



2021—2022 Oasis 29th 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 29th Annual General Meeting.

We would like to thank the Elders, Cultural leaders, participants, funders, volunteers, members, supporters, and donors that provided support this year.

We thank all of the employees for another successful year. We have a solid team with diverse experience and knowledge which makes working together enjoyable and enables us to provide the wrap around supports that are needed in the community.

We would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their support, dedication and their time they give out of their busy schedules towards the success of the Nipawin Oasis Community Centre.

This year we received numerous donations from the community. A local restaurant “The Dam Smokehouse” started a fundraiser for “Truth and Reconciliation” Day Sept. 30 by donating \$5 for each meal and with additional donations the total was \$16,620.89 with 100% going towards emergent needs of the participants.

We also received funding from “Second Harvest” that assisted with much needed emergent nutrition and for those under Covid isolation.

Over the last couple of years we have seen the need for the programs, supports and services of the Oasis significantly increase to working with over 400 individuals and families a year. The Oasis struggles to meet the needs in the community in areas of homelessness, food security and transportation.

This year through funding from Reaching Home – Service Canada we expanded our housing supports by purchasing an additional three supportive homes for a total of 6 supportive housing homes we now own in Nipawin. This funding also assisted with providing a wide range of supports to house and to prevent eviction as well as preventative supports.

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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.

Over the last couple of years the Family Support program funded by the Ministry of Social Services case load has more than doubled with averaging 65 families a month and over 300 hours of direct service supports provided per month which is a prevention model that promotes the integrity of the family and prevents children going into care of the Ministry and assists with reunification and family visits.

The child nutrition program – Ministry of Education, TIP grant and CIF continued this year with adaptive programming concentrating on families as a family unit due to the risks encountered and high number of instances of Covid among the families we worked with.

The centre remained open throughout the pandemic and we still provided office and in home supports and transportation following safety protocols.

Our staff continue to meet the challenging work environment due to the ever increasing needs in the community and limited supports and resources available for the people living in poverty.

We do not receive any core funding, nor funding from the Town of Nipawin for operations and no property tax relief.

We are able to be sustainable due to our low administration costs, staff's ability to be flexible and work where needed along with our 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.

Senator Philip Head—Board President
Joy Hanson—Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021/22

President

Senator Philip Head

Vice—President

Debbie Peifer

Treasurer

Jean Hosaluk

Secretary

Diane Berge

Directors:

Janet Shinkewski

April Cook

Marie Bouvier

EMPLOYEES (CURRENT)

Joy Hanson

- Executive Director

Leigh Landry

- Homeless/Housing Coordinator

Melisa Bear

Danesha Head

Pamela Nyberg

Hilda Roberts

Melissa Cranch

Debrena Mckay

Raindance Umpherville

– Program Support Workers

Mary Dussion - Elder

Clarence Whitehead

Maintenance



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. We are working with over 400 individuals and families use the supports and services at the Oasis.

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 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.



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.



2021—2022 OASIS PROGRAMS AND SUPPORTS

Family Support Program (3 FTE)

Youth Nutrition, Literacy, Culture Program (1 FTE)

Reaching Home Program (1.5 FTE)

STATISTICS 2021-22

Meals Delivered/Served	4700	# of Homeless - couch surfing and street this year	300 +
Individuals housed	82	# Mandated direct service hours—Family Support—total for year	1431
Nutrition program participants	500 +	# Diversion direct service hours Family Support—total for year	2704
Individuals/families on case load in homelessness/housing	227	Family Support Program # of Families per month	65 +
Social Media Facebook page followers	1319	Oasis participants	400 +



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 70 – 80 families a month, both in Mandated and Diversion.

The Family Support Program staff members are: Melisa Bear, Pamela Nyberg, Melissa Cranch, Hilda Roberts, Danesha Head - 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 have been busy with training—Triple P, online parenting courses, to improve on services provided to families. This year we are continuing to develop numerous workbooks to work with our families such as Child Development, 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 assist the families with making connections with other resources in the community and online.

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



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, 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 provided nutrition to families that were isolating due to Covid. We delivered food bank boxes to families. We provided cleaning and PPE to families as well as cloth masks. We planted a garden with participants looking after it.



We also assisted with swim passes, beading looms, outdoor rink passes, Empower equine program, and instructor fees.



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, 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 for a total of 6 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 work experience, 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?

We often hear people say I don't know what the Oasis does actually. Here is a snapshot of the services and supports we provided in the month of February 2022 for families. We worked with 65 families providing 420 hours of direct service and supports. Services provided included parenting support, emergent transportation, cultural supports and supplies, crisis interventions, emergent nutrition, cooking skills, shopping, budgeting, filling out forms and applications, obtaining income, obtaining ID, children's activities, emergent clothing, housing assistance, eviction prevention, garbage removal, furniture donations, home repairs, landlord/tenant relations, cultural ceremonies, use of phone/computer/fax, donations, housing applications, work experience, household items, worked with the RCMP, HUB, Social services, Schools, Legal aid, Physicians, Health region, Home care, CLSD, Nipawin Housing, accessing Food Bank, Landlords, and this is only the services provided this month to families and does not include services and supports to the individuals. This is only possible due to the amazing staff that we have.

How we give back to the community the Oasis spent the following in the community for the 2021-22

Boreal Waste Authority - \$2,480
Sew Materialistic - \$434
CJ's \$7663
Duplex Furniture \$16,260
Lake Country Coop \$44,153
DC Import Auto \$1563
Empower Equine \$6845
Market Tire \$2,147
MTN Disposal \$663
Nipawin Bucket Truck \$2,370
Nipawin Chrysler Autobody \$700
Nipawin Chrysler Dodge \$378
Nipawin Computer Solutions \$1329
Nipawin Dent Repair \$437
Nipawin Eavestrough \$510
Nipawin Housing Authority \$520
Nipawin Taxi \$1138
Outback Butcher \$1300
Proven Insurance \$932
Ren All Construction \$6401
Richardsons \$6180
Rona \$503
Sk Valley Services \$2797
Save U IGA \$17,995
Cooperators Insurance \$13,232
Town of Nipawin \$28,293
TSN Law \$2200
Wayford Trucking \$492
Dollar Store \$1411
Bargain Shop \$542
Fields \$6250
Tobin Motel \$890
Harolds \$217
Matt's No Frills \$4,276
Nipawin Buy and Sell \$3565
For a total of \$187,066 spent in the community April 1,
2021 - March 31, 2022 😊



What difference has the Oasis made?

Some of the comments we have received from our participants :)

I love how the Oasis helps me and my children. Kitchens makes me and my children bond in ways we can't at home

I love going to Oasis for everything that you do for us, learning from our special Elder's that teach us different things and we share alot, and food, desserts are always the best, I been missing out the programs on Tuesdays and I'll stop by tomorrow before I go for appointment in Melfort. Very thankfull for everything you do for us.

The Oasis has made a difference in my life by giving me opportunities to interact with staff and other clientele. I am involved with their Kitchens Program and Beading, we also got to cook and make baskets. Oasis is for everyone and people should use this resource, because it is for their good. I'm thankful for being a part of the Oasis



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Some of the comments we have received from our participants :)



Oasis has helped us get started with our new home when we needed it! Gave us clothed for our family when we needed and some food when we couldn't get enough due to paying bills! Thank you Oasis!

Kitchens is helpful when it comes to learning how to eat healthy lol been learning some healthy recipes.

Thank you for all the help u support me with I'm so thankful

Kitchen was helpful for us to bring the food home And the support Helped me when I was down on my most stressful days!!! But they never gave up ,,thank you very much !!



The Oasis workers are incredible, super supportive too. It made see a brighter side in life, I love the environment around everyone in there. They make forgot I'm shy lol My girls and I are lucky to have you! ♥

Helped us with oil n few food. It's so much of a helpful place. Learnt so many things that I never knew in my life. Like that birch bark basket I made. That was my first ever. Moccasins beading. Hand bag making. It helped me a lot. And I'm so great full. For that. Thank you.

THANKYOU :) FUNDERS 2021-2022



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*Providing Opportunities
for
Positive Choices*