2-Spirit community member



Pride 2022

This year 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations partnered with pride to lead several 2-Spirit specific programs and events throughout the month June and into Pride weekend!

For Pride 2022, 2-Spirits was involved in the planning and oversight of 17 performers/speakers on Wellesley Stage. From educational speaking panels to drag, we had it all!

Our booth saw over 1000 interactions each day of Pride weekend, and approximately 75 community members alongside 2-Spirit staff lead the parade.



New Office Grand Opening

This year we were so excited to open a new location in the east end! Our new office, which will be used for programming, children and family supports and community gathering is located at 2126 Danforth Ave.

We hope to see you join us for programming at the new office throughout the next year!

2-SPIRITS BURSARY PROGRAM



2-Spirits has now launched a bursary and scholarship program starting in 2023! Below are the available bursary and scholarships:

- The Copenace & Sinclair Bursary
- Two-Spirited Traditional Medicine Talk Scholarship
- Leonor Mendoza Tan Memorial Bursary
- Kenda Hoffer 2-Spirited Womyn Bursary
- Ella Giizhig Ga Ikwe Bursary
- Red Sky Candles Bursary
- David McCrady Jr. Memorial Bursary
- Mahogany Makwa Bursary
- Budhiraja Family Bursary



811

Food baskets
provided to
community

48

HIV self testing kits
distributed

128

Days of outreach over
the last year

3

Monkey pox vaccine
clinics

Our impacts: 2021-2022

While our community and agency impacts can be felt in many ways, the numbers above and on the next page give both you and us an idea on what our year looked like! These numbers provide a story and a reflection on all the events, programs, services, and interactions that happened over the last year. We are proud of all of the things we have accomplished throughout 2021-2022 alongside community, and look forward to see what 2022-2023 brings all of us.



Our Impacts:

40k Over 40,000 Harm
reduction supply items
handed out

70 Volunteers

1618 Practical support
interactions

6 Student Placements

70 Programs/Workshops/
Community Events

100 Percent of staff identify
as Indigenous or
2SLGBTQIA+

2207 Outreach contacts

905 Workshop participants

33 New positions

87 Percent of staff
identify as Indigenous



Shared appreciation from our community

Community member Tracy Sauve

“

I would like to share a few words about my experience with 2 Spirited People of the 1st Nations:

It has been such a blessing to be involved in a number of programs over the last year during the covid restrictions.

I enjoyed the zoom bingo sessions, even if I never won it was nice to be part of the program with other members and staff.

I also wanted to shared how grateful I am for the food support program, it has been a true support during these challenging times, and an added bonus was the delivery of the food items!

I also participated in a drum making session and was able to make my granddaughter a beautiful drum and striker. For this I am truly grateful. The time spent with everyone was just what I needed.

I also enjoy the Moon Ceremonies that are provided on a monthly basis, and the bicycle program that provided bikes to all attendees was beyond outstanding!

So for this and all that 2 Spirits offers I want to give a Chi Miigwetch to all the staff, volunteers and funders that make 2 Spirited People of the 1st Nations the awesome agency in the it is!

CHI MIIGWETCH!!

”



Shared appreciation from our community:

“ As a two-spirited mother with a non-binary child living in Edmonton with very little supports from my family and community I have benefited from the Toronto 2-spirited program greatly over the years. Even though it is very emotionally draining to have very little support the Toronto 2-spirited programming and support greatly helps our little family and now my family is actively thriving. ”

2-Spirit community member

Shared appreciation from our community:

"Hi, my name is Maria Bird, I've been a participant of the Red Road to Wellbriety program from the beginning to end. It has been a very big part of my healing journey as

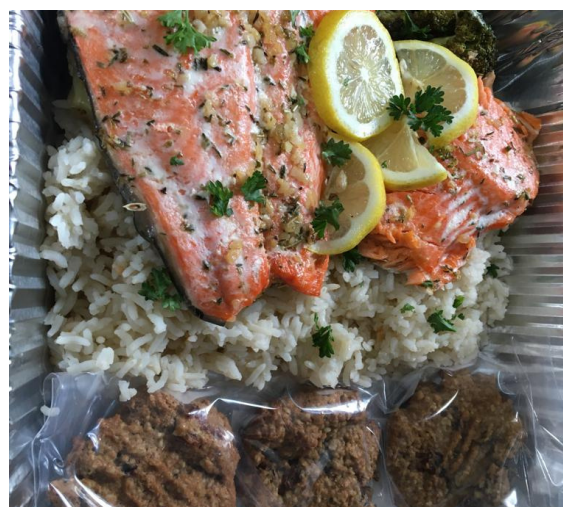
I have been sober from hard drugs for 11 years and alcohol for 6 years. The support and encouragement of the group is so awesome. I feel safe enough to share my personal traumas and be able to heal at the same time..."



OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE:

Programs and Services

Take a look through some of the photos we snapped this year of our programs and service! Miigwetch to our community for providing feedback on what types of programs and services you'd like to see, for attending our programming and sharing space with us.



2-Spirit Powwow

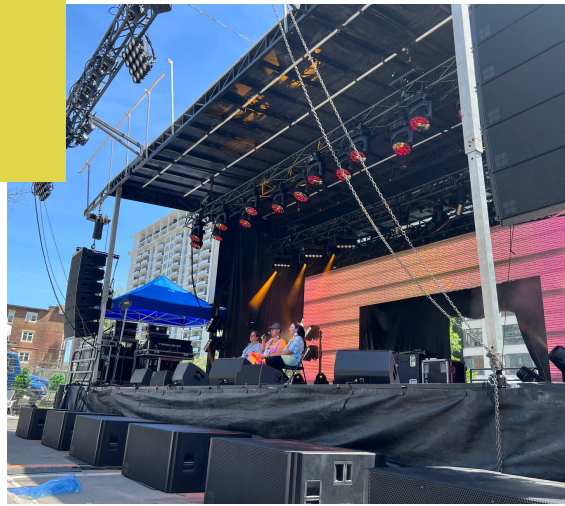
"I really enjoyed the atmosphere and the energy of the people. How accepting everyone was towards everyone was a beautiful thing to be apart of."

-2 Spirit
Community
Member





Pride 2022





Thank you to our funders:



Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



South Riverdale
COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTRE



TURNER
FLEISCHER



CHI MIIGWETCH

A huge thank you to our community for walking alongside us in this journey. To our funders and our partners, thank you for supporting the work we do and will continue doing in the future. To all the volunteers, thank you so much, without your support we wouldn't be able to do all the events and programming that we do. Thank you to our pilot Advisory committee for guiding us in the work we are doing, and representing the community. Thank you to all the facilitators, Elders and knowledge keepings who support us in putting on our programming. To our Board, thank you for guiding and supporting all the work we do behind the scenes. Lastly, thank you to our wonderful team for all of your hard work.

