

A close-up photograph of several ripe, red raspberries hanging from a green stem with small green leaves. The raspberries are clustered together and have a glossy, textured appearance. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

NA- ME- RES

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

HELPING THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY OF TORONTO SINCE 1985

The background of the page features a photograph of a brick wall on the left and several tall corn plants with large green leaves on the right. The scene is lit with bright, natural light, creating strong shadows and highlights on the bricks and leaves.

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NA- ME- RES

Mission

Through a culture-based approach that addresses the holistic needs of its clients, Na-Me-Res' (Native Men's Residence) mission is to provide temporary, transitional and permanent housing to Indigenous men experiencing homelessness in Toronto while providing outreach and support services to the broader Indigenous homeless population.

Vision

Na-Me-Res ensures that Indigenous people experiencing homelessness have access to a continuum of culturally appropriate supports that will assist them in securing stable, safe and affordable housing while helping them to achieve their personal goals and aspirations.

Values

Na-Me-Res is a community organization with proven practices in integrated culturally relevant social service delivery. Na-Me-Res strives to support a caring, compassionate and safe environment that addresses the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of its clients. It also provides opportunities for them to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence required to lead healthy and self-determined lives.

My name is Michael.

Wahchay. I am a Cree man from the Fort Albany First Nation located along the James Bay coast in Northern Ontario.

I was lost for the longest time before I made my way down here to Toronto. I was going from community to community, not sure of where I was going. Like I said, I was lost and didn't really have a plan. I had just come out of a detox centre in the North, and I was going through a lot of trauma and had no idea how to deal with my pain. I made my way to a little town where I was able to reside for a year; I was able to secure housing there with the Salvation Army and managed to score a job. During my time there, I never felt so alone with no one to turn to; there was so much going on inside of me. Thankfully, it was the job that saved me – it kind of kept me sane, as I was in shock due to the fact that drugs can totally ruin your life and the lives of those around you. Luckily, there was support for the ones I loved. I didn't have that.

I have always had a hard time with addiction, and being in that little town, drugs were everywhere I lived. So I made the choice to leave my job and room. In a last-ditch effort to stay clean, I basically became homeless and unemployed overnight. There I was again, lost with no direction, other than I don't want to be here anymore. I made my way down here to Toronto. I had a feeling that where I was going would be better than where I was. I was on the streets for a while before I was accepted into Na-Me-Res, where I was able to receive the proper care I never had gotten before. I was slow to adjust to the setting as I was still unsure of the programs they offered. But as time went by, I began to immerse myself in the cultural aspect of the programs, which greatly helped my healing journey.

I was exposed to medicine, drumming, singing, and making traditional instruments. Most importantly, I made friends with good people and had a great support network. Being a part of this program has opened doors in ways I couldn't have imagined. I was able to participate in cultural ceremonies and community events throughout the city. It felt good to belong to something that gave me a purpose which I had long forgotten. I am currently taking a Community Health Worker Program with George Brown College, which I am so excited to be a part of.

They have so many benefits at Sagatay, that focus on helping you in many ways like housing, mental health, spiritual health and the Auduzhe clinic, which is top-notch with a very supportive staff. I think everything that I accomplished would have taken longer if I hadn't asked for the help when it was offered.

I am so grateful for all the help that was provided, and I couldn't have done it without Na-Me-Res. They guided me to where I am today.

Thank you to everyone who helped along the way.



A MESSAGE FROM THE **President**



Aaniin-Boozhoo, kina. Greetings, to you all.

This part of Turtle Island is a place of extremes. On any given day, we are subject to extreme temperatures, whether it is the sweltering heat of the Toronto summer or the bone-chilling cold of the Canadian winter.

Today, I am mindful of the experiences of all those who are living on the street, in encampments or in their cars, or who need to couch-surf just to keep a roof over their heads. Everybody, no matter what circumstance, has a right to seek shelter with adequate heating and cooling.

As I write this during a mid-summer heat wave, I'm reminded that this is the exact mission of Native Men's Residence – to provide outreach services and permanent housing to Indigenous men experiencing homelessness in Toronto.

This report is an opportunity to share with the community that Na-Me-Res has always been consistent in delivering on this mission.

Our work is well underway for a new building in the Upper Beaches area. This 20-unit affordable housing project is expected to be completed in winter 2026 thanks to the support of the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto. We are also constructing a new 12-unit deeply affordable housing project in the Riverdale area.

These developments will join Migize Pazaagwii Gamik and Kinew Poonii Waahkiiganaan in the Cabbagetown area, and O'Gitchidaa Mushkiki Wigwam in Parkdale, as Na-Me-Res' best foot forward in addressing the need for more deeply affordable housing in Toronto.

We cannot say enough about our longest-running service offerings, namely the original Na-Me-Res Shelter and our transitional housing units and skills-based programming of Sagatay. More recently, our work toward contributing to the better health of our clients and Indigenous Peoples continues with Auduzhe Mino Nesewinong. And, of course, our annual Na-Me-Res Pow Wow continues to be the largest Indigenous cultural gathering in Toronto.

I'd like to use this platform to show gratitude to our team, our partners and the community for their work and support of what we do.

First, I'd like to recognize the management and staff of Native Men's Residence. None of this work would be possible without your visionary leadership and dedicated service to the community. Your compassionate, dedicated and skilful efforts are truly extraordinary!

Next, we offer a g'chi miigwetchawendam (a great thanks) to our partners, donors and funders, who generously provide the resources and supports that are needed to deliver our programs and services and to fund our capital projects. We want to recognize the City of Toronto, Miziwe Biik Development Corporation, United Way of Greater Toronto, Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle, Indigenous Primary Health Care Council, National Indigenous Collaborative Housing Inc., and many others, for your continued support.

And finally, to our residents, clients, and all those we support in the community: you are the reasons we do what we do. You are always in our thoughts and considerations in our continued work at Na-Me-Res.

There is still a lot to look forward to and a lot of ground to cover in achieving our mission and vision. On behalf of the Circle of Directors, I invite you to continue this journey with us.

In friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Goulais". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

BOB GOULAIS

**Chairperson, Circle of Directors
Native Men's Residence**

My name is Jacobb.

I am Mohawk and Oneida from Six Nations of the Grand River.

Originally from Buffalo, Jacobb is Mohawk and Oneida from Six Nations of the Grand River. Although he always carried pride in his identity, growing up disconnected from his Indigenous culture created a deep void in his life. Life presented many barriers for Jacobb. He experienced significant struggles with substance use, depression and anxiety. These challenges were compounded by feelings of isolation and loss of cultural identity, which made it difficult for him to find stability and support. His upbringing was shaped by the long-lasting impacts of intergenerational trauma, including time spent in foster care, which led to separation from his siblings and a sense of disconnection from his roots and community.

When Jacobb first walked through the doors of Na-Me-Res' emergency shelter in 2024, he was at a turning point. He carried the weight of a difficult past, but it was at the emergency shelter where his healing truly began.

While staying at the shelter, Jacobb started to access the supports available to him. The environment provided not only stability but also a culturally safe space where he could begin reconnecting with who he is. Staff encouraged him to take part in programming, and those small, early steps helped him find routine and purpose – things that had been missing from his life for a long time.

With that support, Jacobb took on a big goal: commuting to Hamilton every day to attend a health and fitness program at Mohawk College. It was a major commitment, physically and mentally, but he stayed focused. He says the structure and encouragement from Na-Me-Res helped him stay grounded and goal-oriented through it all. Jacobb has now reached that goal and has completed his program at Mohawk. Fitness has become a powerful part of his healing, and he now dreams of becoming a certified personal trainer so he can help others walk the path to wellness too.

Recognizing his readiness for change and his desire to rebuild his life, he was quickly accepted into Sagatay, our transitional housing program.

During his time in the program, Jacobb has engaged in a variety of supports tailored to his healing journey. He participated in cultural programming and life-skills workshops, and received one-on-one case management support. He also attended circles and sweats that helped him reconnect with his Indigenous identity in a safe and supportive environment. Jacobb shared that the most helpful support was the opportunity to connect with his culture in a meaningful way. Through cultural teachings, land-based activities and community connection, he began to understand the strength of his identity.

Today, Jacobb is one year sober. He still lives at Sagatay and continues to work on himself every day. "I still face challenges," he says, "but now I have the tools to stay focused and move forward."

Na-Me-Res has helped Jacobb rebuild structure and routine in his life, but the strength has always been his. His journey is a reminder that healing is possible – especially when culture, community and self-determination are at the centre.



Executive Director



Ahniin friends,

It has been another fantastic year at Na-Me-Res. Na-Me-Res has grown and continues to grow; it is our commitment to the community that continues to fuel staff in their efforts to go above and beyond in the daily delivery of supports. I am happy to inform you that we have been able to end homelessness for some of the people we serve, with the provision of affordable housing provided both by Na-Me-Res and by private landlords. We will continue to support community members as we walk beside them, offering wraparound support to help keep them housed as they integrate back into the community. The cure for homelessness has always been very simple: it's "housing." Nevertheless, acquiring safe and affordable housing remains a challenge mired in multiple levels of complications.

Na-Me-Res is working to increase deeply affordable housing opportunities. In July 2024, we set up occupancy for our newest affordable housing development in Cabbagetown, with nine deeply affordable units, and kicked off construction of a 20-unit brand new build in the Upper Beaches area, while also retrofitting another 12-unit building in the Riverdale area.

In a country as wealthy as Canada, it is unfortunate that far too many people experience homelessness and that Indigenous homelessness is extremely disproportionate to our population. Na-Me-Res is committed to ending homelessness for Indigenous people.

Na-Me-Res acknowledges the need for physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health. This past year, we have made great strides in providing more consistent support to better care for mental health through a combination of traditional and Western support. Together the Emergency Shelter, Sagatay and Auduzhe Mino Nesewinong clinic have increased access to cultural healers, Elders and a psychotherapist at each site, narrowing service gaps.

I would like to acknowledge the staff and their dedication to the organization. This type of work is not for everyone, and the Management of Na-Me-Res is grateful for the amazing staff who have come through the doors. This year we have said, "Baamaapii, Giga-waabamin miinawaa" ("Later, see you again") to two long-time staff members, each with almost two decades of service, who have retired.

The Auduzhe Mino Nesewinong clinic has shifted to meet community need and now provides primary health care to the Indigenous community and is currently serving twice as many clients as the previous year.

This year, we hosted our third National Day of Reconciliation at Hillcrest Park. Na-Me-Res created an opportunity to help educate the community about Indigenous issues on Turtle Island, and it was a positive interaction with our neighbours.

The 2025 Na-Me-Res Pow Wow was also a success. Miigwetch to all the dancers, drummers, vendors and community members who continue to support Na-Me-Res through this annual Pow Wow. This year we shared the day with an estimated 17,000 people in attendance.

This amazing work could not have been accomplished without the support and guidance of the Na-Me-Res Circle of Directors. Chi-miigwetch to our Circle of Directors and staff, and to the generous donors and funders who helped Na-Me-Res continue to provide culturally safe services to the Indigenous community.

Steve Teekens

STEVE TEEKENS

Executive Director

Native Men's Residence

My name is Shannon.

My Story: Returning to My Bundle

I am Ojibwe from Lake of the Woods in Northwestern Ontario. My childhood was a mix of light and shadow – there were good times, but a lot of pain too. Alcoholism and violence surrounded me early. I had to grow up before I had the chance to be a kid.

But even in that chaos, there was joy. I started dancing Pow Wow at three years old. By five, I was listening to the songs. At 14, I truly found my voice. That voice took me places – travelling, hitchhiking, living free – even if it came with hardship.

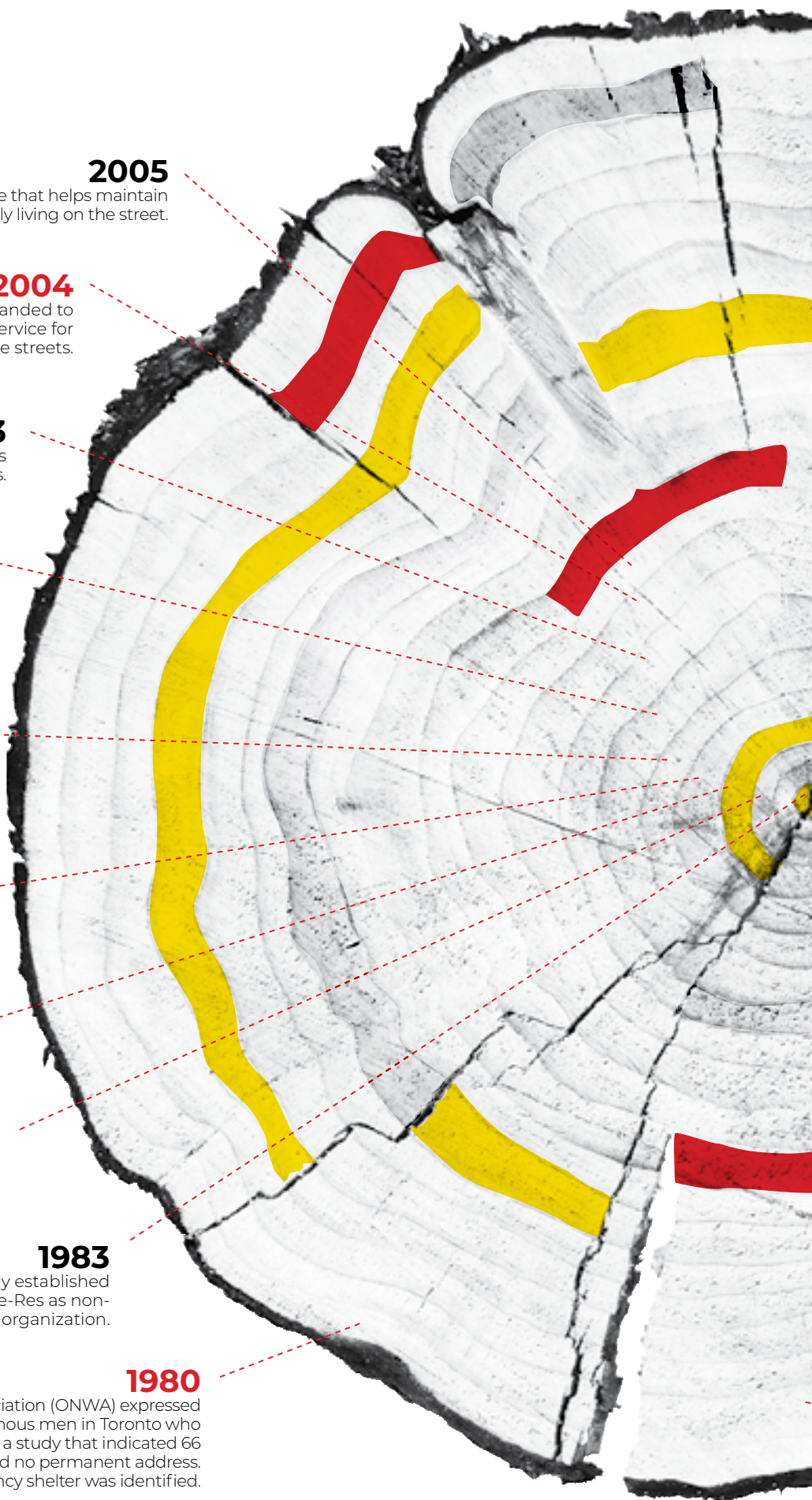
I left my mother's home at 15. Started drinking at 11. Struggled with alcohol and drugs most of my life. I spent years on the street, lost many close friends. It was dark.

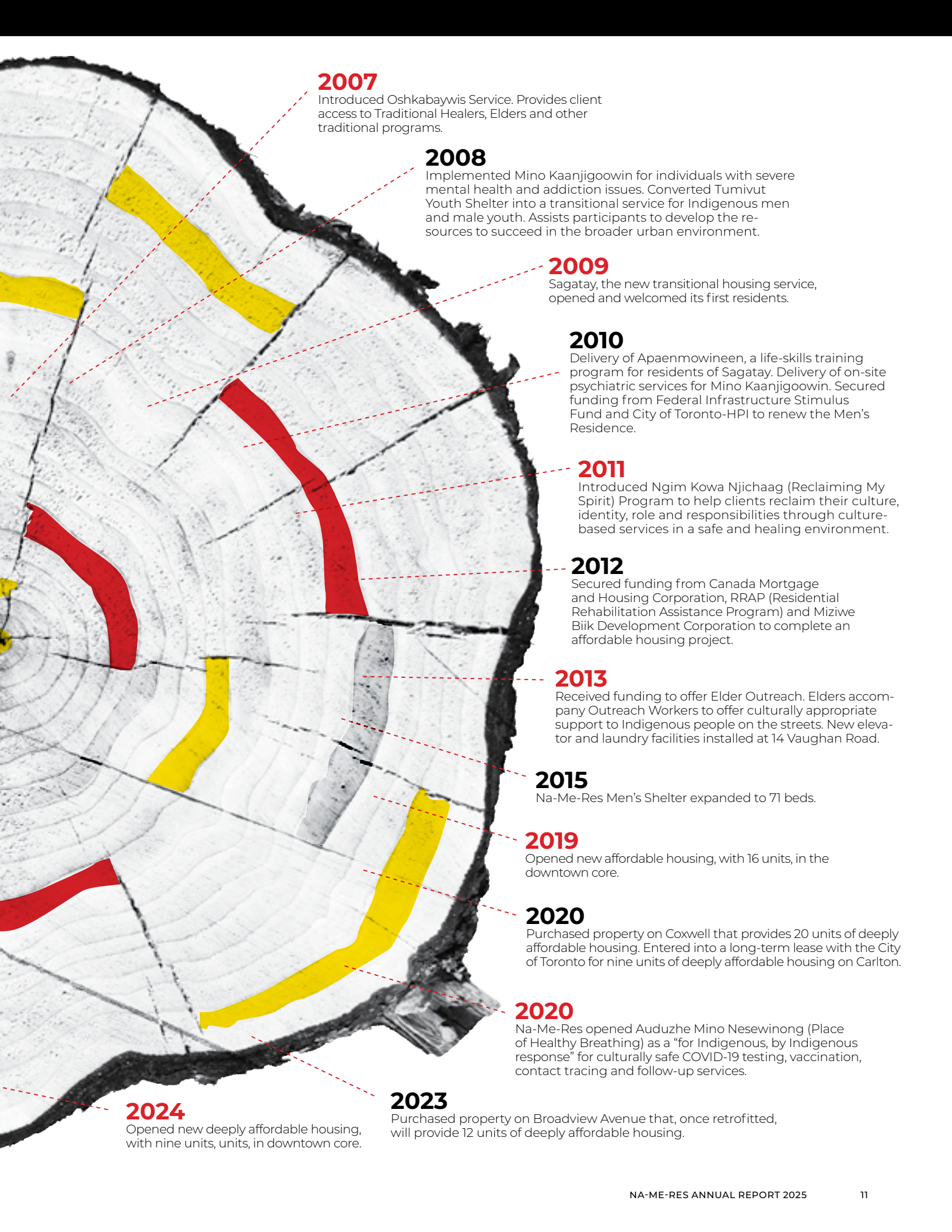
Four years ago, I was diagnosed with liver disease. The doctor told me: quit or die. I chose to live. But I couldn't do it alone. With the support of MK [Mino Kaanjigoowin], I found stability. I've been housed for 10 years now. Sober for four. And in that time, I've begun walking the old path again – but with new eyes, a new spirit.

I've returned to seeing the world in a sacred way. I've picked up my bundle again. I'm not who I was, but I carry all that I've been. And I keep walking.



Brief History

- 
- 2005**
Introduced Aftercare, a service that helps maintain housing for those previously living on the street.
- 2004**
Outreach Services expanded to include Mobile Housing, a service for people living on the streets.
- 2003**
Increased capacity of Na-Me-Res Men's Shelter from 26 to 63 beds.
- 2002**
Opened Tumivut Youth Shelter. Outreach Services expanded to include Shelter Access, a shelter-to-shelter transportation service for people living on the street.
- 2001**
Outreach Services expanded to include Gimme Shelter, a case-management service for people living on the street.
- 1995**
Outreach Services began with Street Help, a harm-reduction service for people living on the street.
- 1989**
Became member of the United Way of Greater Toronto.
- 1985**
Opened 26-bed shelter for Indigenous men without a place to live.
- 1983**
Circle of Directors formally established and incorporated Na-Me-Res as non-profit charitable organization.
- 1980**
The Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) expressed concern about the number of Indigenous men in Toronto who had nowhere to live. ONWA conducted a study that indicated 66 per cent of Indigenous men surveyed had no permanent address. A need for emergency shelter was identified.



2007

Introduced Oshkabaywis Service. Provides client access to Traditional Healers, Elders and other traditional programs.

2008

Implemented Mino Kaanjigoowin for individuals with severe mental health and addiction issues. Converted Tumivut Youth Shelter into a transitional service for Indigenous men and male youth. Assists participants to develop the resources to succeed in the broader urban environment.

2009

Sagatay, the new transitional housing service, opened and welcomed its first residents.

2010

Delivery of Apaenmowineen, a life-skills training program for residents of Sagatay. Delivery of on-site psychiatric services for Mino Kaanjigoowin. Secured funding from Federal Infrastructure Stimulus Fund and City of Toronto-HPI to renew the Men's Residence.

2011

Introduced Ngim Kowa Njichaag (Reclaiming My Spirit) Program to help clients reclaim their culture, identity, role and responsibilities through culture-based services in a safe and healing environment.

2012

Secured funding from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, RRAP (Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program) and Miziwe Biik Development Corporation to complete an affordable housing project.

2013

Received funding to offer Elder Outreach. Elders accompany Outreach Workers to offer culturally appropriate support to Indigenous people on the streets. New elevator and laundry facilities installed at 14 Vaughan Road.

2015

Na-Me-Res Men's Shelter expanded to 71 beds.

2019

Opened new affordable housing, with 16 units, in the downtown core.

2020

Purchased property on Coxwell that provides 20 units of deeply affordable housing. Entered into a long-term lease with the City of Toronto for nine units of deeply affordable housing on Carlton.

2020

Na-Me-Res opened Auduzhe Mino Nesewinong (Place of Healthy Breathing) as a "for Indigenous, by Indigenous response" for culturally safe COVID-19 testing, vaccination, contact tracing and follow-up services.

2023

Purchased property on Broadview Avenue that, once retrofitted, will provide 12 units of deeply affordable housing.

2024

Opened new deeply affordable housing, with nine units, units, in downtown core.

NA-ME-RES POW WOW 2025

Na-Me-Res' Traditional Pow Wow is held yearly in the month of June in recognition of National Indigenous Peoples Day. This year the Pow Wow was on Saturday, June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day. The day started with a beautiful sunrise ceremony.

The Pow Wow is free and open to the public, and featured traditional dancing, drumming, information booths, food vendors, and First Nations and Métis crafters from across Ontario.

Seven drums set up to share their songs. A total of 122 dancers registered. After speaking to Fort York and Na-Me-Res staff, it was generally agreed the attendance exceeded 17,000 people throughout the day.

Pow Wows provide a safe space for the community to gather and share; everyone is welcome to come and learn about our Indigenous culture. We are grateful for all the support we received this year; we are looking forward to next year's gathering.

Miigwetch to Heritage Canada, BMO, CBC and Fort York for supporting the Na-Me-Res Pow Wow.



Affordable Housing

The best way to end homelessness is with affordable housing, and for the past 14 years, Na-Me-Res has been providing deeply affordable housing for Indigenous men who have experienced homelessness. Na-Me-Res assigns a follow-up worker to support our tenants to ensure that barriers to their long-term tenancy are reduced.

Na-Me-Res currently operates a total of 47 deeply affordable housing units, and we will add another 32 deeply affordable units in the new year when our two new housing projects come online.

O'GITCHIDAA MUSHKIKI WIGWAM (OMW)

The O'Gitchidaa Mushkiki Wigwam (OMW) is the Na-Me-Res affordable housing located in Parkdale; when translated into the English language, the name loosely means the Warriors Medicine House. Na-Me-Res owns the two houses, both of which opened in September 2012.

Na-Me-Res clients can transition to OMW as tenants. When clients transition to OMW, workers are in place to help ensure a successful tenancy. They offer suggestions on ways to effectively deal with budgeting, conflict resolution and other housing aftercare matters.

KINEW POONII WAAHKIIGANAAN

Kinew Poonii Waahkiiganaan is a 16-unit affordable housing building located in the Cabbagetown area of Toronto that opened in June 2019. The first floor of the building has accessible units for tenants who may have accessibility or mobility issues. Through this housing, we are empowering some formerly homeless Indigenous men with a real opportunity to grow roots and create positive opportunities for themselves. When translated into English, the name loosely means Golden Eagle Landing in Anishnawbe.

MIGIZE PAZAAGWII GAMIK

Na-Me-Res has been selected to be the operator of another affordable housing project in the downtown east side of Toronto in the Cabbagetown area. The project started construction in November 2022 and was completed and occupied in June 2024. This affordable housing project has a total of nine units, which are a combination of bachelor and one-bedroom units. "Migize Pazaagwii Gamik," translated from Anishnawbe, means the Uplifting Place of the Bald Eagle.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

Na-Me-Res purchased a 6,631-square-foot plot of land on the east side of Toronto in October 2020. The site will have a total of 20 affordable units (a mixture of bachelor, one-bedroom, and four barrier-free one-bedroom units). We are extremely pleased, as this housing project will be our first new build from the ground up.

Na-Me-Res purchased another property in the Riverdale area in September 2023. Once the retrofit is complete, this property will have a total of 12 deeply affordable units.



My name is **Soul Cloud.**

When Soul arrived at Na-Me-Res' emergency shelter, he was seeking more than just a place to sleep; he was looking for healing, identity and connection. Originally from Nova Scotia but living in Quebec before coming to Toronto, Soul faced a long history of substance use and intergenerational trauma. He also spoke openly about his struggles with identity confusion, sharing that for a long time, he carried a deep sense of hatred and disconnect from who he was.

Coming to Na-Me-Res marked the beginning of a new chapter for Soul. Drawn to the shelter not only for safety but also for its cultural grounding, Soul immersed himself in every opportunity available. He engaged deeply in the life-skills programming offered through the emergency shelter. With the support of staff and on-site services, Soul was able to retrieve his identification through the ID clinic, access health care through Auduzhe Mino NeseWINong and begin to rebuild his financial stability – regaining control over his credit and finances through life-skills workshops.

A turning point in Soul's healing came when he embraced the cultural teachings that are offered at Na-Me-Res. He found deep meaning in the Grandfather teachings and learned about traditional medicines through gardening. These moments became more than just educational; they were transformative. He began to see life through a new lens, telling us that adopting an Indigenous mindset helped him move toward living a more pure and purposeful life.

With support from the Na-Me-Res housing team, Soul secured permanent housing and continued his path forward. Today, he is enrolled in post-secondary education, studying Indigenous Studies and Indigenous Worldviews. His long-term goal is to become a case-worker himself – and he hopes one day to return to Na-Me-Res, not as a resident but as a support for others walking the path he once did.

Soul's story is one of courage, self-discovery and strength. Through reconnecting with culture, embracing community support and committing to personal growth, Soul is now walking forward with clarity and purpose.

Programs and Services



In 1985, Na-Me-Res began offering emergency shelter to Indigenous men who were without a place to live. Since then, a greater understanding of the underlying causes of Indigenous homelessness has emerged.

As an Indigenous organization, Na-Me-Res strives to meet the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional needs of all clients by providing access to its multidisciplinary care team, which includes traditional Elders and Teachers, Case Managers, Counsellors, Client Care Workers, Street Outreach Workers, Housing Workers, Aftercare Workers, Registered Nurses (RNs), Nurse Practitioners (NPs), Psychiatrists, Medical Doctors (MDs), Oshkabaywis (spiritual helpers), Life Skills Co-ordinator and other community-service providers as identified. Based on a culturally responsive, strengths-based case management approach to client care, Na-Me-Res programs include:

THE MEN'S RESIDENCE 14 VAUGHAN ROAD

Clients who are homeless are provided with temporary shelter, assistance and support to secure housing appropriate to their needs. To meet the increasing number of Indigenous men who come to Toronto for a better life, the residence has grown since 1985 from a 26- to a 71-bed residence.

SAGATAY (A NEW BEGINNING) 26 VAUGHAN ROAD

Sagatay is a safe and supportive learning and housing environment with 20 beds for Indigenous men. Programs offered here provide residents with the opportunity to develop the skills required to succeed in the broader urban environment as strong, self-confident Indigenous men.

APAENMOWINEEN (HAVING CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF)

This three- to six-month life-skills program is offered in a safe and supportive learning environment at Sagatay. Workshops include, but are not limited to, Ojibway and Cree language classes, healthy living, drumming, literacy, community gardening, sharing circles, financial literacy, creative writing, traditional teachings, photography, addictions programming and employability workshops.

NGIM KOWA NJICHAAG (RECLAIMING MY SPIRIT)

The goal of the Ngim Kowa Njichaag program is to assist all Na-Me-Res clients in claiming their culture, identity, role and responsibilities through the delivery of culture-based services within a safe, healing environment.

MINO KAAJIGOOWIN (CHANGING MY DIRECTION IN LIFE)

Through this program, clients who are challenged with severe mental illness and addiction issues are provided with intensive case management to meet their needs. The goal of Mino Kaanjigoowin is to assist clients in securing and maintaining housing appropriate to their needs. Once these clients have been housed, the case managers will continue to offer supports to help keep the clients successfully housed.



My name is Ryan

and I am Blackfoot First Nations from the Blood Tribe in Standoff Alberta Treaty 7.

I have had a struggle most of my adult life with addiction and childhood trauma. My grandmother was in Indian residential school and my father was part of the '60s scoop. I am the only born child to my parents, and I bore the brunt of the trauma from my family's upbringing.

I first came into connection with Dennis [Case Manager] at Sagatay when I was incarcerated in January 2023. I had learned about Sagatay and the incredible program they offered the Indigenous community. I was very interested in becoming a part of the program. However, my incarceration kept me from doing so. I was released in May 2024, and immediately went back to my old habits. I quickly found myself displaced without a place to call home or a place to help ground me, to help allow me to rediscover myself and who I am and not the addict I'd become.

Fast-forward to August 2024, when I reached out to Dennis at Sagatay for help. Dennis helped keep me calm, and made me feel secure about everything and the new journey I was about to embark on. Being displaced and having nowhere to have food or shelter is one of the scariest things a person/human being can go through. The phone call that I received from Dennis to tell me that they had a bed and room for me in the Sagatay program saved my life.

I'll never forget that phone call in late August 2024 from Dennis. I immediately made my way to Sagatay and I was greeted and met by John. John is one of the most inspiring staff members/friends one could meet. He himself had lived some of the things that I've gone through, and that made me feel comforted on so many different levels.

During my time at Sagatay, I learned how to appreciate and slow down in life. I learned about nature and about traditional teachings and healing. I learned that it was OK to be vulnerable, and that it was OK to show your emotions when you're

both sad, happy and scared. One of the things that stands out to me the most was our sacred garden and learning the ways of our elders. John's teachings on our Seven Grandfathers and sacred fatherhood will always stand out to me of all the lessons I took away from my time with Sagatay.

As the weeks and months went by during my healing journey at Sagatay, I started to become happier in my life and more confident in who I was, and not the addict that I had become. For once I saw clarity, I saw a vision, and I saw Hope.

I finally gained the confidence to want to become independent and want betterment for myself. That's when I decided to apply for a couple of jobs to prove to myself that I was good enough, and that I was deserving of a new brighter and happier journey once my time at Sagatay came to an end. Through my hard persistence – and the incredible support from John, Dennis and all the other staff at Sagatay – I was able to secure a job, and it was in an industry that I had loved most of my working life.

After a few months of working, I was able to finally take the next big step in my journey and become fully independent, finding my own place to call home so I would not have the terrifying struggles of finding shelter or food, and especially for anyone to accept you for who you are. Sagatay gave me that acceptance and welcomed me in with open arms. If it wasn't for Sagatay and the incredible people behind the organization, my life and my journey would not be where I am today. I would not have found happiness and peace within myself to keep me driven and wanting a better life.

I'm so grateful for John and Dennis and everything they do for all of our Indigenous community, but especially what they did for me in my life and how they gave me the tools to find my new journey that I'm currently on.

Thank you, Sagatay, from the bottom of my heart!



Programs and Services

EMERGENCY SHELTER NURSING SERVICES

The Nurse provides support to all residents of the Na-Me-Res Emergency Shelter, responds to emerging health needs around the shelter, and assists residents in navigating health systems. She seeks to assure that all clients feel respected, that their concerns and needs are central to the care provided, and that they lead the way in their healthcare interactions.

The Nurse serves as a consistent point of contact for the clients so as to build their trust, and seeks to form therapeutic Nurse-Client relationships through supporting health in a holistic manner, engaging in meaningful connection, and contributing to a sense of community. She advocates to community health services to ensure clients receive fair and equitable access to health care, seeking to minimize barriers to health care.

The Nurse collaborates with the shelter's Case Managers, Client Care Workers, Housing Worker and Shelter Manager in a team-based approach to best support client needs. She has also worked alongside our Elder and Knowledge Keeper to support clients' spiritual health. The Nurse has supported our Elder's healing sessions by joining in with our clients and the Elder to help with note taking and any other helpful tasks. The Nurse supports residents in accessing traditional medicines from our traditional medicine cabinet. She has also prepared traditional medicines in our kitchen, as many of our clients do not have access to a kitchen of their own. This is a small but helpful task that

allows our clients to address their health and wellness through traditional ways of knowing.

The Nurse continues to facilitate weekly Primary Health Care clinics (now with Dr. Suzanne Shoush) and weekly Psychiatry clinics (with Dr. Abby Hershler) to support residents' physical and mental health needs. The health services available to residents in the shelter have broadened given that Auduzhe Mino NeseWINong, our partnered health clinic with Na-Me-Res and Seventh Generation Midwives of Toronto (SGMT), has recently become an Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Health Care Team. Auduzhe Clinic is very near to the shelter and offers healthcare support for all Indigenous clients. The Nurse coordinates with the administrative and clinical staff at the clinic to provide seamless and timely access to care, especially for any urgent health concerns that arise. The Nurse will also connect clients to the appropriate healthcare services within the community based on their needs, such as Pharmacies, Dentists/Denturists, Optometrists, Audiologists, Chiropractors, Primary Care Providers, Community Health Centres, Therapists and Counsellors. For clients who have secured permanent housing, the Nurse will seek to connect them to Primary Care clinics near to them. Clients are also able to access free nicotine replacement therapy to aid in smoking cessation with the Smoking Treatment for Ontario Patients (STOP) program through the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH).

Indigenous Outreach & Support Services

20A VAUGHAN ROAD

These city-wide services are provided to people living on the streets and in encampments, providing them with support and assistance as they transition from streets to homes. To ensure clients remain successfully housed, an Indigenous-specific case-management service called Aftercare is provided for each client enrolled. An additional follow-up team called Big-eya-wah-anduyaun assists newly housed individuals transition from shelters to homes. Our goals are to manage issues that arise once the client is housed. These issues can include the need for a primary healthcare provider, ID clinics, neighbourhood meal sites, food banks and walk-in clinics.

OUTREACH VAN AND MOBILE HOUSING

This Indigenous-specific outreach service uses a mobile approach that includes Van Outreach Workers and Mobile Housing Workers. They engage with male and female Indigenous homeless clients to secure housing, develop a crisis plan, and provide services and referrals to assist clients to develop a greater sense of cultural awareness. The Na-Me-Res Oshkabaywis regularly accompanies the Outreach Workers, and offers traditional and cultural ceremonies that can be performed where clients are found, creating a spiritual, cultural and traditional connection lost to Indigenous people through the colonization process. The service provides teachings and ceremonies that focus on Indigenous customs, values and traditional practices while recognizing and respecting the distinctiveness among our Indigenous cultures.

INDIGENOUS HOUSING AFTERCARE

This service provides follow-up supports to newly housed individuals who have been referred from the Coordinated Access program. Three Aftercare Workers provide case management supports that address a wide range of presenting issues, including eviction prevention, housing maintenance, mental and physical health, community integration, spiritual needs and support. The overall goal of the project is to support homeless individuals to effectively transition into housing and build their stability by addressing all elements of their health and well-being using an Indigenous approach.

BIG-EYA-WAH-ANDUYAUN (A LOT OF PEOPLE GOING HOME)

This project has a Na-Me-Res shelter-specific Follow-Up Worker and four other Follow-Up Workers who receive referrals from Coordinated Access. These workers use intensive case management to support Indigenous clients who are newly housed and at risk of losing their housing. The workers have a blended

caseload consisting of clients with low, moderate or high needs. All Follow-Up Workers provide case management support that addresses clients' spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs. This includes housing eviction prevention, housing maintenance and community integration.

OSHKABAYWIS REPORT

The responsibilities of an Oshkabaywis include overseeing the preparation of the Sweat Lodge to ensure readiness for ceremonies, and teaching staff and clients about our ceremonies along with protocols.

We constructed a new lodge with the support of clients and staff to facilitate education about our cultural traditions. Our work encompassed gathering young trees, collaborating with clients on lodge construction, preparing for upcoming ceremonies, and training individuals for fire-keeping activities. Additionally, we held a Sweat and Feast following the completion of the lodge. Staff and clients contributed to building the lodge by gathering materials and preparing for ceremonies.

In collaboration with an Elder, we prepare medicinal herbs and participate in one-on-one sessions. We also attend meetings related to housing and help with the organization of the Pow Wow.

Our activities involve crafting, and making drums, dream catchers, shakers, etc., which are subsequently honoured with a Sacred Fire during communal feasts. We conducted a Spring ceremony and had Tiknaabo. We continually plan to gather Grandfathers stones and cedar for future ceremonial events.

The Oshkabaywis facilitates Nishnaabemowin and Nishnaabemaadzowin (Ojibwa language and ways of knowing) to residents and staff to support their mental, emotional, physical and spiritual development, and performs various ceremonies for residents and ex-residents.

Preparations are underway for Sweat Lodge ceremonies scheduled over the next few months, including gathering medicinal herbs and preparing for the Sacred Fire and Sunrise Ceremonies.

Tasks involve replacing tarps, cleaning blankets, and ensuring all necessary items are ready for upcoming ceremonies. We expect more trips with clients.

We completed preparations for the Na-Me-Res Pow Wow by gathering medicines and setting up the Sacred Fire and Sunrise Ceremony, and constructed a tipi for the Pow Wow event, which is always a huge success.

We intend to participate in various Ceremonies with staff and clients to continue practising and preserving our cultural traditions.

Mashkikii;aki'ing (Medicine Earth) Medicine Wheel Garden

Na-Me-Res has been actively involved in the stewardship of a beautiful garden in Hillcrest Park since 2003. Coincidentally, Mashkikii;aki'ing (Medicine Earth) Medicine Wheel Garden is Toronto's first contemporary Indigenous community garden.

The gardening experience has been a very positive learning experience for our residents and staff. Nurturing the garden and watching seedlings grow to be mature plants that are harvested is a fulfilling teaching and healing experience. Not only do our staff and residents work with the soil and grow Indigenous plants, they also harvest them, learn to make teas and salves, and learn about the medicinal properties of the plants. Additionally, some of the plants grown in the garden are some of our sacred medicines.

Working in the garden has been a wonderful way for our Sagatay and Na-Me-Res residents to get in touch with Mother Earth and learn to grow, nurture and harvest medicinal and sacred plants. We are grateful for the partnership we have with the Stop Community Centre in sharing their program space at Wychwood Barns and for working alongside our guys to help them learn about planting.



Annual Shelter Statistics

April 1, 2024–March 31, 2025

Na-Me-Res	Sagatay	Outreach	Mino Kaanjigoowin	Total
Youth				
5	1	18	3	27
Adult				
210	45	150	16	421
Senior				
16	0	11	3	30
Indigenous				
133	46	168	22	369
Non-Indigenous				
98	0	11	0	109
Total Housed				
27	14	25	2	68
Total Served				
231	46	179	22	478



Auduzhe Mino Ne sewinong (Place of Healthy Breathing)

April 2024 – March 2025 was another successful year for the Auduzhe Mino Ne sewinong team. As of April 1, 2023, Auduzhe is now considered an Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Health Care Team providing low-barrier, accessible, culturally safe health care for First Nations, Inuit and Métis community members across Toronto. This marked the beginning of our transition from a COVID-19 clinic to a primary health care clinic.

The transition into primary care was not an easy one; at the time, our core team consisted of five staff: two Nurse Practitioners (NPs) and three non-clinical staff. Within the year, we added to our team by hiring four more staff: one NP, two Registered Nurses (RNs) and one Administrative Assistant. By the end of October 2024, our team consisted of nine core team members. Through our partnership with Inner City Health Associates (ICHA), we added a Psychiatrist one day per week.

Our building also required heavy renovations to meet the primary care demands of a health clinic. At the front of the building, we added an accessible ramp for clients entering our space. We now have five clinical rooms versus the three in our COVID-19 days. Within the clinical rooms, we added medical sinks and examination beds, as well as new electrical, flooring and cabinetry. Also, Exam Rooms 1 and 2 are accessible, with their doors being wider for clients with wheelchairs, scooters or strollers. Finally, we hired Shawn Howe, an Indigenous muralist, to design a mural for our third floor. Shawn and team spent three months designing a beautiful mural for Auduzhe. Within the last year, we have used the space for team meetings and ceremony.

Even though Auduzhe has been providing health care for the FNIM community for the last five-plus years, full primary care was new to our team. From our inception, we knew there was a strong need coming from the FNIM community demanding culturally safe access to primary health care. Auduzhe is located between Na-Me-Res and Sagatay Transitional Housing, providing access to residents, staff and their families, along with other Indigenous

community members across Toronto. Building on our existing model and staff, we provide the full scope of primary health care, recognizing Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) as main barriers, including a focus on preventative health screening, as well as prevention and management of chronic disease that are Indigenous specific. We have developed Indigenous-led responses to new and emerging public health needs, and have designed and implemented specialized programs focused on enhancing cancer screening, sexual and reproductive health, vaccination uptake for all childhood and adult vaccines, and pathways to specialist care. To decrease barriers, support is provided to clients through the means of home and community outreach, transportation, accompaniment to appointments, medication delivery, and gift cards for grocery support. Our team has focused on partnership building to offer culturally safe access to specialist care such as rapid internal medicine consultations, audiology specialists, lower limb preservation, traditional healing and counselling.

There is an urgent need to prioritize Indigenous healthcare delivery with a measure of self-governance that ensures Indigenous healthcare approaches and needs are appropriately recognized, prioritized and supported. Auduzhe has participated in broader provincial health system transformation and integration efforts while also embedding sustainable and equitable resources to develop integrated, Indigenous-led primary healthcare service delivery models that Indigenous people rely on every day. We look forward to continuing to support the FNIM community across Toronto.

Vaccine Numbers at Auduzhe (for the period March 31, 2024–March 31, 2025)

Auduzhe Mino Nesewinong (AMN) had the following vaccination/
STBBI (sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections) partnerships:

2-Spirited Peoples of the First Nations

Call Auntie Clinic

Eastview Public School

Indigenous Services Canada

Kapapamahchakwew—
Wandering Spirit School

Maggie's Toronto

Thunder Woman Healing Lodge

Tungasuvvingat Inuit

YWCA of Greater Toronto

COVID-19
Vaccines ▶

438

Flu
Vaccine ▶

435

Publicly Funded
Vaccines* ▶

852

**TOTAL
VACCINATIONS**

1,725

* Publicly funded vaccines include Monkey Pox, Hepatitis B, Meningococcal, HPV, Hepatitis A, Pneumococcal, MMR/MMRV, Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis/Polio/Hib, Varicella, Rotavirus and Shingles



The Auduzhe Mino Nesewinong Team

“

Auduzhe is the safest place I have ever accessed health care. I've been to many places and I can say without a doubt, it is the staff here and their kind hearts that keep me coming back. I will go nowhere else – I have found my place. They make me feel seen and respected and take my concerns seriously. I've never been treated with so much dignity and respect as a First Nations person in all of my 25 years accessing health care.”

“

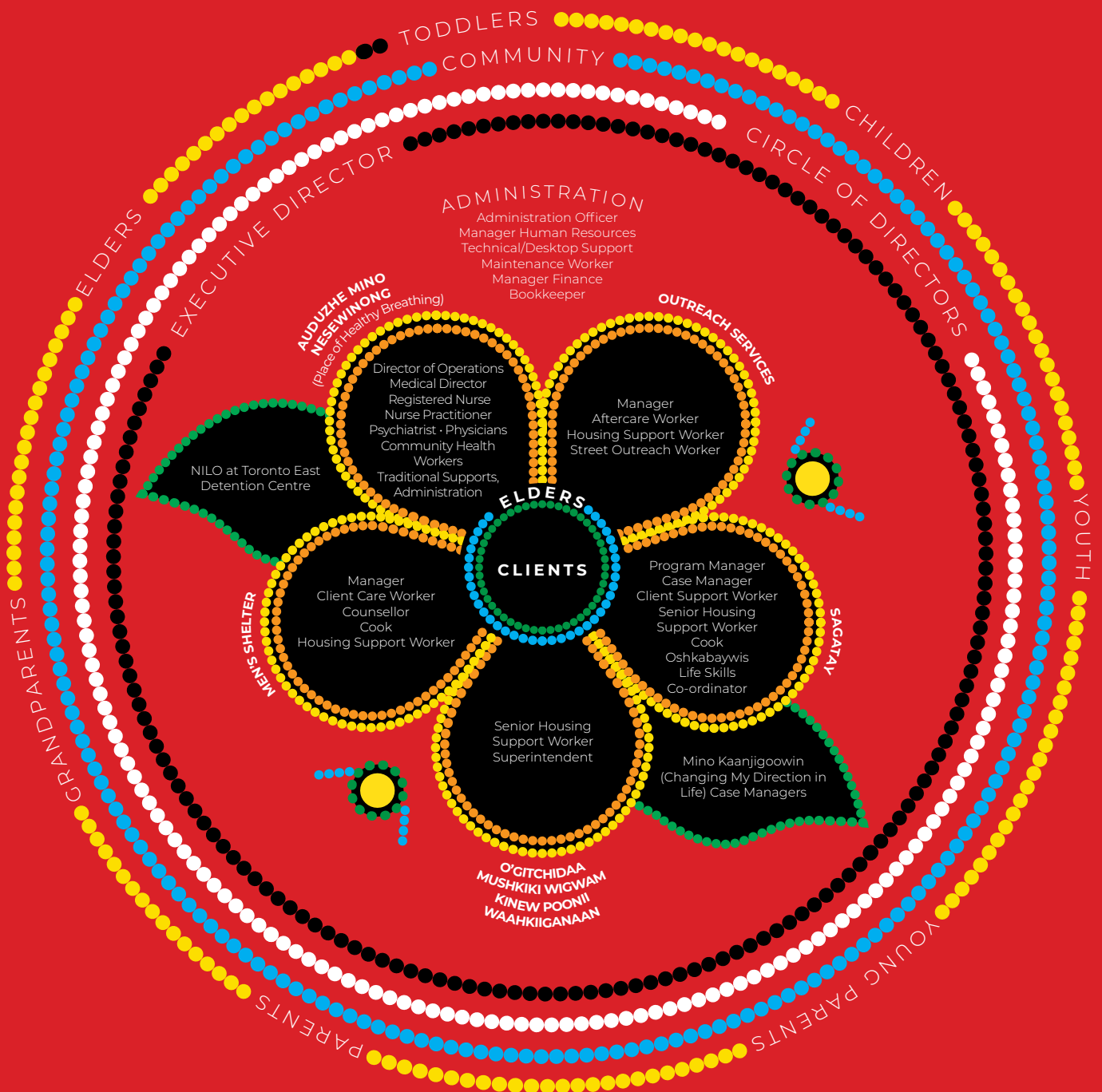
Everyone is so friendly and tries to help above and beyond no matter who it is. Trina [Administrative Assistant] has the prettiest, kind, loving face and we love seeing her at the front. Treats everyone the same. If she doesn't know something, she'll say that and then will try to help. We love coming here; everything is done with care, from picking a safe place to have tests done to referrals to specialists who are kind and helpful. Every decision is made with care and consideration.”

“

My experiences at Auduzhe have been so comforting, which I never thought I'd say about a healthcare setting. Being able to see Traditional Healers has been life-saving care for me. The staff are so kind and understanding. Seeing the artwork on the walls during appointments is very calming and gives me something to focus on when I am getting bloodwork done – which helps so much!”

Governance

NA-ME-RES ORGANIZATION CHART



Circle of Directors

Bob Goulais, President
Randy Pitt, Treasurer

Lori Mishibinijima, Secretary
Cyndy Baskin, Director

Seth Zuk, Director
Thunder Jack, Director

Dave Borins, Director
Jeremy Riva-Cambrin, Director

Acknowledgements

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They provide us with the financial resources we need to deliver our programs and services.

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Raymond James Canada Foundation
Service Berry Foundation
Strategic Charitable Giving Foundation
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Carpenters & Allied Workers
Chuyeko Fukushima
CUPE Local 79
CUPE Toronto District
Daily Bread Food Bank
Enterprise Holdings
Fresh Art & Design
Gift Funds Canada
Leslie Kohsed-Currie
Link Charity

In memory of Minna Pearl Edwards
Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
Neli Hersco
Quakers
Retired Teachers D16
Rosar Morrison
Sheila Katz
Sherry Lay
Steve Teekens
Susan Pike
Trinity St. Paul's United Church
Valery Brosseau
Warden Woods Community
William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute
York Lions Bingo

Funders

Aboriginal Labour Force
Development Circle
Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment
& Training
Miziwe Biik Development Corporation

National Indigenous Collaborative
Housing Inc (NICH)
TASSC
Unity Health
United Way of Greater Toronto
& York Region

City of Toronto

Shelter, Support & Housing Administration

Housing Secretariat

Provincial Government

Ministry of the Solicitor General
Ministry of Health
Ontario Health

Federal Government

Canada Mortgage and Housing
Corporation – Urban Native Housing
Correctional Service Canada
Heritage Canada

“

Everyone is so friendly
and tries to help above
and beyond no matter
who it is. ”

Community Partners 2024-2025

2-Spirited Peoples of the First Nations	Fort York
Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario	Furniture Bank
Alexandra Park	Indigenous Primary Health Care Council (IPHCC)
Neighbourhood Learning Centre	Inner City Health Associates – Dr. Herschler, Dr. Shoush
Allard Audiology	Kapapamahchakwew – Wandering Spirit School
Anduhyaun	Mainstay Housing
Anishnawbe Health	Not Far From the Tree
Diabetes Education Team	Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto
Book Club For Inmates	St. Clare's
Call Auntie	The STOP Community Food Centre
CAMH – Ontario Structured Psychotherapy	Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council (TASSC)
CAMH – Stop Program	Toronto Metropolitan University
Canadian Mental Health Association (Opening Doors Project)	Toronto Public Health
Canadian Observatory on Homelessness	Tungasuvvingat Inuit
Carpenters' District Council of Ontario	University Health Network
Cob's Bread	Paula Wing
Community Resources & Initiatives, Natalie Zlodre	
Costco	
Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto	

Local Politicians

Don Stewart, MP Toronto St. Paul's	Councillor Chris Moise, City Councillor
Jill Andrew, MPP Toronto St. Paul's	Ward 13 Toronto Centre
Councillor Josh Matlow, City Councillor	Councillor Gord Perks, City Councillor
Ward 12 St. Paul's	Ward 4 Parkdale–High Park

Visiting Elders and Traditional People

James Carpenter	Colin Mousseau
Jimmy Dick	

Na-Me-Res Team

A chi-miigwetch goes out to all our staff, former and current, for their contribution to the work of Na-Me-Res in delivering quality services to Indigenous people experiencing homelessness through a culture-based approach addressing clients' mental, physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Current Staff

Ali, Andalah	Bowyer, Devon	Erwin, Martin	King, Janice	Osen, William
Badger, Sheldon	Buttar, Pavan	Eskins, Jade	Labrecque, Albert	Peltier, Caleja
Bates, Donna	Cameron, Trina	Hasan, Sibtain	LaForme, John	Perricciolo, Stephanie
Belleau, Keihlah	Cecchetto, Andrew	Hookimawillillene, Andy	MacDonald, Morris	Pitawanakwat, Arlene
Bensler, Dakota	Cervini, Fabio	Jackson, Brian	Mccomb, Andrew	Pitawanakwat, Jace
Bentz, Chris	Cote, Elaine	Jardin, Erwin	McWatch, Bella	Pragg-Singh, Thomas
Berry, Cody	Cousineau, Karl	Jelley-Monague, Deserae	Namgyal, Thonyon	Prince, Jonathan
Bertrand, Allysha	Debassige, Nancy	Johnstone, Nicole	Obazee, Charles	Purdon, Rebecca
Bisson, Benjamin	DeLaCruz, Gio	Jones, Tom	Olanbiwonninu, Azeez	Quewezence, Roxanne
Bobiwash, Allen	Dunkley-Abrams, D	Kakegamic, Jake	Osborne, Suzanne	Rebortura, Michelle
Bovin, Elizabeth	Enwerem, Joseph	Kataquapit, Jaicee	O'Selmo, Clive	Reid, Jaden



The Outreach Team



The Sagatay Team

Current Staff (cont'd)

Robinson, Lisa	Roy, John	Siggia-Cantor, Ester	Sutherland, Erica	Trinier, Ruth
Rolfe, Trisha	Sanchez, Tarah	Smith, Elanore	Teekens, Steve	Woolner, Alysha
Roy, Clarence	Scott, Calvin	Strebel, Roy	Timmins, James	Yamada, Kinji
Roy, Jane	Setargie Admassu, M	Suedfeld, Kaleb	Topcagic, Emina	

Former Staff

Cairns, Catherine	Costello, James	Matsubara, Aya	Muganga, Mark	Sakuma, Ryu
Chicago, Jason	Foster, Jason	McCarthy, Chloe	Murdock, Megan	Turner, Ashley
Cho, Hyunjin	Kassis, P	Meawasige, Jade	Quarrington, Nemke	Wilson, Cleon
Cicansky, Sabrina	Laford-Scodellaro, R	Misquadis-Mack, M	Sabourin, Martin	YoungChief, Collette



The Na-Me-Res Shelter Team



The Administration Team

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If you would like to contribute, please contact our fundraiser at fundraising@nameres.org.

If you have any questions, concerns or compliments, please contact our Communications Officer by e-mail at general@nameres.org.



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