

HOTINOHSIONI INC.

BRANTFORD NATIVE HOUSING

2021 - 2022

**AGM REPORT**



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# MANDATE

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To provide safe, secure and affordable housing to low income Native families living in Brantford.

# VISION

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All Indigenous People will have safe, supported, affordable housing

# MISSION STATEMENT

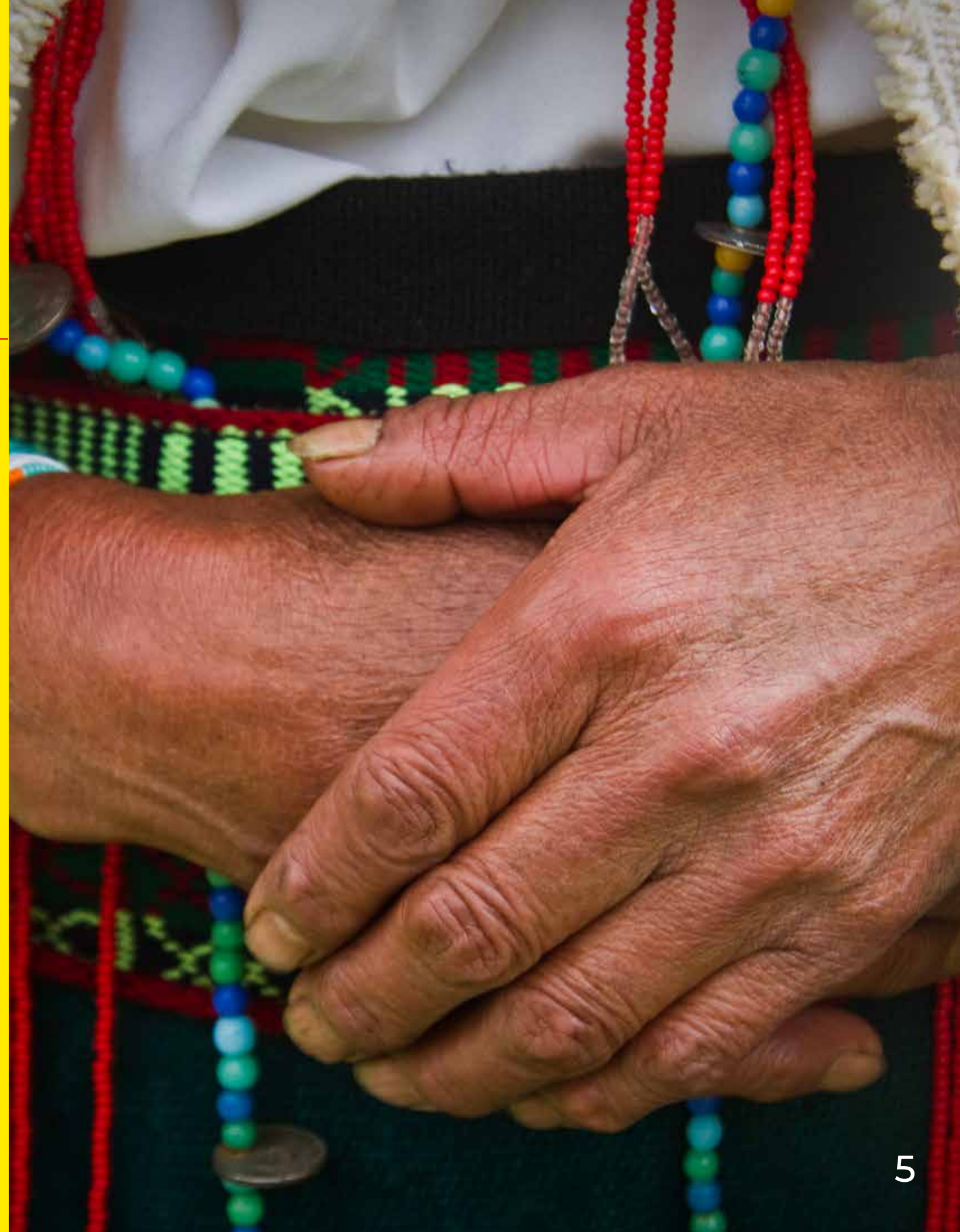
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Brantford Native Housing provides a continuum of housing services including:

- Transitional housing
- Rent geared to income housing
- Affordable home ownership

We provide culturally appropriate support services & referrals such as:

- Health Education
- Life skills
- Legal navigation
- Personal development



# Value Statements

## LEADERSHIP

We will inspire and motivate our community towards a vision of safe, supported and affordable housing. This includes a self-awareness of how all our actions will further the vision of the organization. We will provide clear direction of our goals and objectives and empower our employees and community to take initiative and offer solutions.

## INTEGRITY

We will conduct ourselves with honour, honesty and fairness and align our actions with our words. We will demonstrate our commitment to this value in our work ethic and the provision of equitable services. This will create an environment of trust among community, staff and stakeholders.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

We will accept responsibility for the achievement of the mission of the organization. We will regularly evaluate our path, acknowledge our success and identify areas for growth. This will result in responsible, informed decision-making that demonstrates high quality service to our community.

## RESPECT

We will treat all employees, clients and stakeholders with dignity. We will value the diversity of culture, skills, backgrounds, perspectives and ideas of our community and staff. This will result in a nurturing, compassionate and respectful environment, which will contribute towards the achievement of our mission.

## COMMUNICATION

We will willingly disseminate information and also seek input, listen and consider the feedback and suggestions from others. Communication will be done honestly, respectfully and with compassion, and people will take ownership of their words and actions. Transparent communication will result in a collaborative environment facilitating effective teamwork

# HISTORY

## 1986

- Acquired 10 units
- Staffing: Project Manager and 3 trainees, tenant relations, maintenance, and administration

## 1989

- Acquired office (440-318) for both administration and head office
- Achieved charitable status
- CMHC started to wind down; time to look for other funding opportunities

## 1990

- Acquired 20 units from province with a Native mandate
- To combat racist NIMBY attitudes, the home was often purchased using Chel Niro's name, and then was turned over to the organization.

## 1993

- CMHC closed: Most other organizations stopped growing their housing stock
  - Not BNH
- Acquired 85 units
- Started to host beadwork classes
- Started the Touch the Earth home improvement contest

## 1994

- Created Brant Native Homes Incorporated
- Was to acquire 40 units: Mike Harris cancelled
- Got funding; acquired 4 units
- Hosted regalia workshops

## 2000

- Bought 8-unit apartment building using funds from the Niagara...board
- Sat on Brantford's Affordable Housing Strategy
- Using tax funding, bought 2 houses, sold 1 and bought land
- Became a property manager for Canada Mortgage Rural and Native Housing Program
  - RRAP
  - Homelessness Program

## 2003

- Did a feasibility study on transitional housing
- Started looking at the continuum of housing from streets to home ownership

## 2006

- Pinetree Friendship Centre closed
- OFIFC asked us to take on programs (AHWS, anger management, court workers, etc.)
- Got 3 year allocation for \$1million
- Tried men's transitional housing, but closed – not enough staff to manage it appropriately
- Increased proposal writing looking for new funding

## 2007

- Opened Ojistoh House, 3 units with 14 beds; shelter and transitional housing for women. Graduates who successfully complete the program go into regular housing stock

## 2009

- Reputation exploded
- Amalgamated Hotinohsioni Incorporated and Brant Native Homes Incorporated
- Acquired 6 units on Walnut; turned \$400,000 investment into \$800,000 asset
- Created jobs
- OAHS Acquired 10 units
- Acquired second half of building
- Moved head office to Woodland Cultural Centre

## 2012 TO 2014

- A 10 unit Affordable Housing Project was developed which allowed for the purchase and renovation of 6 apartments and allowed for the expansion of our current office space.
- A 24 unit project was developed which included construction of a 17 unit building for older adults, a purchase/renovation project which includes 5 acre property converted to Transitional Housing for 4 men.

## 2016

- Contract to service the Rural and Native Housing (RNH) Program ended.

## 2017

- Moved head office to Oneida Business Park, Ohsweken

## 2018

- Moved Head Office from Ohsweken to Colborne Street, Brantford.
- Provided letter of support for Friendship Centre Steering Committee
- City of Brantford offered to sell CN lands abutting 19 Walnut St but BNH decided not to pursue due to lands being too small to allow substantial redevelopment, but will increase property tax.
- Decision to phase out Social Programming during the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
- Sub-committee was formed consisting of 2 Board members and Executive Director.
- Rented office space to BRISC, the new Friendship Centre as they begin their operations.
- Received funding from INAC (Urban Programming for Indigenous People) to continue staffing for Youth Cultural Co-ordinator).
- Rented office space to Niwasa and to utilize a shared space in the basement of 318 Colborne St.
- Contract with Habitat for Humanity for them to renovate property at 51 Allenby to provide upgrades and repairs.

## 2020

- Agreement signed with OAHS for a Youth Transitional Housing Program.
- BNH converted the existing Men's Transitional home to a 6-bedroom home to be used as the Youth Transitional home. The Men's Transitional home was relocated to 213 Chatham Street.
- Received \$75,000 from Rogers Foundation for Transitional Housing Program participants. Also received funding through the Reaching Home program from OFIFC to provide supports for tenants and community related to Pandemic.

## 2021

- Sold property located at 65 Buffalo Street, Brantford.
- Received funding from OFIFC to develop land at 13 Leonard Street and build a Family Transitional home. Contracted ANC to build 2 units at 13 Leonard Street for Family Transitional Housing.

## 2022

- The family transitional house opens and is fully operational
- Build 67 Eighth Ave to a three bed room home downstairs and one bed room accessible house at the bottom

Through a culture-based approach that addresses the holistic needs of clients, Brantford Native Housing provides outreach services and permanent housing to Indigenous men, women, youth and families experiencing homelessness in Brantford. Brantford Native Housing also prioritizes providing outreach and support services to our Indigenous Community in general.

Brantford Native Housing ensures that Indigenous people experiencing homelessness have access to a continuum of culturally appropriate supports. Among these supports is the provision of stable, safe, and affordable housing. Brantford Native Housing also provides assistance and support for the folks who access services, helping them to achieve their personal goals and aspirations.

Brantford Native Housing is a community organization with proven practices in integrated culturally relevant social service delivery.

Brantford Native Housing is a compassionate and safe environment, and an organization that addresses the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs to its clients. It also provides them with opportunities to develop skills, knowledge and confidence.

## OJISTOH HOUSE WOMEN TRANSITIONAL HOUSE

Ojistoh House is Brantford Native Housing's transitional home for Indigenous women who are motivated to begin their journey toward balance. At least 50% of the family (female applicants bringing children) must be of Indigenous ancestry.

This community-based healing house offers programs and supports in an environment of safety, healing, and togetherness. The main objective of programming and living at Ojistoh House is addressing intergenerational trauma, root causes of domestic violence, and chronic homelessness.

With the goal of reducing recidivism, the programs healing practice is anchored in traditional cultural supports and one-on-one case management, including counselling, and life-skills development. Brantford Native Housing encourages participants to identify and achieve their personal goals. This is done by providing wrap-around services that include planning for the transition to independent living, education regarding affordable housing support services, financial supports, and aftercare programming.

Since launching Ojistoh House in 2007, we have celebrated a number of successful graduations. Brantford Native Housing is privileged to maintain a strong supportive relationship within our sisterhood. Graduates leave strengthened by community and a sense of belonging that continues long after they have graduated.



Ojistoh House is for Aboriginal women with or without children who are experiencing homelessness or are at-risk of homelessness

# KARAHKWA HOUSE

## NEN'S TRANSITIONAL HOUSE

This program offers Indigenous men safe, supportive housing and a culture-based learning environment to develop the skills they need to succeed as strong, self-confident, and self-sufficient men in the broader urban environment.

The transitional housing program provides accommodation for 4 residents in self-contained units. Upon starting the program there is a mandatory Life Skills course. There is a gathering place, and a sweat lodge available for the residents' use. Residents may participate in the program for up to one year and are expected to actively work with staff toward achieving the goals identified in their personal care plan.



Men applying to live or living in K-House must be of Indigenous ancestry.

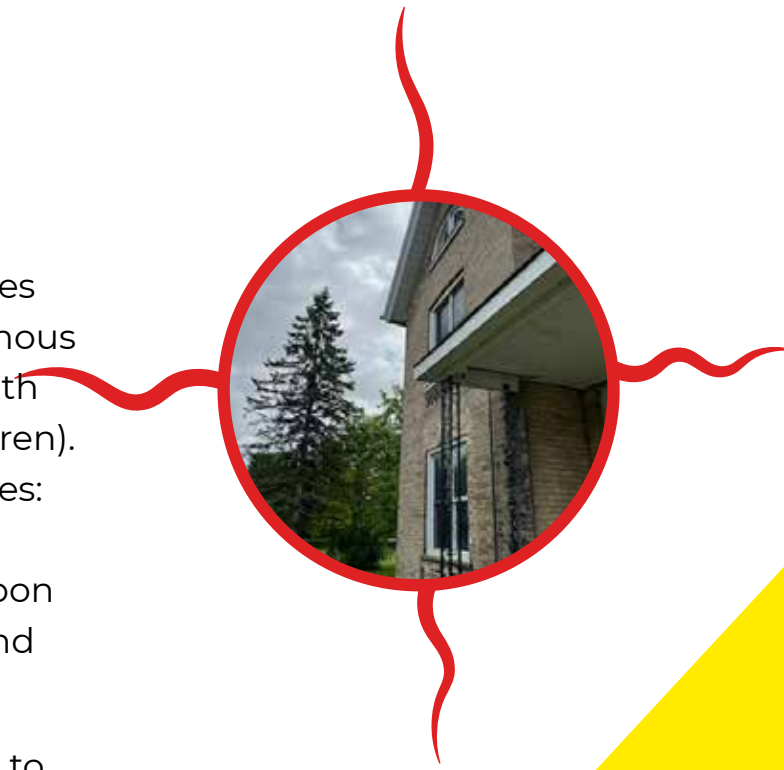
# EHNITA HOUSE

## YOUTH TRANSITIONAL HOUSE

Our transitional housing program provides transitional housing supports for Indigenous youth ages from 16- 21 to Indigenous youth (men and women with our without children). Our transitional housing program provides: 24-hour on site staff support, one to one case management, after-care support upon graduation, food and laundry facilities, and cultural support and care.

Aboriginal women with children are able to access housing supports in a safe and healing environment with programming grounded in culture.

The staff are there to provide cultural appropriate support and guidance as they transition from young adults to adult hood.



Youth are required to participate in life skills programs and are encouraged to finish their education or obtain employment in order to help them thrive in their journey to living in an urban setting.

# ODEHAOT HOUSE 2022

## FAMILY TRANSITIONAL HOUSE

Brantford Native Housing Family Transitional Units offers accommodation to families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. All services and supports are geared towards assisting families in achieving sustainable housing and greater stability in the community. Brantford Native Housing staff recognizes that each family has unique needs and strengths. All of our services support families in building on those strengths to achieve their short and longer term goals. We strive to provide a welcoming, safe environment where families in transition can overcome the barriers they face in finding and sustaining housing

Brantford Native Housing Staff work closely with families to help them identify and access the resources required to find housing and build effective support networks that will enhance their quality of life in our community. In addition to temporary accommodation, a full range of supports including emergency food and clothing, housing assistance, supportive counseling, advocacy, and referral to community services are available.

The Family Transitional house offers private, accessible, family accommodation in the form of, self-contained bachelor, 1, and 2 bedroom apartment units. Each unit has a private kitchen, washroom, living/dining room and bedroom(s) and washer and dryers to further provide privacy to our families.



At least 50% of the family must be of Indigenous ancestry in order to qualify to live in O-House.

## CULTURAL SUPPORT

We offer a variety of classes, workshops, information sessions, and other resources for the Urban Indigenous population of Brantford to connect or reconnect with culture. These supports include Sweat Lodge Ceremonies, Language Classes, Craft Classes and many others. Workshops and information sessions are determined by need and or request.



# RENTAL HOUSING

## URBAN NATIVE FEDERAL HOUSING PROGRAM

We own and operate **84 units** through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) Urban Native Housing Program. Rents are subsidized to 25% of the combined family income.

## PROVINCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM

We own and operate **20 units** through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Tenants are selected from the Coordinated Access System who meet program criteria for assisted housing and our mandate of Native ancestry. Rents are subsidized to 30% of combined family income.

## NON-GOVERNMENT HOUSING PROGRAM

We manage **14 units** (4 one-bedroom apartments, 8 two-bedroom apartments, 2 Triplexes and 1 single-family home).

## FIRST NATION, INUIT, METIS URBAN AND RURAL PROGRAM (FIMUR)

This program is designed, delivered, and administered by and for Indigenous people living off-reserve across Ontario. The program offers Affordable and Market Rent units.



# STATS

The following reflects the number of people that have used the food services BNH provides. We operate a homeless food service window, where snacks are shared with the community.

**MARCH 2021**

**Direct-service users**

AGE RANGE	MALE	FEMALE	
0 - 11	124	239	100%
12 - 14	120	72	98%
15 - 17	53	73	77%
18 - 24	235	280	85%
25 - 30	373	631	95%
31 - 64	198	1104	98%
65+	58	65	
	1051	2464	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3515</b>		

Similar to our mission to combat food insecurity and provide support to the homeless population, we also provide them with access to general items so they can shower, and practice basic hygiene. We have provided these basic necessities to the Indigenous community at large as well.

## Social Well Being

	DSU
Advocacy	850
Access to house set up	132
Housing services support	272
Clothing/hygiene items	966
Counselling - one to one and or peer support	825
Engaged in recreational or cultural programs or services	188
Experienced positive changes in social participation*	42
Food provision-food vouchers, food baskets	4369
Housing Search	89
Life Skills Training	257
Transportation	1768

## Transitioning

This reflects the number of direct-service users who transitioned this quarter. Transitioning refers to moving from unstable or unsafe living situation into one of the BNH transitional homes.

	TRANSITIONAL HOUSING
Street to	72
Emergency shelter to	56
Hidden homelessness to	87

## Transitional house numbers that we have supported

WOMEN

17

MEN

10

YOUTH

10

FAMILIES

3

CHILDREN

24

This is a new type of Transitional housing for families so they are not separated

with their families that we have supported

TOTAL BNH UNITS

186

OCCUPIED UNITS

180

UNITS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

6





## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REMARKS

It has been a distinct privilege to service the community as Brantford Native Housing's Executive Director. It has been a challenging year for our staff and myself alike, particularly given that we have been working in person offering services to our clients during this pandemic. I am amazed by the Brantford Native Housing staff, and their commitment to continue providing high quality, meaningful services to the community, and delivering these services in person throughout this pandemic.

I am proud that Brantford Native Housing has extended our reach by increasing our services throughout Brantford to better serve Indigenous people experiencing homelessness. This functions to bridge the gap between transitional housing and long-term housing for our community. Brantford Native Housing now provides street outreach services to homeless Indigenous people, supporting the folks who are most vulnerable and in need.

Since 2007, we have been operating Transitional Housing for women, men, and youth. This year we opened our first Family Transitional House. This home is the first of its kind in Brantford, and we are proud to be supporting our families in this way. No family should ever be separated in order to survive.

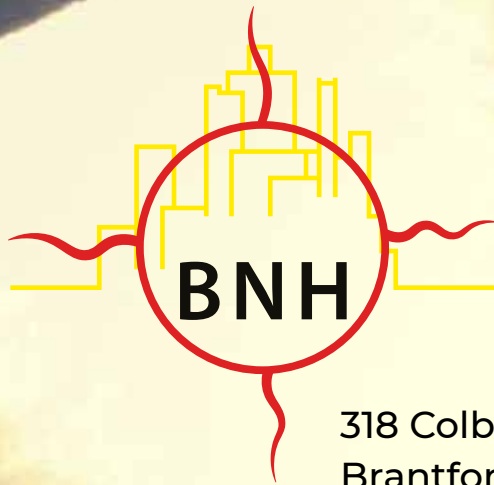
Additionally, we are working towards building a new Transitional House for women, children and two-spirited folks exiting violent situations. This new development will mean that Brantford Native Housing will be able to open the doors to more people seeking support who are experiencing or have experienced gender-based violence.

Furthermore, we have been able to build a duplex that has increased our housing capacity and ability to house more urban Indigenous people in our community.

I would like to extend my utmost gratitude to the BNH staff. When I think of the seven grandfathers teaching, I think of the teaching around bravery. The organization's staff have demonstrated this quality by coming to work and providing services to those who need it, day after day, throughout a very difficult time.

The future of Brantford Native Housing looks promising, as we continue to grow our Transitional Housing programs, increase our affordable housing units for our community, and provide high quality, practical support services rooted in an Indigenous cultural lens.

I would like to say miigwech to our circle of supporters and stakeholders. Specifically, my sincere thanks extends to Brantford Native Housing's wonderful Board of Directors, staff, funders and donors. Brantford Native Housing would not be able to provide support to the community that it has all these years without your work, support and dedication.



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Brantford Native Housing gratefully acknowledges the following financial supporters

