



**Ontario
Aboriginal**
Housing Services

Annual Report
2020-2021

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Mission

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services is an organization with a mandate to provide safe and affordable housing for Indigenous People living in urban and rural areas of Ontario. Our vision is to lead the design, development, and delivery of a sustainable and culturally appropriate continuum of housing that promotes excellence in the community and organizational infrastructures.

Values

- *Indigenous – includes 'identity', 'world view', 'sense of belonging', 'connection to land', 'ways of knowing', 'culture' – in everyday good living and traditional practices*
- *Respect*
- *Environmental Stewardship*
- *Social economy and returns*
- *Life cycle fit (housing requirement based on age and stage)*
- *Inclusivity – includes issues of geography, gender, etc.*
- *Commitment to excellence*
- *Promotion of health and well being*
- *Self-determination in housing*
- *Community empowerment through skills enhancement and transfer*

Letter from our Board Chair

Sylvia Maracle

Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres



For over two decades I've had the pleasure of overseeing the tremendous work of Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) and it is with mixed emotions that I impart my final address as Board Chair.

As my tenure ends, I am proud of the achievements of the organisation and want to congratulate the dedicated staff, leadership, and community members who make up the OAHS network. Today, the housing portfolio numbers over 3000 units, spanning communities across the province. The corporation has fundamentally changed the Indigenous housing landscape in Ontario.

The work of providing housing is one that is deeply connected to our

our responsibilities to one another and our relationships with the land and the natural world. We do more than simply build housing, our efforts create and change communities for the better, according to our priorities.

The founding of OAHS represents a significant achievement in urban Indigenous self-determination. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples sets out, in Articles 21 and 23, our rights as they pertain to the development and administration of our own programs in key areas including housing. After years of tireless advocacy on the need for federal investments into an urban, rural, and northern Indigenous housing strategy, we are encouraged by the recent parliamentary report that provides clear direction to the federal government on this issue. This advocacy milestone signals the potential of a new era for urban Indigenous housing at a time when housing is sorely needed.

Across our communities, housing needs have grown and proliferated. Today, we face a crisis that is multi-dimensional and which affects the wellbeing of everyone in our communities.

Our communities have a vision of safe, affordable, and culturally-relevant housing now, and for the coming seven generations. This vision is punctuated with new approaches to supporting everyone in our communities through

programs that meet the needs of sole-parent Indigenous families, youth, seniors, and 2SLGBTQIA+ community members, among others.

We are also keenly aware of the challenges that climate change has introduced in our communities including increased evacuations, displacements, and severe weather conditions that are rapidly altering ecosystems and habitats we share with our relatives in the natural world. We are committed to greening our infrastructure and adapting to greenhouse efficiency models that contribute to climate change mitigation.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to OAHS staff and leadership, our partners, funders, and community members for their collaborative work to build community through Indigenous-led housing solutions.

As we enter a new era for the organisation, I look forward to advocating for housing in new capacities and championing the OAHS' vision for housing that meets our communities' needs now and into the future.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Maracle

Letter from our Vice Chair

Dr. Dawn Lavell-Harvard

President of the Ontario Native Women's Association



Despite the challenges and obstacles experienced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) found ways to efficiently adapt to and mitigate the constantly evolving imposed restrictions and protocols. The steady and forward-thinking leadership of OAHS, as well as the valued contributions of the dedicated Board of Directors, provided strength and wisdom to continue to achieve the mandate of providing Indigenous peoples with safe, affordable, and culturally appropriate housing while prioritizing the health and wellness of our tenants, staff, and community.

Access to housing is, unfortunately,

a serious issue impacting many Indigenous peoples. Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, we witnessed a sharp increase in the demand for housing services and access to safe isolation sites. With the added hardships of COVID-19, the risk of housing insecurity grew as well as the occurrence of domestic violence experienced by Indigenous women. The pandemic brought to the forefront poor housing conditions, like overcrowding, and the adverse effects on overall health and well-being.

Through the Social Services Relief Fund (SSRF), OAHS administered funds to ensure that those experiencing homelessness, as well as, Indigenous women and their families, escaping violence and human trafficking, were safe, supported, and able to self-isolate.

OAHS was proactive in continually redefining priorities and approaches to maximize responsiveness to community needs as the pandemic waged on. This year compelled OAHS to reconsider the housing priorities and solutions required to meet the current and emerging needs of urban Indigenous peoples. These considerations will be prioritized as we begin to formalize a new five-year strategic plan.

As this year closes, OAHS looks back proudly on many accomplishments and lessons learned. OAHS also looks forward to continuing to implement leading-edge solutions in the design, development, and delivery of a continuum of culturally appropriate housing.

In unity,

Dr. Dawn Lavell-Harvard

Letter from our Board Treasurer

Joanne Meyer
Chief Operating Officer of the Métis
Nation of Ontario



In 2006, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing transferred the administration of the Rural and Native Housing (RNH) Program to Ontario Aboriginal Housing Support Services Corporation (OAHS). In 2020, and as a sign of strong operational performance, OAHS was entrusted with the administration of the Rural-Urban Indigenous Housing Program (RUIHP) for five years.

In 2020-21 fiscal year, OAHS delivered over \$28 Million in programs funded by the provincial government and rental activity generated more than \$13.6 Million in revenue. Our organization is responsible for delivering multiple provincial programs for Rural and

Urban Indigenous communities, including FIMUR, OPHI, ISHP, SSRF, and UNH.

COVID-19 has exacerbated the socio-economic hardships Indigenous households experience in Ontario, presenting additional financial challenges to access safe, adequate and culturally appropriate housing. During this period, OAHS leadership, community partners and network of service providers have expanded program capacity and direct services to First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities.

The new developments in Orillia, Sturgeon Falls, Sioux Lookout and Red Lake are examples of innovative solutions in providing affordable housing. These developments are providing housing units for Ontario's most vulnerable families, women and children fleeing violence, and those experiencing homelessness. OAHS has demonstrated success in maintaining and creating affordable housing units for urban and rural Indigenous peoples.

The audit report confirmed that OAHS has accomplished another year of incredible growth. Furthermore, the Board's direction is to continue the efforts to reduce economic dependency on government revenue

and to work towards becoming a self-sufficient organization.

The organization has reported their quarterly financial statements to the Board of Directors and shows strong financial and asset management. Reserves for 2021 reached over \$15 Million, and capital assets have an estimated current value of \$547 Million. OAHS amalgamated with Neech-ke-Wehn Homes Inc. and Niwaaki'igannaanind Aboriginal Housing, two Indigenous affordable housing providers in Sault Ste. Marie into the OAHS portfolio this year. The primary assets acquired are 81 properties, representing 126 housing units, with an estimated value of approximately \$19 Million.

All this has been possible thanks to our dedicated staff and community partners. A special thanks to our departing Chair, Sylvia Maracle, who guided OAHS to becoming the leading indigenous housing organization at the provincial level and an advocate for affordable Indigenous housing in federal housing policy development. delivery of sustainable housing projects that reflect the strategic goals and values of Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services.

Sincerely,

Joanne Meyer

Letter from our Chief Executive Officer

Justin Marchand
CEO, Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services



While the world has faced an unprecedented year in modern history, this past year has only highlighted the continued, ugly disparity in housing outcomes for Indigenous people living in urban and rural areas compared to the general Canadian population. While the pandemic undoubtedly created hardships and suffering, it must be acknowledged that hardships for many of the people we serve and have yet to serve have existed long before the pandemic started.

During the pandemic, OAHS was fortunate to have received significant incremental Provincial support via the Social Services Relief Fund. Due to the

capacity and strength of our governing organizations (MNO, ONWA, and OFIFC) as well as our network with Urban Native Housing and other Indigenous service providers, we were collectively able to successfully get resources to those most in need across the province. The Board's direction supported nimble and effective responses.

Our Chair, Sylvia Maracle, has a seat at the National Housing Council and is providing advice to the Minister on many issues, including the implementation of an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy. Also, with the Board's full support, yours truly was selected for CMHC's Indigenous Advisory Council. These are important roles at a time when a Parliamentary Committee unanimously agreed in May 2021 on the need for an Urban, Rural and Northern Indigenous Housing Strategy.

Looking forward to the new year, we will have an updated Strategic Plan that will provide renewed direction from our Board; we will build new, mutually-beneficial partnership models with Municipalities; we will work for continued growth with the Province of Ontario; and we will push

for a commitment from a Federal Government who can no longer ignore the realities of Indigenous people who are living in urban and rural areas.

Our teachings tell us that respect and working together in service for our fellow human beings is what Creator hopes we can do. There is, of course, much work to do and more work than any of us can do alone. Working together, in unity, as our Elders tell us, is how we should move forward in 'a good way.'

Chi' Miigwetch to our entire Board for your incredible support; Chi' Miigwetch to all our colleagues and team members at OAHS; and Chi' Miigwetch to Creator for allowing us the opportunity to serve.

All My Relations,

Justin

OAHS Programs



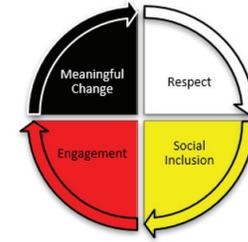
OPHI Homeownership Program

Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) Ontario Renovates 2020/2022 Homeownership Program component aims to assist low to moderate income off-reserve Indigenous renter households to purchase affordable homes by providing down payment and closing cost assistance in the form of a forgivable loan. Funding is provided as a down payment and closing cost assistance loan for eligible purchasers. Assistance is forgiven in full after 20 years.



OPHI Home Repair Program

Ontario Priorities Housing Initiative (OPHI) Ontario Renovates 2020/2022 Home Repair Program is a forgivable loan program that will assist low to moderate income Indigenous homeowner households to repair their primary and sole residence to bring them to acceptable standards while improving the energy efficiency of the unit. Eligible repairs and funding (to a maximum of \$25,000) will be determined on a case-by-case basis considering overall program priorities.



Mkaana'aawii-giwe-aad (Finding Their Way Home) Program

The Mkaana-wii-giwe'aad (Finding Their Way Home) Program uses a cultural approach to help people find housing. We believe that a strong sense of culture is important for healing and identity and our team helps to provide culturally-appropriate assessment tools guided by Indigenous knowledge holders and experts in the field of supportive housing and help others on their journey of finding a home.

With an Indigenous approach, cultural assessments, and medicine wheel teachings, we aim to guide and help members of our program through their journey to housing. By setting goals, advocating for others' behalves and working together, our program is there to help. We also make referrals to local Indigenous agencies, provide access to traditional healing services and even house our own cultural program and events.

Currently provided in Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins, and Sudbury,

Our variety of programming offers everything from cultural activities to "Lunch & Learn" sessions. Here's just a few examples of the activities that we provide:

- Financial Planning
- Warrior Within
 - Smudging
 - Fishing
- Visits to Sweat Lodges and more!

Helping Our Community

- 275** #people served through Mkaana'aawii-giwe-aad Programs
- 58** #people housed through OPHI Homeownership Program
- 57** #houses repaired through OPHI Home Repair Program
- 241** #people housed through our Direct Developments
- 1330** #people housed through all housing programs

Our Story: OAHS's New Internal Maintenance Program



The OAHS Property Maintenance program in partnership with the OFIFC launched in March of 2019 and has seen great success. In co-operation with the Apatisiwin program, we have focused on breaking down barriers and providing meaningful employment to individuals identified communities served by OAHS and the Ontario Indigenous Friendship Centres. The program started with 4 participants in Sault Ste. Marie and a year later has branched out to 4 locations with soon to be over 20 individuals employed. The original 4 participants completed their 52-week program and have all been offered employment both internally and externally resulting in a 100% success rate to date.

The Property Maintenance Program focuses on both classroom and hands-on training in all areas of maintenance and renovations. Participants gain knowledge and experience on how to perform residential repairs and renovations while also completing basic property maintenance tasks. Examples of skills taught are flooring, painting, drywall, basic plumbing, and much more.

By the end of the 52 weeks, the participants will have a long list of qualifications to add to their resumes to help make them more employable.

Participants are also offered training on entrepreneurship, which means those who complete the 52 weeks and wish to start their own business will be added on as vendors for OAHS immediately. This program not only benefits the participants involved but also the community we serve daily. The program helps increase our presence and maintenance on our units at a substantially lower cost, which results in substantial cost savings. On average we have seen a savings of approximately \$30,000 in maintenance and repair costs per month in each portfolio. Those savings totaled over 4 portfolios translate into almost \$1.5 million per year and will likely only increase with time and experience. The money saved is re-invested into the repair and upkeep of our units and towards supporting this program long-term. Upon completion of the 52-week program, participants may have employment opportunities with Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services; in the housing or Property Management field, trades; entrepreneurship as a vendor for OAHS; or furthering their education at the post-secondary level or through apprenticeship programs. Given this is just the first year for the program, we expect the success, savings, and growth of the Internal

Maintenance program to continue to improve with each cohort. A special thanks to Paris Kizzy from the OFIFC, Scott McCabe of OAHS, and all those involved at the local centres, which have helped push this program forward to being such a success.



*Pictured:
Members of the Internal Maintenance team working hard on renovations of a unit in Sault Ste. Marie.*



Our Story: OAHS and the Community Energy Champion Program



*Pictured:
Rob Hargin and
Brian Akiwenzie
looking at energy
levels in a reno-
vated OAHS unit.*

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, is pleased that Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) staff have worked diligently with OAHS enabling us to take advantage of IESO's Community Energy Champion Program (CEC) and the Education and Capacity Building Program (ECB).

IESO's CEC Program provides funding support to First Nation and Métis communities and organizations to hire a designated community energy champion to help plan, implement and evaluate energy-related priorities. The ECB Program provides funding to support awareness, education, skills, and capacity-building initiatives. It helps prepare First Nation and Métis communities and organizations to take advantage of opportunities to contribute to cleaner, more reliable, and more affordable energy systems and includes four areas of focus: community capacity-building initiatives; skill-building and project-readiness training; and innovative projects and initiatives relating to the ECB Program objective.

A Community Energy Plan (CEP) helps to improve energy efficiency and reduce electricity consumption at the community level. It also helps communities consider opportunities for renewable energy solutions, and can promote a greater interest, awareness, and understanding about energy planning. This program can support development of new community energy plans and updating existing community energy plans.

Total funding approval of \$1,425,000.00 to date has provided OAHS with the opportunity to restructure our Technical Services Department and develop a new Energy Team, to work closely with our Maintenance, Technical Services, and other staff across Ontario to better serve our clientele. The addition of four Community Energy Champion positions, four Tenant Assistant Program Representatives, an Energy Team Supervisor, and an Energy Team Training Plan are invaluable and ensure OAHS's participation in the energy sector in a way that is consistent with our cultural and environmental values.

Peggy Rice, Policy Analyst at OAHS comments that "The staff at IESO are an absolute pleasure to work with. The commitment, flexibility, respect, and collaboration they demonstrate is commendable."

Dan Gartshore, Technical Services Manager, adds that "OAHS is extremely excited to be a part of two amazing programs offered through IESO. We cannot overstate the positive impacts expected as

a result of the Community Energy Program and the Education and Capacity Building Program. With rising utility costs and economic instability tied to COVID-19, the need for cost-saving measures in housing could not be more significant."

"OAHS is doing important work to provide safe, affordable, and energy-efficient housing to its clients," said Terry Young, Interim President and CEO of Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO). "Establishing and implementing an Energy Team with the help of IESO funding through the Energy Support Programs (ESP) will enable the organization to acquire new skills, expand green energy initiatives and improve the built environment."

OAHS also welcomes and appreciates the opportunity to contribute to IESO's commitment to its relationships with Indigenous peoples, while building organizational energy capacity. Gartshore adds, "Through education and improvements, we believe our Energy Plan will take major strides towards reducing energy costs both short and long term for the thousands of people we serve. Not only will these programs have an immediate impact on our tenants but also create employment educate staff, reduce emissions and extend the life cycle of our units that are so desperately needed."



Our Story: The Don McBain Memorial Award



The idea of providing a helping hand to the future leaders of the province has come to fruition. The Don McBain Memorial Award's first annual scholarship fund opened in April of 2021 to all Indigenous secondary students in Ontario.

Motivated by the cherished memory of the late OAHS Executive Director Don McBain, an enthusiastic planning committee comprised of his family and OAHS staff was formed to set the framework in motion for the establishment of a nationally distributed student award in his name. Under the leadership of Don's daughter, Sarah (OAHS's Communication Specialist), the Don McBain Memorial Award Committee was created allowing for Indigenous students entering their first year of postsecondary education to compete for two \$5,000 awards.

Don was the driving force behind the establishment of OAHS which was incorporated in 1994 and had a positive impact on the lives of everyone he encountered. Don worked tirelessly for decades carrying out OAHS's mission and vision. During his tenure, OAHS grew from a developing agent into a multi-faceted Corporation employing over 80 people while owning and administering a portfolio

of over 2,400 safe and affordable housing units while designing and delivering both repair and homeownership program opportunities.

This award was made possible by OAHS and generous contributions from our contracting partner CGV Builders. Bobby Vezeau, Vice President of the company, started working with Don back in 2010 in CGV's town of Cochrane. "At the time I was a young design builder with some experience but not a whole lot. Don, Justin [Executive Director at OAHS], and I met for lunch...My impression of Don following our first meeting is very easy to remember, he was an honorable man," Vezeau said. "His efforts in building such a strong foundation to OAHS is in my opinion the reason why this group remains strong today."

Heather Edwards, a committee member of the Award, states that "We are grateful to the sponsors for their generous contributions that allowed us to create this award in the name of someone so treasured by all who knew him and those who benefited from his dedication to improving the lives of Indigenous families. We know that Don's spirit is proudly watching over the selection process to ensure that the most deserving candidates

receive this special funding."



*Pictured:
The late founder and Executive Director of OAHS, Don
McBain.*



*Pictured:
A social media post made for the Don McBain Memorial Award.*

Our Story: Joining Forces with Neech-ke-Wehn Homes



The goal of providing safe, affordable housing for Indigenous people in the community of Baawating, also known as Sault Ste. Marie, has been a shared mission amongst local providers Neech-ke-Wehn Homes Inc. and Niwaakai'iganaanind Aboriginal Housing, and the locally-founded provincial provider Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS).

Recognizing that common goal, Neech-ke-Wehn Homes and Niwaakai'iganaanind Aboriginal Housing have come together with OAHS to continue to sustain and grow that goal in our community. As of (date), OAHS will amalgamate with Neech-ke-Wehn and Niwaakai'iganaanind by taking ownership of their 126 units in the Baawating area to ensure the continuity of safe, affordable and Indigenous-led housing services for the people and tenants they will collectively serve.

Neech-ke-Wehn Homes and Niwaakai'iganaanind Aboriginal Housing have been in the Baawating community since 1982, and will continue their work as local Urban Indigenous Housing providers in the area in collaboration with OAHS. Carolyn Harrington, a founding member and Board Chair for both housing providers says, "Our community ties, skills in service provision, and friendship have

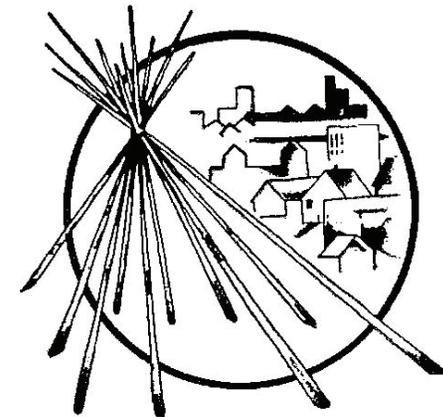
grown through the years; as well as our close relationship with OAHS."

Sylvia Maracle, Board Chair of OAHS, is excited about the partnership. "Urban Indigenous Housing and the provision of related services is successful when administered by Urban Indigenous organizations. The collaboration between Neech-ke-Wehn Homes, Niwaakai'iganaanind Aboriginal Housing and Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services is a great example of community-based organizations coming together to enhance long-term services for the people we serve."

OAHS, Neech-ke-Wehn Homes, and Niwaakai'iganaanind Aboriginal Housing have been in partnerships before, and this endeavour will only enhance their respectful relationship and collaboration. We know that at least 37% of the people experiencing homelessness in Sault Ste. Marie are Indigenous despite 12% of the population identifying as Indigenous. We look forward to working with the City of Sault Ste. Marie on strategies to reduce and eliminate this disparity in Housing outcomes for Indigenous people living in Sault Ste. Marie.

In partnership, OAHS, Neech-ke-Wehn

Homes, and Niwaakai'iganaanind Aboriginal Housing are thrilled to serve existing tenants, to serve future tenants and for the health and well-being of Indigenous people living in Baawating, Sault Ste. Marie.



Developments

Orillia



Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services and its Direct Member Organization the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) acquired a container-built housing development in Orillia, Ontario in February of 2021. Both organizations in partnership with the use of the provincial government's Social Services Relief Fund purchased two innovative apartment buildings consisting of repurposed shipping containers for families and individuals fleeing violence, and those experiencing homelessness and hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

February 9, 2021 marked our first virtual housing announcement with Minister Steve Clark of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing regarding our ownership of 27 new units in Orillia, Ontario with OAHS becoming the owners and MNO becoming property managers. The announcement featured Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues and MPP for Simcoe North, our fearless leader Justin Marchand, Joanne Meyer, Treasurer of our Board and Chief Operating Officer of the Métis Nation of Ontario, and Steve Clarke, Mayor of Orillia.

Cathy Connor, our Programs Manager approached the developer in Orillia who says, "A news article caught my attention about a container-built housing development. It was serendipitous that I looked, that it was being developed by a contractor OAHS has worked with, and that occupancy was not completed. The rest is history as OAHS decided to inquire about purchase price so we could immediately house Indigenous people."

Sturgeon Falls



This new direct development is part of the Indigenous Supportive Housing Program that will consist of 14 one and two-bedroom townhouses with support services. This development was designed by Northern Shield Development Corporation who built our North Bay Net-Zero housing development in 2018. Other partners include the Municipality of West Nipissing, the Alberta Rural Development Network (ARDN), the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the National Co-Investment Fund.

This development will help up to 20 individuals in their journey to safe and affordable housing in the area, with completion to occur in July of 2021.

Developments

Sioux Lookout



This development in Sioux Lookout provides 30 units of one- to three-bedroom apartments, along with common spaces and a variety of services through First Step Women's Shelter and Nishnawbe-Gamik Friendship Centre. This development began in construction in 2019, with its completion being in August of 2020. This was funded through the largest major public-private partnership that OAHS has worked on. The Government of Ontario funded \$4.5 million of the project, but additionally, OAHS sourced private financing of more than \$5 million to make this centre a reality with the Bank of Montreal.

Women and their families receive cultural and medical supports, as well as transportation to and from the Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre. These supports include traditional healing services and having Elders available for naming ceremonies. There's also medical care, lactation counseling and more. And for both mothers and their family members, there are educational and employment services and information available at the centre.

Red Lake



This development began in April 2019 with an occupancy date of July 2020. This 30-unit development features from over 20 one-bedroom units and a ranges up to 4-bedroom units over 4 separate buildings. All units are rented at affordable rates and were developed through OAHS Programs funding. Twenty of these units are also specifically designated as supportive housing for those who are chronically homeless. The total cost of construction was just over \$9 million.

Working in a Pandemic



It's been over a year since the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services team packed up their desks and transitioned into working from home. While this new normal has allowed for us to continue providing our services in our own homes are working remotely to serve our tenants and clients, this learning curve has show that adaptability is a new skillset for our organization. Our Response Team within the organization has continually met to provide resources, assess risk, and keep staff informed of any further updates regarding the pandemic.

Adaptability is key for any situation that may arise within an organization, but the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that this new journey or working together from home has allowed for a inward reflection and analysis of how many areas within our organization can be improved to better serve our community.

OAHS has also gone to great lengths to assist our tenants and clients to a great extent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the hard work of our team and funding provided through the provincial and federal governments, we have been able to provide rental supplements, personal protective equipment, and enforced strict COVID-19 health measures

when entering tenant and client homes to serve their needs while keeping everyone safe. At the core of OAHS, the health and safety of the community we serve is the most important.

The growth of our organization during this pandemic should not be understated. During this unprecedented time, OAHS has grown to include 3 developments with 87 units, meaning we've amassed over 240 new individuals and families, a total of 1,330 individuals through all of our housing opportunities, and we have gained a total of 18 new employees in various departments to meet the developing needs within the organization. For the growing need of safe and affordable housing during this pandemic, it is fitting that this growth comes at a time when the need is greater than ever.

As the pandemic is still present, hope is in the air with lowering cases and greater vaccination rates. However, the need persists for many when acquiring safe and affordable housing, and OAHS is prepared to address and serve as many future tenants and clients as possible while sustaining and forming partnerships, advocating for Indigenous communities. As we continue to evolve and adapt, working through the COVID-19 pandemic

715 *#people helped through COVID-19 with rent supplements*

250 *#people helped with arrears through provincial aid programs during the pandemic*

has proven that OAHS is ready to tackle any obstacle while continuing to provide outstanding service.



Pictured: Case Managers of the Mkaana'aawii-giwe-aad Program finding local resources and preparing food for clients affected by COVID-19.





Ontario
Aboriginal
Housing Services