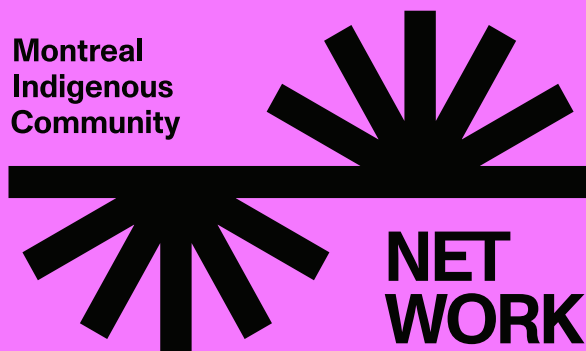
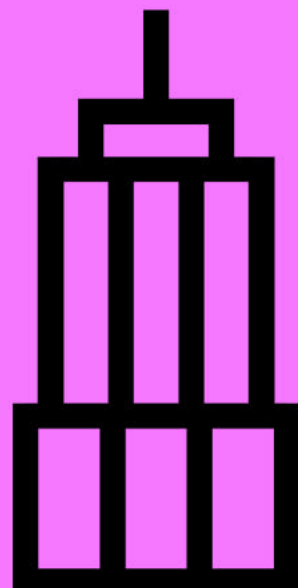
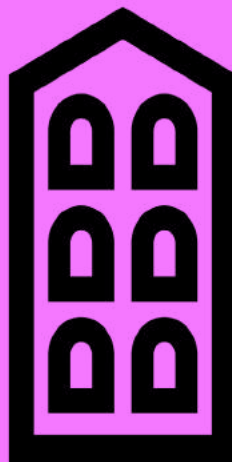
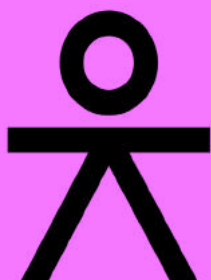


Montreal
Indigenous
Community



HEART OF THE COMMUNITY:

Listen
Connect
Support



Annual



Report



2022-2023



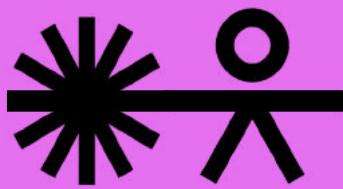


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Opening by the President

Love, Honor, and Respect

My name is Tealey Ka'senni:saks, Mohawk from Kahnawake, and I am grateful for the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK.



I am in awe of the commitment and dedication of the staff, the love that nurtures this organization and the strength of all who work so diligently to provide for the Indigenous community here in Tiohtià:ke. My words can not adequately describe what has transformed over this past year as my heart is full of admiration and applause to these wonderful individuals; the staff, directors, managers, administrators, youth as well as the great board members. Exceptional you all are.

The NETWORK has been impactful in reaching out and touching so many lives. From overseeing projects that deliver substantial resources to maintaining services for community members daily by providing funding opportunities that support important initiatives. The NETWORK sees and hears the voices of the community, they listen. And who better to listen to than our Youth. In October 2022 the community was invited to a gathering that celebrated "Sharing our Youths Future; the STRATEGY for Safety, Well-being and Belonging." An event that launched not only a new look and new branding but provided research findings that focused on: safety and self care, priorities and basic needs, youth protection and systemic change. Identifying the challenges and barriers head on, they came together to work towards solutions, redirecting the actions through concrete recommendations. The time has come to celebrate our youth as they are the light, the love and the good minds that keep the heartbeat of this community alive.

As we celebrate the successes of the youth, we turn our thoughts over to the elders, the aunties, the mentors, advisors, the wise ones who are carriers of knowledge. We direct our attention to

our Executive Director Linda Tremblay, who with her precise business expertise, supported the incredible transformation of the NETWORK. Our heartfelt thanks to her for her dedication to the organization and overseeing the success of many projects and events.

To the staff and project managers, we salute your bravery for taking on such important roles and tasks. We recognise the hard work and commend you for your efforts in building connections so that our community has access to resources. To our excellent steering committee, our Deputy Executive Director Leilani and our Director of Research and Advocacy, Amanda, thank you for remaining strong and committed. To all who work behind the scenes, the ones who manage finances and staff we thank you. Without all of you we would have no NETWORK. We know together there is strength in numbers and the Board of Directors stands by your side, supporting the health and wellness of all, seeing that the mission and vision remain. For those that left over the past few months, seeking other avenues and paths, we wish you well and thank you for your contribution, know you left your mark and made a difference. To families and friends who lost loved ones, our deepest condolences to you. To the board of directors, faithfully persistent, I honor you and thank you. We come together with an open mind and loving heart, and we seek not perfection, just excellence when we stand together for our people, for our community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors we say thank you as we offer our love, honor and respect to our wonderful family at the NETWORK.

Nia:wen.

Tealey Ka'senni:saks, President



Organizational Developments

Heart of the Community:

Listen - Connect - Support

➤ Our Mission

As an umbrella organization, the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK is in a unique position to connect various segments of urban Indigenous communities by supporting Indigenous and Indigenous-serving organizations working directly with community members in and around Tiohtià:ke/Montreal.

We accomplish our mission by implementing four main approaches:

Gathering those Who Directly Serve Community Members

We ensure the safety, belonging and well-being of urban Indigenous community members by facilitating collaborative spaces for frontline community organizations to share information, identify gaps in services, determine priorities and develop long-term, sustainable solutions as a collective. We invite non-Indigenous guests to listen to the needs and solutions developed by community organizations in order to strengthen strategic, action-based partnerships that will directly benefit Indigenous community members.



Alleviating the Burden

We influence the allocation of public funding and take on administrative tasks such as funding distribution through community consensus-based decision-making circles. We communicate with public officials to alleviate the bureaucratic burden placed on the Indigenous community sector that directly serves community members.

Transferring Knowledge

We transfer knowledge to the general public through advocacy and awareness-building by collaborating with strategic partners, developing educational tools, publishing NETWORK-initiated research reports, and providing workshops for people working toward meaningful allyship.

Empowering Indigenous Leadership

We provide capacity-building opportunities for community workers, organizers, and existing leaders to develop and refine their leadership skills and practices. With a special eye on the future, we amplify Indigenous youth voices and generate empowerment opportunities through mentorship, skill and confidence-building activities and gatherings designed to promote a sense of belonging and cultural resurgence in urban Tiohtià:ke/Montreal.



➤ Our Vision

The Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK envisions an urban setting where the well-being and growth of urban Indigenous communities throughout Tiohtià:ke/Montreal are led by Indigenous communities.

The NETWORK contributes to establishing and fostering an environment centred on relationship-building and community connections that ensure safe and abundant access to culturally relevant information, services, and resources. We are working towards an urban setting which honours, respects and celebrates the diversity of Indigenous knowledge, cultures and innovation.

Indigenous Led

Led and created by and for urban Indigenous communities.

Community Oriented

Priorities and solutions identified and developed by the community.

Strategic Partnerships

Building and nurturing relationships between the community sector and strong allies.

Collective Heartbeat

Working together for the betterment and empowerment of Indigenous communities.

Our Values



Our Team

The NETWORK team is a multidisciplinary group composed of both Indigenous leaders and non-Indigenous allies. Under the stewardship of Indigenous Women, the skills of each person are brought to the table in order to meet the needs identified by the community. The diversity of our knowledge and experience is a major strength in achieving a common goal: improving the well-being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities in Tiohtià:ke.

**Our team members
in 2022-2023:**



Linda Tremblay

Executive Director

Leilani Shaw

Deputy Executive Director

Amanda Moniz

Director of Research and
Advocacy

Alexandre Huard-Joncas

Community Project Manager
in Homelessness and
Basic Needs

Jericha Major

Office Coordinator

Raul Piñeros

Finance Lead

Bobby Manning-Leduc

Project Assistant

Johnny Boivin

Communications Assistant

Romain Jean-Jacques

Coordinator of the Mental
Health Program

Cecilia Fava

Decolonial Toolbox Promoter

Katia McEvoy

Communications Lead

Sarah Charlebois

Administrative Coordinator

Dahlie Gagné

Community Relations
Coordinator

Kortanie Raye

Community Projects Assistant

Stéphanie Héroux

Community Project Manager
in Systemic Changes

Elizabeth Fast, Dr.

Lead Researcher

Nicole Fornelli

Community Project Lead

Véro Marengère

Human Resources and
Wellness Manager

Jamie-Lee Deschênes

Finance Assistant

Rowena Tam

STRATEGY Project
Coordinator



Towards More Training

The professional development of the team members revolves around accessibility to training. In this regard, a Training Funding Procedure was established to encourage the team to pursue training opportunities.

To this day, more than half of the NETWORK team has benefited from this initiative. Our goal is to have 100% of our employees gain from this new feature in the coming year. Group trainings were also offered to the team, such as the *Indigenous Leadership* training by Konwatsi'tsawi Meloche, the *Grant Reporting and Excel Tool* training by Allison Reid and the *Insurance Literacy* training by Danmar Financial Group.

Finally, training on anxiety management by *Relief*, and on Indigenous governance and research methodologies, by doctoral graduate, Elizabeth Fast, are on the schedule for 2023-2024.

A Focus On Human Resources

In the month of September 2022, the NETWORK hired the first ever Human Resources and Wellness Manager in the history of the organization. This is a milestone in the organization's commitment to developing a healthy work culture, supporting team engagement and ensuring greater legal compliance for the organization.

To this day, the Human Resources and Wellness Manager ensures the professional development of team members, provides managerial support to all managers, assists the team in defusing workplace conflicts, and ensures that the NETWORK complies with best practices in terms of workplace policies and procedures.

Mobilizing for an Indigenous Hub

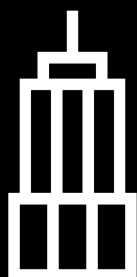


As an umbrella organization, we feel that the opening of a physical location is the next step in order to improve collaboration between Indigenous organizations. We have therefore embarked on a journey to acquire a community gathering space.

The vision for this infrastructure project is to build a physical centralized location that will increase opportunities for urban governance, while celebrating the diversity of Indigenous communities in Tiohtià:ke.

The “Indigenous Hub” would be the first Indigenous space in Tiohtià:ke to accommodate our sectoral meetings, large gatherings, professional trainings and cultural events that match the ambitions of the Indigenous sector.

To this day, the NETWORK team has engaged in identifying funding opportunities, writing funding proposals and consulting with Indigenous organizations, in other parts of Kanata, who have also undertaken the development of large Indigenous spaces in their respective urban territories.



Information Technology Relaunch

Last year, the NETWORK commissioned ACOSYS, an Indigenous firm, to analyze and improve our information technology structures. With this phase now complete, our team is working on the implementation of a relaunch plan that will focus on data, systems and processes. The goal is to improve the security and efficiency of data sharing inside the organization, as well as with our external interactions. The project is aligned with the principles of Indigenous governance and data sovereignty.

Governance



Board of Directors

The role of the Board is to maintain the vision and integrity of the NETWORK. The Board members' work is done in the best interest of the organization, its partners and members.

Since its incorporation, the NETWORK has maintained a 100% Indigenous Board of Directors. Indigenous governance is fundamental to the vitality of the NETWORK and the community.

Our Board Members in 2022-2023:

Tealey Ka'senni:sak, President

Kanien'kehà:ka from Kahnawà:ke

Samuel Rainville, Vice-President

Innu from Pessamit

Clara Halliday, Treasurer

Cree Nation from Tataskweyak, Treaty 5

Kahawíhson Autumn Horne, Secretary

Kanien'kehà:ka from Kahnawà:ke

Gail Chamberlain, Administrator

Anishnaabe from Wikwemikong

Morning Star Fayard, Administrator

Cree Nation of Mistissini, James Bay

Karine Millaire, Administrator

Wendat from Wendake

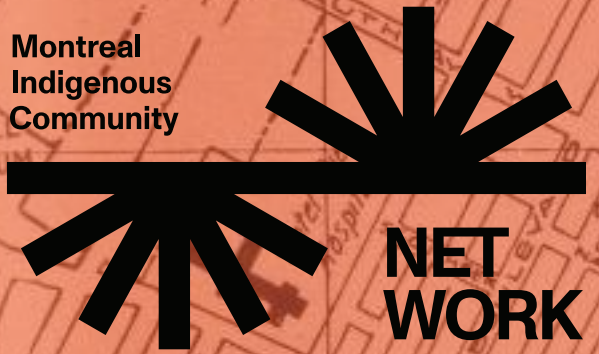
Creating Healthy Workplaces in the Community

This year, the Board of Directors worked on the implementation of policies that promote safe work environments. More specifically, the Harassment Policy was developed to prevent psychological or sexual harassment in the workplace.

The policies created will be made available to Indigenous organizations in Tiohtià:ke, as policy development is laborious and requires resources that are not always accessible. The dissemination of these policies is a way of sharing our efforts with our partners.



Montreal
Indigenous
Community



Year In Review 2022 - 2023



Gathering Those Who Directly Serve Community Members

Our Committees



The NETWORK's Community Project Managers facilitate spaces, in the form of committees, meant for sharing, problem-solving and collaborating with organizations that serve the Indigenous populations in Tiohtià:ke

The information gathered in these committees helps us develop solution paths that include raising awareness, lobbying governments, developing new initiatives, propelling community projects and implementing research projects.

The Committees that are active today are:

C-19 And Basic Needs Committee

This committee gathers front-line organizations that support Indigenous communities in Tiohtià:ke to share information, strengthen partnerships, and coordinate service delivery. Organizations meet to identify gaps and to develop joint initiatives and sectoral strategies.

The members of this committee are:

Projets Autochtones du Québec, the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal, the Indigenous Support Workers Project, the Southern Quebec Inuit Association, the Makivik Corporation, the First Peoples Justice Center of Montreal, Native Montreal, the Open Door Montreal, Chez Doris, Doctors of the World, and Plein Milieu.

The C-19 and Basic Needs Committee

The Montreal Indigenous Health Advisory Circle (MIHAC)

11 Participating organizations

6 Meetings

Better Support for Addiction

Intervention workers report a growing difficulty in supporting community members experiencing addiction due to insufficient funding, high staff turnover, lack of access to training and the absence of specialized addiction services dedicated to Indigenous peoples. Our committee is exploring alternatives, building relationships with addiction experts and working towards creating an Indigenous treatment center in Tiohtià:ke, in close collaboration with the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal.



Montreal Indigenous Health Advisory Circle (MIHAC)

This circle aims for systemic changes in the health and social services sector, particularly in terms of service equity and accessibility for Indigenous communities. It informs and advises the department of Public Health, the Centre Intégré Universitaire de Santé et de Services sociaux (CIUSSS) and other government agencies. The MIHAC also advocates for safe access to health care services for Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke by issuing updates, recommendations and calls to action.

The members of the MIHAC are:

Quebec Native Women, the Tiohtià:ke Health Centre, Projets Autochtones du Québec (PAQ), the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal, the Indigenous Support Workers Project, the Southern Quebec Inuit Association, the Makivik Corporation, the First Peoples Justice Center of Montreal, Native Montreal, the Womens' Center of Montreal, Doctors of the World, the Open Door Montreal, Chez Doris, Plein Milieu and the Direction de la Santé publique régionale de Montréal.

16 Participating
organizations

5 Meetings

Six Priorities for Equity

In 2023, the MIHAC submitted a report on priorities to address by 2025. These priorities include: the development of new practices to properly serve Indigenous peoples, recognizing the expertise of Indigenous organizations at an institutional level, having institutions recognize the historical lack of support provided for Indigenous organizations as well as the urgent need to build their capacity, providing a full continuum of culturally safe care, developing addiction services, and reducing the economic burden on Indigenous peoples through the creation of social housing and related services.

Gatherings Geared Towards Finding Solutions

In order to create bonds between all parts of the Indigenous community in Tiohtià:ke, the NETWORK regularly organizes events reuniting Indigenous youth, community members, Elders, and organizations.

During gatherings, community members are invited to share their lived experiences and unique points of view on the various issues that affect them. Focusing mainly on the future of youth and on the youths' perspectives regarding current challenges, community members discuss to find solutions and create an urban setting built on safety, well-being and belonging.

The work being done now and in the years to come consists of implementing pilot projects that respond to the needs identified by the youth. In this sense, the gatherings for 2023 will focus on the practical aspects of project development. We will be actively working to ensure that young Indigenous participants have all the tools they need to develop the initiatives that are important to them and that will shape their lives in Tiohtià:ke.



Gatherings in 2022-2023

3 Gatherings

35+ Participating youth

➡➡➡ LAOT Feedback Session

May 14, 2022 - Discussion about the *Land As Our Teacher* (LAOT) event and suggestions for a future LAOT event.

➡➡➡ The STRATEGY Launch

October 21, 2022 - Follow up with community members and discussion with youth on priorities to address.

➡➡➡ For the Love of Youth

February 11, 2023 - Collective reflection on the gaps presented in the STRATEGY Report and ideas for projects to be developed in the years to come.





Alleviating the Burden

Collaborations



We are working actively and closely with key stakeholders to reduce the financial and bureaucratic burdens imposed on the Indigenous sector in Tiohtià:ke.

\$ 400, 000 **Granted for two new resources**

With homelessness at the forefront of our efforts, the NETWORK has provided the financial support necessary to help open two resources addressing Indigenous homelessness. The two resources in question are:



The Mitshuap Project

January 2023 marks the opening of the new Mitshuap Raphaël-Napa-André shelter. Initiated by Mamit Innuat, the shelter has a capacity of 30 beds to welcome people experiencing homelessness in the Cabot Square area. Open 7 days a week, it admits all Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals.

To support the start-up of this initiative, the NETWORK provided funding to cover salaries, rent, food assistance, and equipment. With Indigenous communities still being largely over-represented in terms of homelessness, we see the inauguration of this new shelter as a clear priority in order to support community members in Tiohtià:ke and increase their safety within the city.

The Akwhà:tsire House

Initiated by Projets Autochtones du Québec (PAQ), the Akwhà:tsire House is the first housing resource that aims to permanently house Indigenous peoples experiencing homelessness in Tiohtià:ke.

The NETWORK did not hesitate to provide financial support for the launch of this project, which responds specifically to the needs of the Indigenous individuals living on the street. At Akwhà:tsire, participants have access to psychosocial aid, physical and mental health care, as well as to support from Elders. The centre can accommodate up to 22 Indigenous individuals, of which seven are participants of PAQ's Managed Alcohol Program.

Mobile Clinics: Identification and Essential Documentation

In order to improve access to services for Indigenous communities in Tiohtià:ke, the NETWORK and Service Canada partnered to coordinate a series of Mobile Clinics involving seven government and departmental agencies responsible for providing essential services, namely: Service Canada, Service Québec, Revenu Québec, Canada Revenue Agency, Indigenous Service Canada, the Directeur de l'État Civil, and the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (RAMQ).

The main objectives were to:

- 1. Increase the access to essential documentation** for Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke, particularly vulnerable populations, and those living or at risk of homelessness.
- 2. Alleviate the bureaucratic burden** placed on front-line staff working in Indigenous organizations.
- 3. Improve relationships** and partnerships between Indigenous communities and participating governmental agencies.

The clinics were successful in terms of participation and coordination. Participants and staff welcomed the initiative and reiterated its necessity, as access to identifying documentation and is in high demand.

Perspectives For The Future

We plan to carry the project to next year in order to prolong our efforts to reduce systemic inequalities. However, some challenges need to be addressed to improve accessibility, including: Language barriers, opaque pathways to accessing documentation, high costs for some documents, and transferring services to Indigenous organizations.



Mobile Clinics in 2022-2023

3 Hosting organizations

155 Community members served

44 Birth Certificates

42 Provincial Health Cards (RAMQ)

87 Status Cards and Registrations

61 Tax Claims



Native Friendship Centre of Montreal

October 14, 2022 - 1st Mobile Clinic



Projets Autochtones du Québec (PAQ)

Novembre 17, 2022 - 2nd Mobile Clinic



Native Montreal

December 1, 2023 - 3rd Mobile Clinic

A Mass Distribution of Winter Gear

The Winter Gear Distribution Project aims to fill the gaps in community distribution services and to support the needs on the ground during the winter period. People experiencing homelessness require specific equipment to survive the cold but organizations often do not have the capacity to respond to the demand of these essential goods.

We intervene by consulting organizations on the needs of their respective clientele and through purchasing the required gear. We then deliver the merchandise to front-line organizations that will subsequently distribute it to community members. We also store equipments in our storage space, if needed.



The Winter Gear Project in 2022-2023

\$107,000 Spent on winter gear

3315 Community members served

10 Beneficiary organizations

As this project helps alleviate operational burdens and human resource shortages experienced in the sector, by developing connections with merchants, we are also able to reduce the costs and serve greater numbers of individuals.

Providing Access to Mental Health Support

The NETWORK provides access to mental health support services to front-line staff working in Indigenous organizations in Tiohtià:ke. Up to five sessions can be covered for three types of services: Elder Support, Psychotherapy and Art Therapy. This initiative helps promote well-being and prevent burnout in the Indigenous sector. Interested individuals can register on our website, and our team will take care of matching them with a professional that best suit their needs.



The Mental Health Support Program in 2022-2023

\$ 34,385

Spent to answer support requests

283

Sessions granted

48

Individuals supported

45

Professionals consulted



Transferring Knowledge

Communication Research Advocacy

Our communication activities are aimed at Indigenous community members, organizations in the Indigenous sector and non-Indigenous people and institutions, whom we sensitize to the lived realities of community members.

A New Website is Ready For the Community to Use!

Accompanied by Onaki Creations, an Indigenous design firm, the NETWORK re-launched its website! The objective was to communicate our updated service offers to the public, and to provide the Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke with a platform that is concretely useful to them.

To better support Indigenous individuals, a new section of the website is dedicated to listing resources available in Tiohtià:ke. At the heart of our mission, employees from the Indigenous sector will find more information on our collaboration with organizations and on our Mental Health Support Program.

Non-Indigenous users can make online donations, read our awareness tools and view our workshops. They can also learn more about the Indigenous communities in Tiohtià:ke and the challenges we face.



Finally, **a new section dedicated to community announcements was created** to answer three objectives:

1. Allowing Indigenous individuals to find opportunities that correspond to their needs.
2. Disseminating the messages of Indigenous organizations and increasing their visibility amongst target audiences.
3. Providing non-Indigenous peoples with the means to act in support of Indigenous organizations.



The **STRATEGY** for Safety Well-Being, and Belonging

After several years of research, and following a major consultation process, the STRATEGY report is now available online for all to read!

Guided by Indigenous methodologies, the research takes a relational approach while emphasizing storytelling, connection to the land, and implementation of healing practices. Focus groups were held with Indigenous youth to understand their experiences in the city, identify barriers, and find solutions.

The stories shared by youth guided the development of the STRATEGY report and its recommendations in many areas, namely: employment, health and social services, education, access to services, housing, cultural safety, youth protection, and more. A grand total of 44 recommendations were delivered with the aim of increasing the safety, well-being and belonging of Indigenous community members living in Tiohtià:ke.



The report was launched on October 21, 2022, at the Montreal Science Centre, and unfolded in three parts: the morning session welcomed public sector representatives to present the key principles of the STRATEGY and to initiate a discussion on its recommendations. The afternoon session invited Indigenous youth and community organizations to discover the research they have contributed to and engage in conversations to prioritize next steps. Finally, the evening was a celebration of the work done!

Following the launch, the NETWORK undertook a mass dissemination process to share the recommendations of the report with relevant government departments and partner organizations, as well as with renowned community research centres and pertinent academic research departments.



The Decolonial Toolbox: Enrolling the Institutions

Launched on June 21st, 2022, the Decolonial Toolbox provides the public with an *Educational Pathway* of understanding the historical and current realities of Indigenous peoples. Levels 1 and 2 bring together resources meticulously chosen and produced by Indigenous individuals or organizations, that are accessible to readers and that promote Indigenous expertise.

As a collaborative project with Mikana and Concordia University's Office of Community Engagement, the aim of the Decolonial Toolbox is to nourish reflections which help the audience in understanding the complexity of decolonization and fostering a better comprehension of the role that non-Indigenous people need to assume.

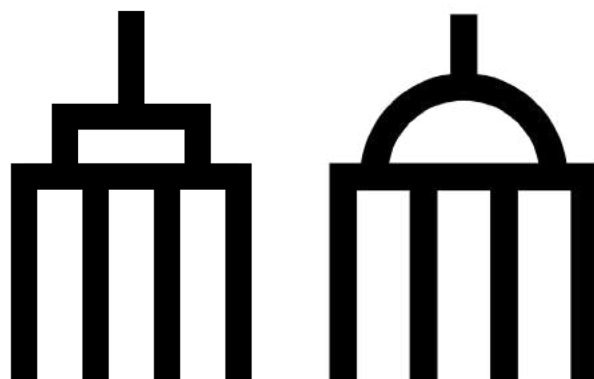
We are presently working on disseminating the Decolonial Toolbox within institutions related to the fields of Education, Health and Social Services, as well as Arts and Culture. We are targeting these entities with an approach of progressive decolonization on a large scale. We are also working on the content for the next levels, which will focus on self-determination, resistance and resurgence, as well as anti-racism.

Awareness: Gaining Space in the Education Sector

As has been our custom, the NETWORK offered several workshops on allyship to organizations of the community sector. We met with the *Front d'action populaire en réaménagement urbain (FRAPRU)*, who is dedicated to housing rights advocacy, and with the Open Door Montreal, who works in the homelessness sector.

We have also expanded our awareness activities to the Education sector in meeting with the *Regroupement des cégeps et études supérieures* and with the *Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Intersectional Justice, Decolonization and Equity (CRI-JADE)*.

Finally, with the implementation of a new workshop application process on our website, we continue to build new relations and generate revenues.



Writing the Third Edition of the Homelessness Report

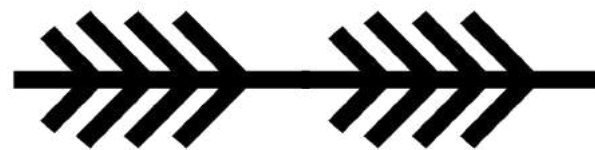
Following the reports published in 2013 and 2018, the NETWORK is now writing the third Homelessness Report. Formerly funded by the Federal Government, we are now undertaking this initiative independently in terms of funding. As the only Montreal-based publication that collects information exclusively on the realities faced by Indigenous street communities and the organizations that serve them, we believe that it is essential to maintain this tradition to inform future projects and to stay in the forefront of service and advocacy needs.

The Report provides updated data from research activities concerning Indigenous homelessness, an analysis of gaps in needs and services, as well as recommendations for organizations and governments.

The report offers a detailed examination of the realities of living on or gravitating around the street in Tiohtià:ke, and of the multiple factors that contribute to the over-representation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples experiencing homelessness in the city.

Overall, it provides a better understanding on the complexities of Indigenous homelessness and explores country-wide approaches to homelessness intervention and prevention.

The Report will be published within the coming year and will be distributed in the community. We are also planning a launch event to bring together change makers and mobilize them towards sustainable change.



The NETWORK on Social Networks

Social networks are a great way to extend our mission to the web. We currently have three platforms: Facebook — to build an online community, Instagram — to propel our awareness messages, and LinkedIn — to target professional groups.

We also use our social media as a window to promote community initiatives. We advertise the resources available to Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke, and publicize the needs of organizations in the Indigenous sector. Those needs regularly include donations, volunteer work and petitions.

We continue to publish our monthly job boards intended for Indigenous individuals in the city, given their popularity and their helpfulness for community members. Additionally, we have introduced the Indigenous events boards to encourage diverse audiences to connect with Indigenous arts, cultures and activism.



Social Media in 2022-2023

1,347

**Community posts
were shared**

238,344

**Views generated
by our posts**

7,272

**Users follow us
on social media**



Most popular post on Facebook

Community - May Job Board.



Most popular post on Instagram

Awareness - Terminology: Tiohtià:ke, Montreal and Mooniyaang.



Most popular post on LinkedIn

Research - The STRATEGY Report.



Pride 2022: An Opportunity for Advocacy and Connection

The NETWORK participated in the Pride festivities for the first time! For this special occasion, we created and distributed an information and referral pamphlet for people from the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities.

This opportunity allowed us to create links with Indigenous people who recognize themselves in this community and to raise awareness about their realities. We are now looking forward to participating in the Pride festivities again next summer!



Empowering Indigenous Leadership

Building Capacity

We intervene by providing tools and knowledge to our partners and to Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke.



Indigenous Youth are the Leaders of Tomorrow

Developing the talents of Indigenous youth is the key to building a better future for the Indigenous communities in Tiohtià:ke! Therefore, in addition to remunerating youth for their participation in NETWORK activities, we also invest in their personal, professional and cultural development.

Over the past few years, youth have benefited from training and activities designed to help them reach their full potential. In 2022-2023, we focused more attention on cultural learnings, as youth expressed a need to (re)connect to their cultures and a desire to explore Indigenous traditional knowledge.



Activities In 2022-2023



July 8, 2022

Guided visit of the Kahnawake Powwow.



October 21, 2022

Dancing, drum circles and Inuit game "Imak & Nunak".



February 11, 2023

Making medicine bundles.



Supporting the Development of Organizational Projects

Collaborating with organizations to develop sectoral autonomy is at the core of our work. This year, we focused on access to funding as we guided and supported our partners in acquiring three major grants developed by the Federal Government. The first, *Reaching Homes*, concerns Indigenous homelessness, the second, *Crime Prevention Action Fund*, was approached from a youth support perspective, and the third, *Emotional Wellness Fund*, is dedicated to the development of Indigenous programming.

Supporting organizations in acquiring funding is fundamental in order to relieve front-line organizations of administrative tasks, so that they can fully carry out their mission on the ground. We will be renewing this service offer, particularly regarding the funding of youth initiatives in the coming year.



Supporting Projects in 2022-2023

7 Organizations supported

13 Projects propelled

\$1,305,000 Distributed



Southern Quebec Inuit Association

Food Aid Security Program
Youth Worker Program



Indigenous Street Workers Project

Street Outreach Services
Core Services



First Peoples Justice Center of Montreal

Housing Support for Indigenous people exiting the carceral system



Doctors of the World

Health Navigators on the Street



Mikana

Youth Ambassadors Program



Tasiutigiiit

Thrive Summer Camp



Native Montreal

Summer trip to B.C.
Art Symposium
To our Roots Event
Docuseries Project

Presenting the Urban Indigenous Governance Project

Since 2020, we have been working with the City of Montreal on the *Smart Cities Project*, also known at the NETWORK as the *Data Sovereignty Project*.

In 2022-2023, the project has undergone major changes due to considerations arising after the pandemic. In response to new priorities and emerging needs, the updated objectives of the project include: building capacity amongst Indigenous organizations; producing tools to support Indigenous peoples' research and data management; and developing guidelines pertaining to Indigenous allyship in research. As a result of this change in direction, we have renamed the project, and the NETWORK is pleased to introduce the *Urban Indigenous Governance Project*!

The next steps involve recruiting a project coordinator, organizing meetings with community members interested in questions related to research and urban governance, and establishing an advisory committee of Indigenous experts. Lastly, we are committed to securing long-term funding to ensure the sustainability of the project.



The INDEX: From Investigation to Community Consultations

The *INDEX* is a centralized community database that will outline essential information on services available to Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke. It aims to enhance cultural safety by pointing Indigenous individuals towards resources that are relevant to their needs.

The name *INDEX* was chosen, as IND stands for Indigenous, and the word “index” represents the intended outcome.

This year, the *INDEX* was consolidated as an integral part of the NETWORK's *Urban Governance Project*. A mass data collection phase was undertaken, and we are now fine-tuning a community consultation process to be launched this summer.



The INDEX in 2022-2023

39

Organizations confirmed

76

Programs documented



Consultation - Phase 1

Interview about organizational information.



Consultation - Phase 2

Interview about programs and services.



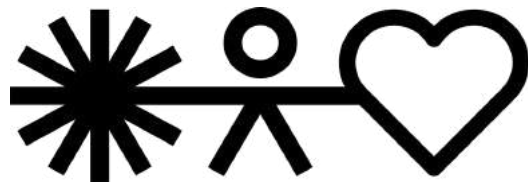
Consultation - Phase 3

Validation of information and translations.



Philanthropy

Financial Support to our Mission



By donating to the NETWORK, you are helping us support urban Indigenous communities. We redistribute the donations to meet the needs and priorities identified by and for the Indigenous community in Tiohtià:ke.

A New Online Platform to Collect Donations

In February 2023, we launched an online donation platform on our new website. Internet users can now make single or monthly donations with a single click and obtain a tax receipt electronically.

This is an ideal opportunity for us to develop our philanthropic relations with the public, and to provide our supporters with direct means to make an impact. With this recent development, we are now better equipped to launch fundraising campaigns and to support the development of more community projects.

To this day, and for the years to come, we are working on building a donor loyalty system by establishing a guide to philanthropist profiles, and through producing recurring communications for contributors. This will allow us to maintain long-lasting relationships with those who support our mission, and to allow them to learn about how they can meet the emerging needs of the community.



Donations Received in 2022-2023

\$ 5,131 Donated

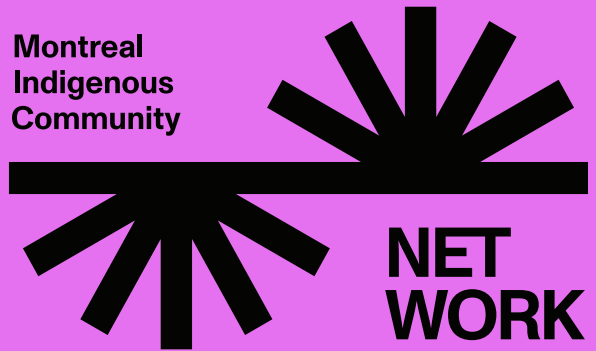
3 Donors



Gestures that make a difference

We want to sincerely thank the Amersi family for their valuable contribution.

Montreal
Indigenous
Community



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We would like to thank our financial partners



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