

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



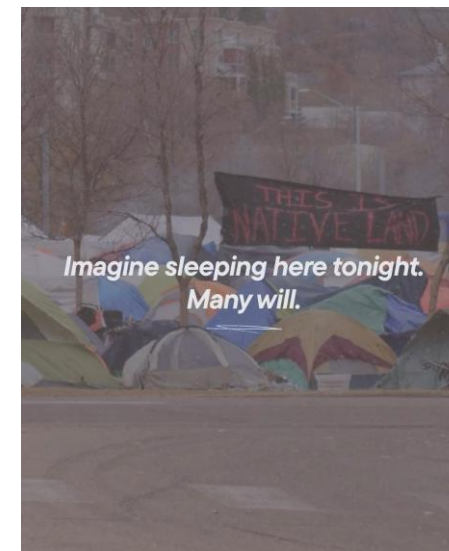
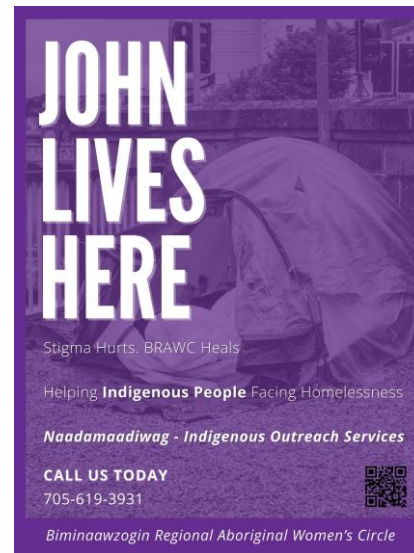


SOCIAL MEDIA

- 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



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

The screenshot displays the homepage of the Biminaawzoin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle. The header features the title "Creating a Future of Stability Through Indigenous Housing Support" and a welcome message. A purple banner highlights "Our Commitment to Indigenous Housing". The main content area includes sections for "Why This Work is Essential" and "What We Bring to the Community". A "JOURNEY THROUGH 2024" infographic shows a winding path with milestones: "INDIGENOUS OUTREACH TEAM" (157 New Intakes), "BIMINAAWZOIN TRANSITIONAL HOMES/ HOUSING FIRST TEAM" (60 Households), and "BAGOSEMIN HOUSING FIRST/ EMPOWER SIMCOE TEAM" (28 Households). The "Stories of Impact" section features three testimonial cards. The footer contains navigation links, office hours, and a "Let's Chat!" button.

Creating a Future of Stability Through Indigenous Housing Support

Welcome to Biminaawzoin 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

Biminaawzoin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle

YEARLY DATA
245 HOUSEHOLDS

INDIGENOUS OUTREACH TEAM
157 New Intakes

BIMINAAWZOIN TRANSITIONAL HOMES/ HOUSING FIRST TEAM
60 Households

BAGOSEMIN HOUSING FIRST/ EMPOWER SIMCOE TEAM
28 Households

Stories of Impact

"I was living on the streets and sleeping in the bush with only a tarp. BRAWC helped me obtain permanent housing, now I always try and help others whenever I can"

"The blanket you held out for me when I needed it, I did not know at the time that the loose trailing yarn was being held strong by a whole community of people and opportunities. My home, access to food, health care, and caring human contact. All started with BRAWC. The little joys of sharing with others is only due to your support" Miyaewich

"BRAWC has been an inspiration to self confidence"

Home About Initiatives Community Resources Annual Reports Contact

"BRAWC has helped me move forward with healthy healing through cultural crafting"

"BRAWC has positively impacted my life in areas of employment/education, education and mental health. BRAWC has supported consistent connection to my culture, my children and my artistic abilities"

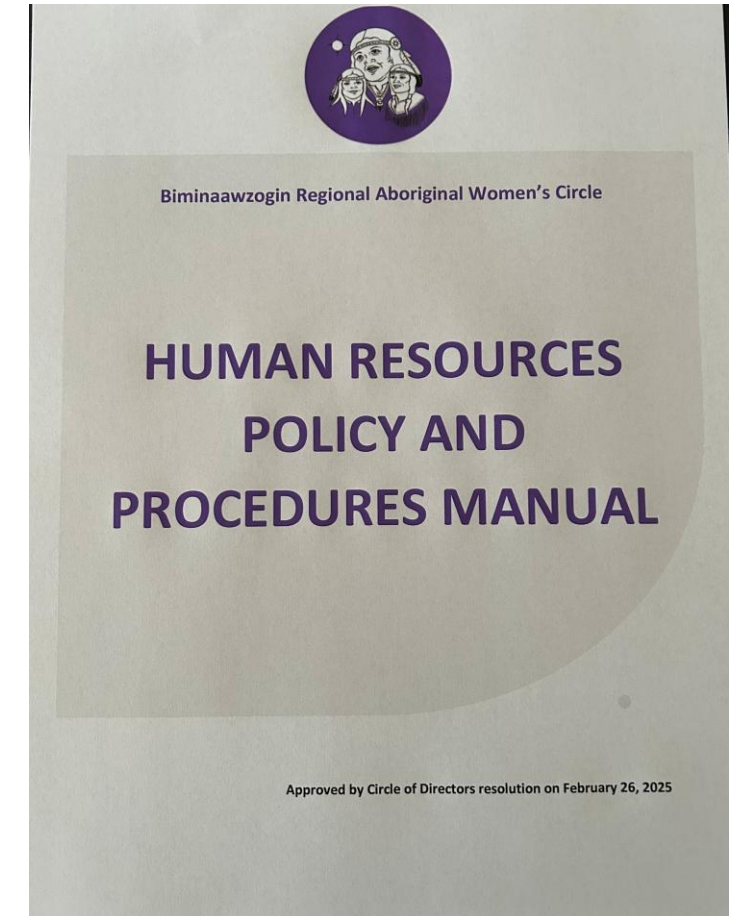
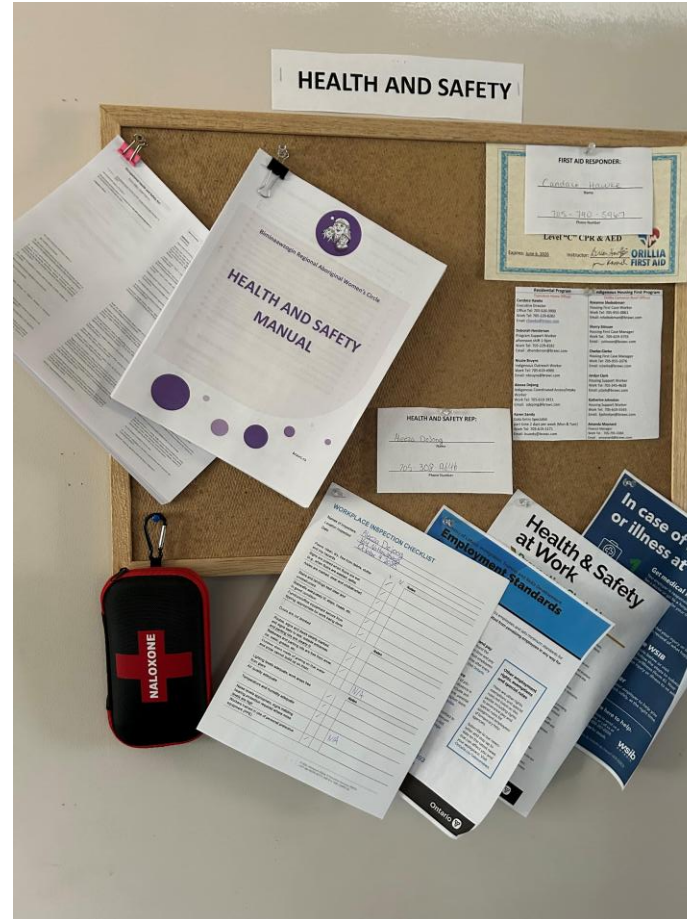
"BRAWC has given me the chance to learn how to enjoy my walk here on Turtle Island. I've been given the gifts of safety, support and stability. Chi Miyaewich"

Office hours | Monday to Friday: 9:30am-8:00pm
Toll-free: 705-229-6282
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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.





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TEAM SPOTLIGHT

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

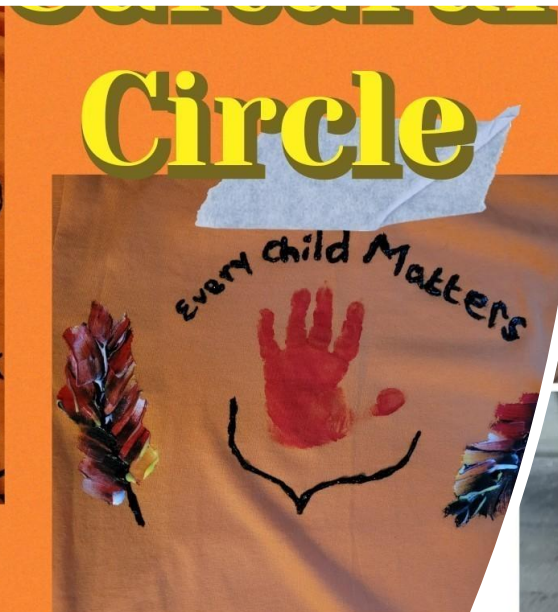
FUNDED PROJECTS

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 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

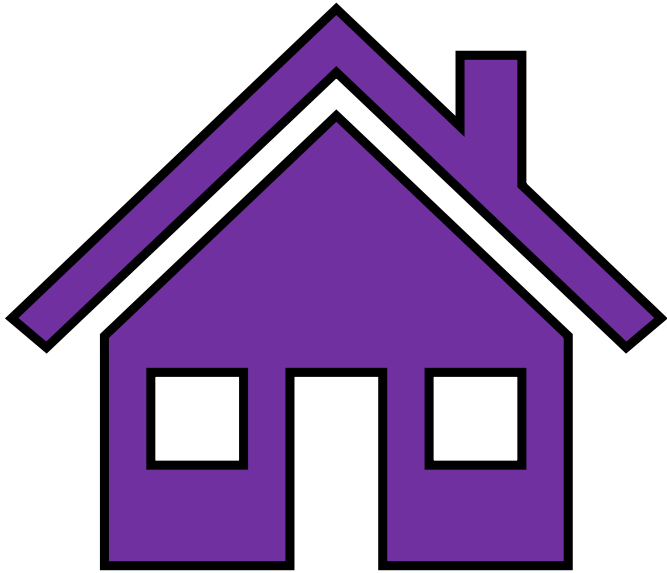
The County of Simcoe is the community entity for two funded programs through Homelessness Prevention Program.

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 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!

