

BIMINAAWZOGIN REGIONAL ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Annual General Meeting Report

November 6, 2024

Candace Hawke, Executive Director



Our Mission

“Following the teachings of our ancestors we will encourage and support Indigenous women, families, communities and organizations working together as a unified voice to empower and promote the basic right to healthy living and safe housing”

celebrating 24 years since our inception

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

- Ahnee Everyone! Welcome to our Annual General Meeting. Chi-miigwetch to you, the community who continues to empower and support BRAWC through your partnerships, encouragement and contribution to our initiatives. The circle continues to evolve and be strong, that we are grateful for!
- We have had some amazing accomplishments, thanks to our mighty dream team who work frontline in the community providing essential supports and services to our clients. It is a pleasure for me to share this report with you.



EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION/COMMITTEE INVOLVEMENT

Collaboration, networking and community partnerships continued during the last year. BRAWC is represented on the following external committees:

- Anishnabe Education and Training Circle
- BANAC Board of Directors
- Simcoe County Alliance to End Homelessness
- Simcoe County Community Advisory Board
- Coordinated Access Leadership Table and Working Group Committee
- Situation Table-Orillia & Barrie chapter
- Simcoe County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee
- Simcoe County Shelter Outreach Services Committee
- Orillia Homelessness Table Committee

COMMUNITY EVENTS

South Simcoe National
Indigenous People's Day

2 -Day
Indigenous Health
Forum

Ontario Native Women's
Association Annual
General Meeting

Orange Shirt Day Event-
BRAWC, ONWG and
Mamaway
Wiidokdaadwin Primary
Health Care Team

Lakehead University
Information Fair

Rama Addictions Health
Fair

National Truth &
Reconciliation Flag
Raising Ceremony-Orillia

Georgian College-
Indigenous Studies,
Organization Structure
Interview Panel

90th Annual Mount
Pleasant Residential
School ceremony

Ogemawahj Tribal
Council Language
Gathering Conference

Orillia Native Women's
Group Sister in Spirit
Vigil

Grand Opening of the
Bradford Community
Hub



SOCIAL MEDIA

- Our website and social media pages are maintained actively, to market and promote our organization.
- Our facebook page has 431 members and we regularly communicate and update the community through social media.
- Our Instagram page has 206 followers.
- Combined, we have 637 members on social media



Website Updates



[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Programs & Services](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Welcome to BRAWC

The Biminaawzegin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle

The Biminaawzegin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle (BRAWC) was formed in the year 2000 and incorporated in 2006. BRAWC initially served as a regional planning and service delivery body for Indigenous women in Simcoe County. Supplementary letters patent was approved in 2013 to reflect our transitional housing program. BRAWC's project management skills have excelled and we have established ourselves in the community as a very capable organization taking major steps to support the social, cultural and economic well-being of Indigenous people.



 Let's Chat!

- Our website was redesigned this past Spring with the support of Kirstie Cowan, First Nations owner of Owl Graphic Design
- Since our website launched in April, we have had over 1,300 visitors to our site with the highest source coming from google searches
- Have a look.....
www.brawc.ca

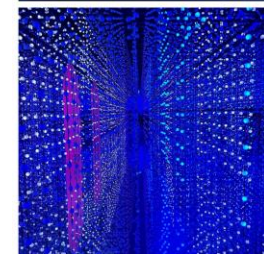
Staff and Team Meetings

- BRAWC currently employs 10 fulltime staff
- We contract various other supports to assist us which includes our traditional healing in-house program, a social worker, our psychotherapist and our finance manager.
- The BRAWC team meets weekly. Each team meeting focuses on check in, what is working well, what can we do different, impacts and a 15 min presentation on a professional development topic.
- Each staff completed an annual performance review this past year
- Staff individual program and client update meetings with me are held weekly
- The team participants in bi-weekly clinical debrief meetings that supports the staff in the work they do
- As a team, we complete monthly clinical supervision meetings with Yvonne Brunelle, registered Psychotherapist

Staff Appreciation and Team Days

- The Circle of Directors supports staff appreciation days. This gives opportunity to thank the team and recognize the amazing work we do. It also fosters a sense of engagement, team building and overall gratitude for each one of us. This past year we had fun at a Spa Day, Golfing and Bubble Planet.





Spotlight ~a year in review~

Staff Training ~ year in review



Circle of Directors Training



- This past year our circle of directors completed Board Governance training in partnership with the Orillia Native Women's Group. Ligaya Byrch, Board Chair of Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital facilitated our training. I also participated. Some of the training highlights captured:

- Types of Board
- Relationship between management and boards
- Key responsibilities
- Top issues affecting boards
- Measuring board performance



Our partnership with the Ontario Native Women's Association

- Last year we became a Chapter Member of the Ontario Native Women's Association. Our board treasurer, Laura Forget is the delegate for the Eastern Chapter which meets monthly
- Two board delegates attended the annual general meeting assembly in September in Thunder Bay
- We were honoured to be gifted a canoe as part of a teaching on the final day of the assembly. Each canoe symbolizes the journey of leadership and healing that we carry forward. We will continue to honour the trees – the black ash, the cedar, and the birch – that have gone into making of this canoes
- The Ontario Native Women's Association continues to support our initiatives and regularly engages our organization and community with support and guidance. Chi Miigwetch ONWA, we appreciate you



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ONGOING DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

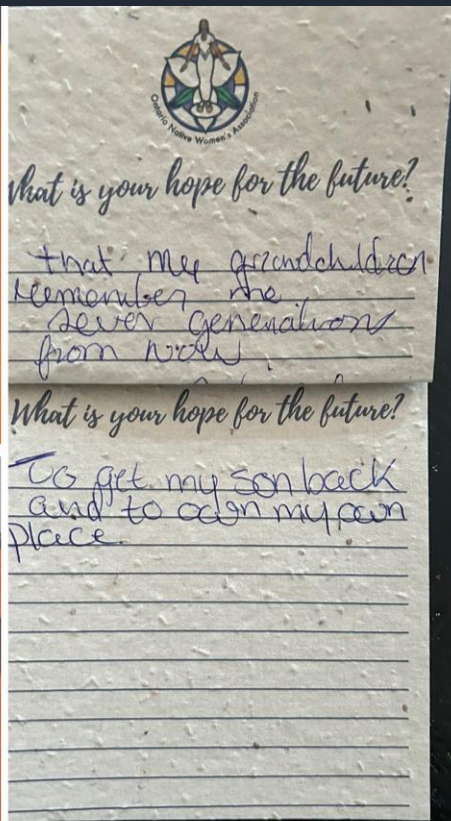
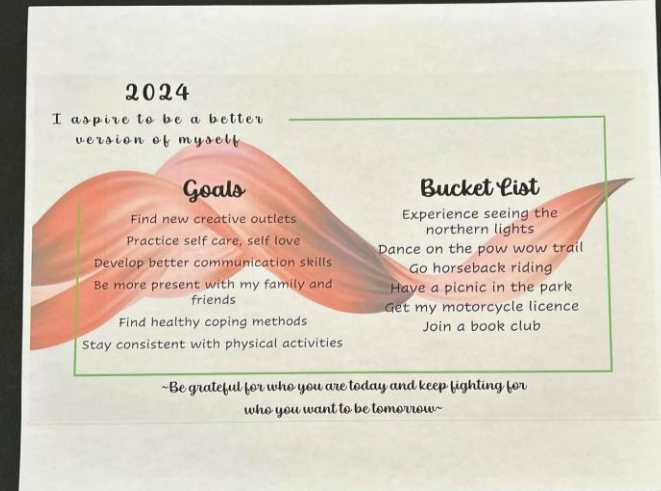
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| Overseeing all program budgets: responsible for ongoing cheque requisitions, monthly invoices, picking up cheques and coordinating signing | Completed quarterly and annual reports | Weekly/daily support to staff and programs | Completing monthly bank deposits | Collaboration with coordinated access to receive prioritization for our residential program | Approving intakes for the BRAWC Indigenous housing first program and monthly supplements and or other financial supports to eligible clients |
| Ongoing program shopping, approving client purchases and expenditures | Facilitation of weekly staff meetings and professional development learning for staff | Monthly staff supervision meetings | Scheduling month in house programs and staff calendar for our residential program | Assisting with client move in and move outs | Completing monthly staff schedules |
| Approving vacation time and monthly staff travel claims | Ongoing external committee participation meetings as necessary and or required | Responsible for after hours on call phone including weekends | Coordinating maintenance orders at properties, liaison with moving companies, contractors, etc | Ongoing board meetings, drafting agenda's, board meeting minutes, staff reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing management of the day to day operations of two residential housing properties | Working individually and providing ongoing support to clients |
| | Liaison with the Auditor and any completing information that is required | | Liaison with the part time Finance Manager, reviewing monthly income statements | Ongoing liaison with funders and external program managers overseeing funding agreements | |

Funded Projects

BRAWC relies solely on annual grants to implement our various community programs. We do not have annualized or core like funding.

The following slides outline are current projects and who they are funded through.

Transitional Housing Program



- Weekly house meetings
- Bi-weekly cultural circle
- Individual Therapeutic/Counselling support
- Monthly budget reviews
- Bi-weekly group learning circles
- Bi-weekly plan of care meetings
- Weekly unit inspections
- Transportation assistance
- Nutrition and basic needs supports



ONTARIO ABORIGINAL HOUSING SERVICES

The Indigenous Supportive Housing Program through the Ministry of Housing supports our residential program operating costs and our community based Indigenous Housing First Program.

Our Indigenous housing first program works in the community to support Indigenous people who are homeless, chronically homeless and or at risk of homelessness. This program employs three of our housing first case managers.

Our transitional housing program provides transitional/supportive housing that give Indigenous women and children the structure and support they need to address critical issues necessary to maintain permanent housing and achieve self-sufficiency. The funding received supports staffing and traditional healers/teachers for our transitional housing program.

COUNTY OF SIMCOE

The County of Simcoe is the community entity for two funded programs through Homelessness Prevention Program.

The Homelessness Prevention Program provides operational and program support funding for our residential program and Indigenous Housing First Program in direct partnership with the County of Simcoe, Regional Housing First Program through Empower Simcoe.

This past year we hosted a site visit at our residential properties for County of Simcoe staff. 17 staff toured our properties and participated in an engagement session with BRAWC staff and clients.

I also participate in the County of Simcoe, quarterly Operational Leadership and the Board Leadership meetings.

COUNTY OF SIMCOE.....



Multi Agency Collaboration Project Naadamaadiwag-Helping Each Other

- The project is a multi collaboration between three Indigenous agencies those being: Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle, Georgian Bay Native Women's Association and Biminaawzogin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle.
- Our team works with Indigenous people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in Orillia, Barrie, South Simcoe and South Georgian Bay providing housing and support services that assist in reducing and preventing chronic homeless.
- We provide staffing to be the first point of contact for Indigenous people experiencing homelessness and provide direct community outreach and support services.
- Funded positions include: Outreach Worker, Intake/Coordinated Access Worker and a Data Entry Specialist

CLIENT STATISTICS

- Over the last year, our residential program housed 9 women. We currently provide support to 6 women and 1 child.
- We continue to provide outreach support to an additional 8 clients from our residential program who have transitioned into permanent housing.
- Our project through The Homelessness Prevention Program (County of Simcoe) Housing First has worked with 32 households over the last year.
- Our BRAWC community based Indigenous Housing First Program has supported 35 households in that program.

Yearly Statistics Total

84 HOUSEHOLDS

17 HOUSEHOLDS

through our
residential program

35 HOUSEHOLDS

Through our BRAWC
housing first
program

32 HOUSEHOLDS

Through our County
of Simcoe housing
first program

OUTREACH SERVICES, Naadamaadiwag - Helping Each Other

Annual **DATA**

NEW INTAKES

169

REOCCURRING CLIENTS

134

BRIEF SERVICES

1802

Directors Terms Ending

- Just like the seasons change, so do our board terms. I want to acknowledge our Board Chair, Patricia Mulcaster for her 4 years of dedication and commitment to BRAWC.
- Patricia's feedback, support and guidance you have provided to BRAWC is so appreciated and we have valued working with you over the last 4 years.
- I look forward to continuing to work with you in a different capacity in the community.



- I just want to acknowledge the support and direction from the Circle of Directors. Their positions are volunteer and it takes a huge amount of time and commitment to keep our circle strong. So, thank you.
- To the staff who I have had the honour and pleasure to work with over the last year, thank you for your dedication, teamwork, kindness and perseverance. Together, we are better, together we make the Dream Team!

