



*Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project*

REFLECTIONS

GRATITUDE

2020 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greetings beautiful human beings,

What a year it's been. There's been many ups and many downs and we felt sharing some of the background happenings with you was the best way to keep honest and true.

Full stop - we had some major hurdles and some humbling learnings this year. As we've been re-connecting with our friends and partners these past few months we're now able to start reflecting back on our internal speedbumps. On the outside you wouldn't have known anything was going - which feels typical when you're hurting on the inside. Without going into too much detail our staff each experienced significant tragedy, which is something our people and communities know all too well. And it shook us to the core. I could start listing off all the things we didn't accomplish but that doesn't really get us anywhere. What I'd like to acknowledge is our ability to continue on and keep this good work we've poured ourselves into, going. Our loss turning into strength and agility. We didn't do it alone though. We've had significant help from our advisors and partners who swooped in and took things over to allow grief and instability to set in. Remember that it is an important process and we each deserve space, time, love and care to process these things. So I'd like to acknowledge anyone reading this who is going through tough times and tell you that you are loved and you're not alone. We've included some resources below if you or anyone you know is in need of support.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the contributions of staff, advisors and steering committee members that are moving onto different roles and making space for new youth advisors to join OIYPP.

Thank you to Lindsay DuPre, Lyndsay Taibossigai, and Wendy Cooper. Your contributions over the last few years have been tremendous and we will always hold special space for you.

Some other exciting news is the transition of two youth advisors into new roles with OIYPP. Quinn Meawasige is moving the role of Steering Committee Chair and Gabrielle Fayant is moving into the Coordinator role. Congratulations to you both and thank you for all your time and continuous belief in the work we do. We are very proud to have a fully Indigenous Advisory and Steering Committee and to provide youth participants new ways and opportunities to be in relationship with OIYPP.

This year we saw 26 applications from Indigenous youth-led initiatives and we were able to fund 16 of these initiatives. We received applications for cultural gatherings and ceremonies to governance to mid-wifery training and hand drum making. Indigenous youth across Ontario are active and are clear about what they need to see in their communities. We are so happy and grateful to be a part of their work.

**THE 2019 GRANTEES ARE:**

The 3rd Annual A7G Round Dance - Assembly of Generations (A7G)

FIRST Robotics Competition Team - Wikwemikong High School

Aunties on the Road Indigenous Full Spectrum Doula Training - Aunties on the Road

Building a Birch Bark Canoe to Restore Nationhood - Sharon Manitowabi (Saugeen First Nation)

nijikiwenh youth gathering ("my brothers, my friend") - Belle Brotchie (Thunder Bay)

Georgian Bay Two-Spirit Pow Wow - Destiny Sharma (Georgian Bay)

Building Relationships and Hand Drums - Tasunke Sugar (Toronto)

Looking After the Land Youth Program - Moose Cree First Nation

Maagnigedaa (let weave) - Nimkii Aazhibikoong

Media Creation for Mino Map - Toronto Indigenous Youth Collective (TIYC)

Urban Indigenous Youth Professional Development and Skills Building - Aboriginal Professional Association of Canada (APAC)

Indigenous Student Alliance of Ontario Gathering - Indigenous Student Alliance of Ontario (ISAO)

Rights of Passage Retreat - Caceilia Doughty Trahan (Bawaating/Sault Ste Marie)

Youth Cultural Camp Weekend Getaway in Sunny B.I.- Crystal Clark-McGregor (Whitefish River First Nation)

Ganawenjigaadewan (they are cared for) - Rebecca Beaulne-Stuebing (Toronto)

Chippewas of Nawash Youth Council - Oshkiniijig (osh-kin-ee-jig) "The New Ones" - Mackenzie Jones-Chegahno (Neyaashiinigmiing)

Another very special thanks to our partners and funders for all your contributions to the work of OIYPP. We want to acknowledge our special friends, Kendra Kerr, Keetha Mercer, Sanaa Ali-Mohammed and Shanna Peltier that were able to contribute and participate in the OIYPP Gathering. Thank you to Canadian Women's Foundation of Canada, Counselling Foundation, Harbinger Foundation, Inspirit Foundation, LUSH Cosmetics, Major League Sports Foundation, Sprott Foundation and The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada for all your continued support.

We are gearing up for the busy and exciting year ahead, welcoming new advisors and steering committee members, reflecting back on this past year and opening up discussions on plans for 2020.

While we have some super rad new youth advisors coming on board this year (news on them to come!) we want ensure we put out an invitation to anyone else that might be interested in taking part. Our first kick off meeting happens in January so if you or anyone you know might be interested please reach out as soon as you can so we can set up a meeting to discuss.

You can expect to have the call for applications to be once again open for the month of March 2020. So if you're new or a previous grantee - mark your calendars and follow us on social media so you can be ready to apply once the application goes live and please spread the word to any Indigenous youth you think would like to apply.

Any questions or inquiries can be sent to:

**Thea Belanger**, Project Director - [thea.belanger@tidescanada.org](mailto:thea.belanger@tidescanada.org)

**Gabrielle Fayant**, Project Coordinator - [oiypphelp@gmail.com](mailto:oiypphelp@gmail.com)

We look forward to another exciting year and want to wish everyone a healthy start to winter!

 @ONIndigenous

 @ONIndigenousYouthPartnershipProject

 @OIYPP2019

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN NEED OF SUPPORT OR IN DISTRESS, PLEASE REACH OUT:**

**YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU 24/7  
CRISIS LINE  
613-260-2360  
1-877-377-7775**

**YOUTH LINE  
WWW.YOURLINE.CA  
1-800-268-9688  
TEXT: 647-694-427**

**DISTRESS CENTRE OTTAWA  
613-238-3311**

**FIRST NATIONS & INUIT HOPE  
FOR WELLNESS HELPLINE  
1-855-242-3310**

**MENTAL HEALTH MOBILE  
CRISIS TEAM  
613-722-6914**

**WWW.HOPEFORWELLNESS.CA**

**MINWAASHIN LODGE CRISIS  
LINE  
613-789-1141**

**SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT  
CENTRE OF OTTAWA  
613-234-2266**

**KIDS HELP PHONE  
1-800-668-6868**

**OTTAWA WITHDRAWAL  
MANAGEMENT CENTRE 24HR  
613-241-1525**

**WWW.KIDSHELPPHONE.COM**

**A7G** Assembly of  
Seven Generations

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, PLEASE ALWAYS CALL 911.**