

BIMINAAWZOGIN REGIONAL ABORIGINAL WOMEN'S CIRCLE

Annual General Meeting Report

November 10, 2025

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 25 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
- Simcoe County Shelter Outreach Services Committee
- Motel Voucher Program Committee
- Action Orientated Case Conferencing Committee-Co-Chair
- Indigenous Housing Coalition
- Poverty Reduction Task Force Committee

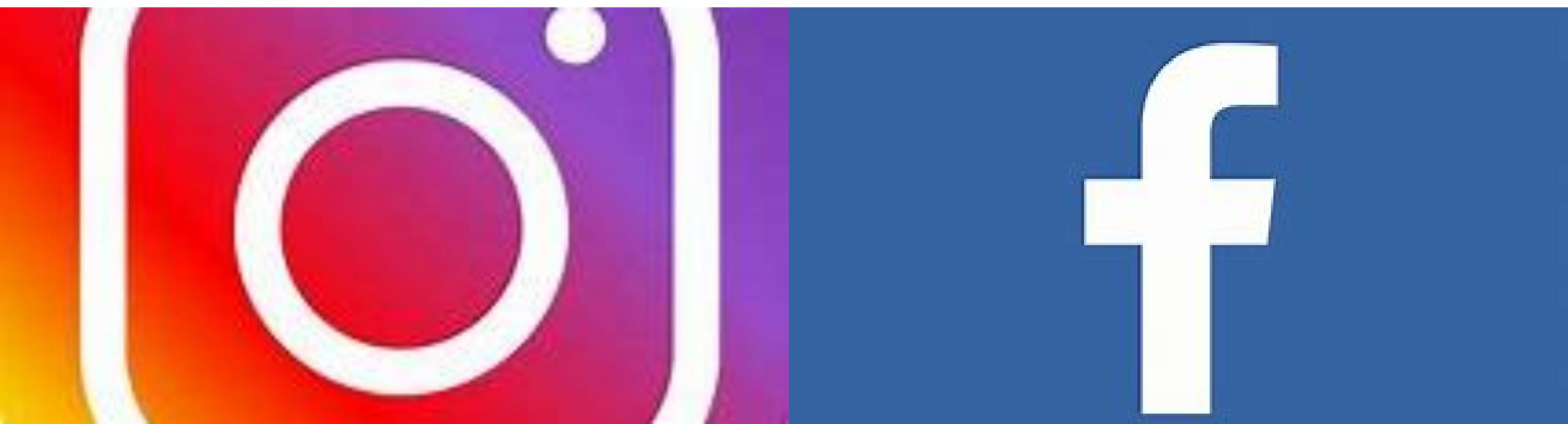
COMMUNITY EVENTS



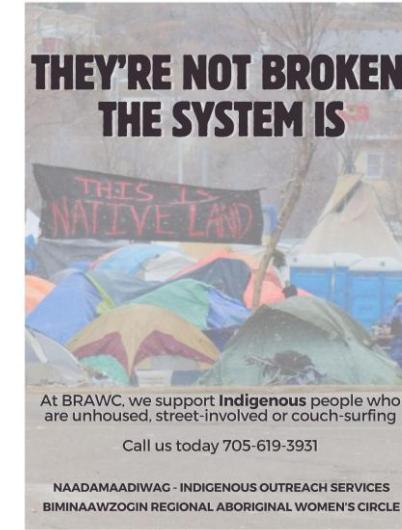


SOCIAL MEDIA

- Our website and social media pages are maintained actively, to market and promote our organization.
- Our facebook page has 478 members and we regularly communicate and update the community through social media.
- Our Instagram page has 304 followers.



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN



Healing, recovery and connection begin when people have a safe place to call home

WEBSITE UPDATES

Our website was updated this year and modernized.



Since Jan 1, we have had 2,022 visitors to our website.



Google is the highest search engine used by visitors



Average day of searches is Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday



The highest visits by cities are Orillia, Barrie and Toronto



Creating a Future of Stability
Through Indigenous Housing Support

Welcome to
Biminaawzgin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle



Our Commitment to Indigenous Housing

At BRAWC we empower Indigenous people in Simcoe County through transitional housing, housing first and outreach supports. Historically, Indigenous people face unique housing challenges. Addressing these issues is essential for the well-being, health and empowerment of Indigenous peoples.

Why This Work is Essential

The housing crisis faced by Indigenous people in Simcoe County are disproportionately represented among those experiencing homelessness. In 2022, 31% of individuals experiencing homelessness in Simcoe County identified as Indigenous.

The data surrounding Indigenous housing in Canada paints a stark picture. Indigenous people are 10 times more likely to live in substandard housing compared to non-Indigenous Canadians.

At BRAWC, we recognize the scale of the crisis and continue to speak out for long-term actions that support Indigenous housing initiatives in Simcoe County.

What We Bring to the Community

We're dedicated to supporting Indigenous communities in Simcoe County through:

Our Transitional Housing Program provides Indigenous women and families with the support and structure needed to maintain permanent housing and achieve self-sufficiency.

Through our **Regional Indigenous Housing First Program**, we help Indigenous individuals experiencing homelessness find permanent housing and offer the support they need to succeed.

Our **Indigenous Outreach Services** is the first point of contact for Indigenous people experiencing homelessness and provide direct community outreach and support services.



JOURNEY THROUGH 2024

Biminaawzgin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle

YEARLY DATA

245 HOUSEHOLDS



INDIGENOUS
OUTREACH TEAM

157 New Inquiries



BIMINAAWZGIN TRANSITIONAL HOMES/
HOUSING FIRST TEAM

60 Households



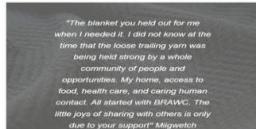
BAGOSIMIN HOUSING FIRST/
EMPOWER SIMCOE TEAM

28 Households

Stories of Impact



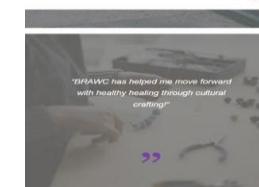
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Office hours | Monday to Friday: 8:30am-8:00pm
Tel/Mobile: 705-229-8282

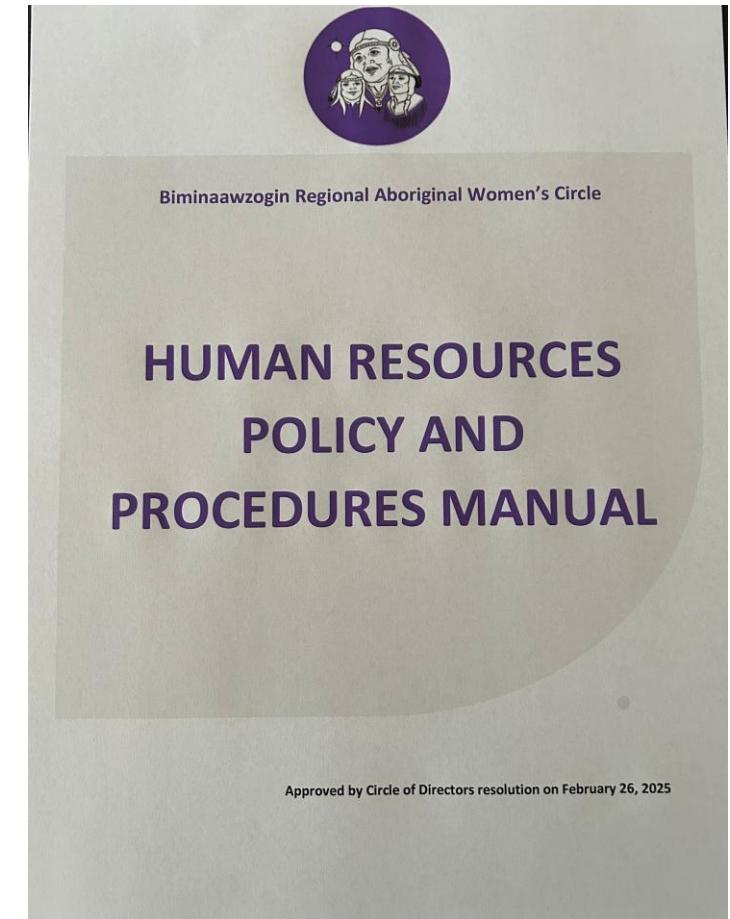
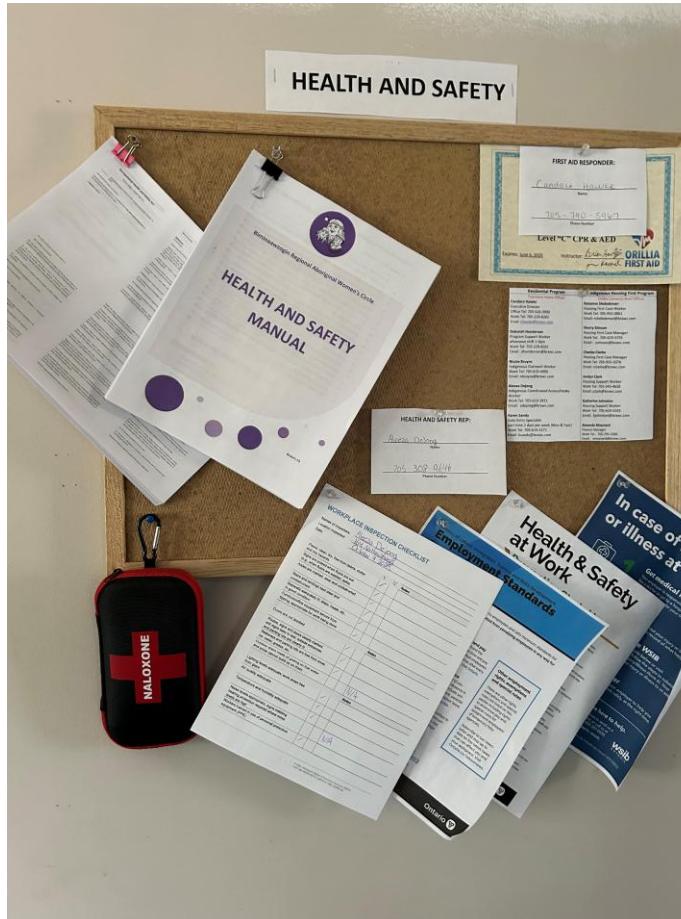
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Let's Chat!

HUMAN RESOURCES

- The first quarter of this year focused on internal human resources.
- We updated our personnel policy which is now referred to as our Human Resource Manual
- We also implemented a Health and Safety Manual and created a health and safety committee which is new for us
- Staff also completed an Environmental Scan which provides a comprehensive overview of the current BRAWC environment and valuable key factors influencing BRAWC programs.



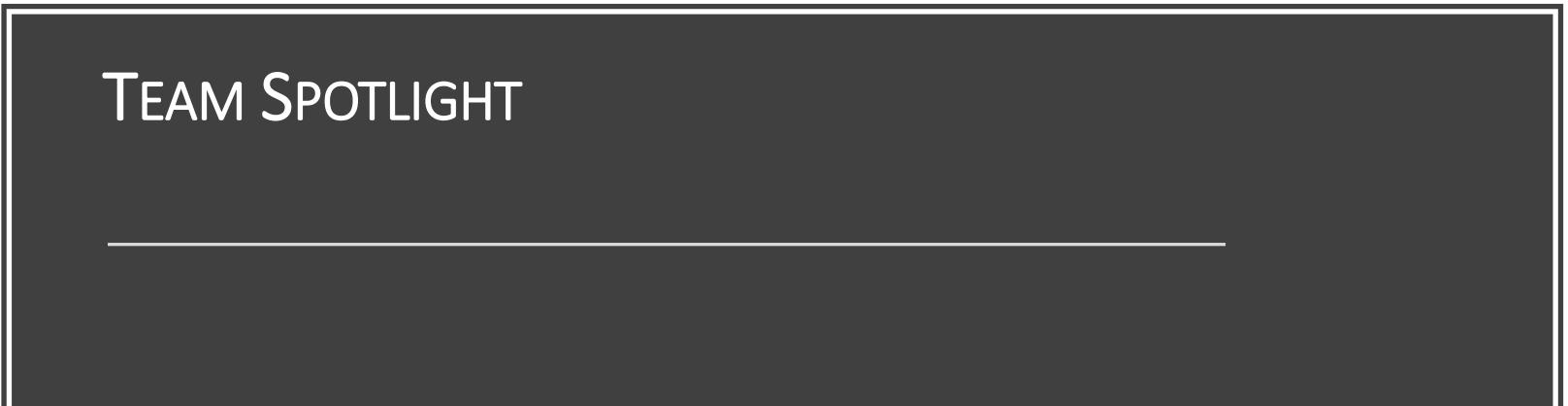
Staff and Team Meetings

- BRAWC currently employs 12 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 professional development.
- 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.





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ONGOING DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

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 • 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 employees 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 three site visits at our residential properties for County of Simcoe staff

We also met with Andrew Scavarelli, Director, Housing & Homelessness Services for a detailed consultation and orientation to BRAWC's programs and services

OUTREACH PROGRAM



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.
- This past year our outreach team focused increased on encampments and supporting encampment enclosures
- We also met with the City of Orillia Council and the Orillia Downtown Management Board to better inform them of our outreach services

Yearly Statistics Total

HOUSEHOLDS

14 HOUSEHOLDS
through our
residential program

45 HOUSEHOLDS
Through our BRAWC
housing first
program

34 HOUSEHOLDS
Through our County
of Simcoe housing
first program

OUTREACH SERVICES, NAADAMAADIWAG - HELPING EACH OTHER

NEW INTAKES

100

REOCCURRING CLIENTS

78

BRIEF SERVICES

1345



271 Households Supported
TOTAL DATA 2025

- 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!

