

# Native Women's Transition Centre Inc.



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105 Aikins Street  
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Online: [nativewomens.mb.ca](http://nativewomens.mb.ca)



37th Annual Report  
2015 - 2016



## Facilities Overview

Since 1979, the Native Women's Transition Centre Inc. (NWTC) has worked to support and strengthen Aboriginal women and mothers on their journey of healing and recovery from family violence, addictions, intergenerational issues and institutionalization.

NWTC is comprised of three residential facilities with up to 60 beds. All facilities provide long term safe housing, access to programs and cultural activities.

### NWTC at 105 Aikins Street

NWTC has 21 beds and is a voluntary safe home that provides full time in-house programs such as a resident circle, practical skills, relapse prevention, parenting, healthy relationships, and family violence prevention. NWTC is considered a first stage facility.

### Memengwaa Place at 116 Robinson Street

Memengwaa is a second stage residential facility intended for women who are transitioning out of first stage. It provides women and their children an independent living environment while still having access to support that NWTC provides.

### Kihiw Iskewock - Eagle Women's Lodge at 667 Ellice Avenue

EWL is focused on housing and supporting women who are involved in the justice system. In house programs such as resident circles, life skills, and counselling services are provided to the residents.

## Sacred Life

My heartbreak showed me through the door  
Pain overwhelmed my spirit & seeped from my pores  
From the beginning the goal that filled my mind  
Was to never leave my children behind  
I challenged myself to face my hurts & fears  
Prayed for the courage that flowed through my tears  
The women blanketed me with support & love  
Clearly, a sign sent from the Great Spirit above  
I genuinely love all the women for believing in me  
Because there was no other way that I could see  
The self-love & true respect that I live by today  
Will forever protect me & my Red Road Way  
All the strength & kindness I have within  
My past is now accepted & my happiness shall begin  
The love I have for my children is clear  
Being with them is finally coming near  
I thank the Creator for the lessons I've learned  
For tomorrows successes that I've earned

## Who I Am

I am a Mother  
I am a Grandmother  
I am an Auntie  
I am a Sister  
I am a Cousin

I am a Friend  
I am Beautiful  
I am Loving  
I am Caring  
I am Honest

I am a Good Listener  
I am Easygoing

But Most of All

I am Me !!!

I Love Myself



Loretta Thomas

## Mission and Vision

The Native Women's Transition Centre is first and foremost a home for native women and their children. The Centre exist to support women who have been victimized; either in their interpersonal relationships or through systemic neglect and who are left without the resources to independently make the changes they feel are necessary.

Native Women's Transition Centre believes women and children have the right to:

Dignity, respect and caring

Make choices for themselves which affect their daily lives

Live in an environment that nurtures and confirms Native Identity and cultural values

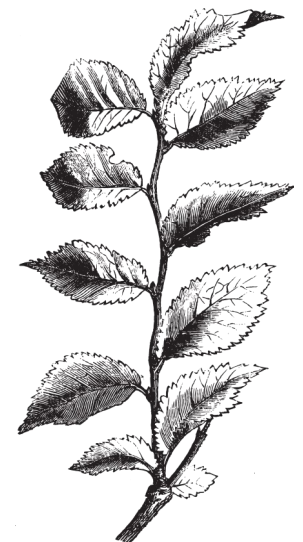


Our program and service philosophy is to strengthen and support Native Women to become self-sufficient.

## Board of Directors

Diane Redsky  
Tammy Christensen  
Trudy Martens  
Chantal Fiola  
Rosie O'Connor  
Kelly Holmes  
Sandra Delaronde  
Velma Orvis  
Gloria Nobis

Chairperson  
Vice-Chair  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Member  
Staff Rep





# Staff Native Women's Transition Centre, Memengwaa Place, Eagle Women's Lodge

Executive Director	Annetta Armstrong
Finance Officer	Maureen Campbell
Finance	Gudrun Antosh
Case Manager	Gloria Nobiss
Case Manager	Jen Boyle
Counsellor	Danielle Rocher-Guerts
Counsellor	Leah Stavem
Counsellor	Lisa Carrier
Outreach	Jo Jo Sutherland
Maintenance	Rick Crane
Housemom – Memengwaa	Gabriel Guimond
Site Manager – EWL	Denise Pelland
Peer Mentor – EWL	Julie Lepine
Case Manager – EWL	LoriAnn Tulk
Residential Support Worker	Jeanette Monkman
Residential Support Worker	Margaret Berthelette
Residential Support Worker	Darlene Anderson
Residential Support Worker	Gabriel Guimond
Residential Support Worker	Rosemary Land
Residential Support Worker – EWL	(Leona Soldier)
Residential Support Worker – EWL	Charmaine Gabriel
Residential Support Worker – EWL	Eileen Kriskovik
Residential Support Worker – EWL	Karen Thomas
Residential Support Worker – EWL	Joelle Eastman
Residential Support Worker – EWL	Linda Migwans

## Casuals NWTC & EWL

Jenilyn Bacay	Lydia Bushie	Edna Richard
Christine Bushie	Angela Myran	Shawna Kemble
Bonnie Thompson	Joan Hay	Sonya Fontaine
Edith Chalmers	Joyce Clyke	Beverley Patrick
Maryann Constant	Alicia Sarmiento	Ayanna Kapoor
Cynthia Courchene	Mary Sayesse	Caroline Clearsky
Veronica Van Horne	Danielle Houle	Nicole Lavoie
Gina Settee	Pat Desjarlais	Hilda Kent
Rachel Willan	Frances Clearwater	Darlene Azure
Josephine Fagnan	Taylor Armstrong-Boychuck	

**Elders**  
Betty & Jerry

**Auditor**  
Thornton & Co

**Childminders**  
Khalidah Abdulabbas  
Amanpreet Kaur  
Simranjit Kaur

## The Guiding Principles for NWTC staff are based on the Seven Sacred Teachings

### Respect

We need to acknowledge each others gifts and differences to work together for the women and the children.  
We need to treat each other the way we want to be treated, and the way we LIKE to be treated.  
We need to listen to each other, to hear the intent, without interrupting.  
We need to communicate! We need to deliver our messages in a good way; aware of our body language and our tone.  
We need to respect that we all have different beliefs.

### Humility

We need to acknowledge our mistakes and say sorry.  
We need to ask for help when we feel overwhelmed, acknowledging that we can't do everything by ourselves.  
We need to understand that we don't know everything. Sometimes we are right, but someone else may be more right.  
We need to be able to say a heartfelt sorry.  
We need to understand that we all come from different experiences.  
We need to acknowledge that there is always more to learn, and that we can be open to lifelong learning.  
We need to be accepting that all of us make mistakes.

### Love

We need to speak to each other from the heart.  
We need to encourage each other.  
We need to forgive each other.  
We need to be patient.

### Truth

We need to be truthful without being vindictive  
We need to be truthful without being mean.  
We need to be accountable for our own behaviours.

### Honesty

We need to work in an honourable way.  
We need to walk the talk.  
We need to acknowledge the feelings we have, including the difficult ones.

### Courage

We need to acknowledge that we all make mistakes and that we can learn from them.  
We need to let go of our negativity, take a risk, and trust each other.  
We need to own our own behaviours, and we need to continue to heal and grow.

### Wisdom

We need to forgive each other let it go.  
We need to practice these teachings every day.

# Funders

Province of Manitoba:  
 Department of Families  
 Child and Family Services  
 Community Engagement and Corporate Services  
 Employment and Income Assistance  
 Manitoba Housing Renewal Corporation (Manitoba Housing)  
 Healthy Living and Seniors  
 All Charities Campaign  
 Non-Profit Bed Bug Grant Program



The United Way of Winnipeg

Local Investment Toward Employment (LITE) (Christmas Hamper Campaign)

Correctional Services Canada

Canadian Women's Foundation (2015 Annual Campaign to end Violence Against Women)

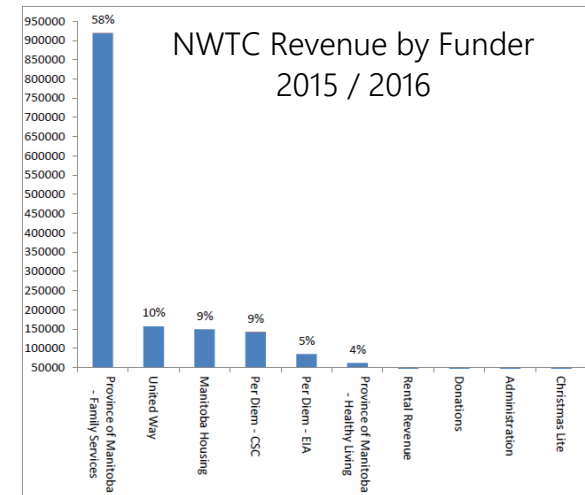
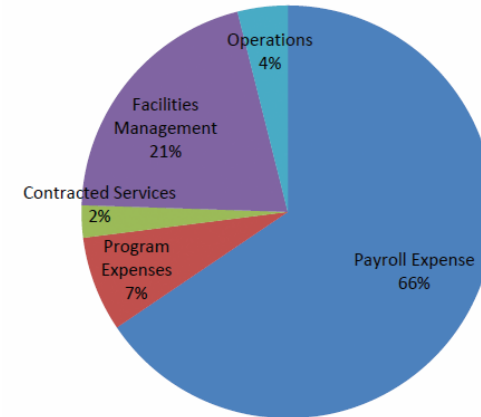
University of Manitoba

Businesses, organizations, and Individuals who have generously contributed:

Tom & Shirley Strutt  
 United Way  
 City of Winnipeg  
 Golden Door Geriatric Centre  
 David Burpee  
 Helen Armstrong  
 Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre  
 Blue Thunderbird  
 ANU Fertility Consulting Ltd.  
 Great Finds Fashion Accessories  
 City of Winnipeg (Citizen Equity Committee)  
 S. Walsh / L. Ludwig (in memory of R. O'Connor Mother)



NWTC Expenses by Cost Centre  
 2015 / 2016



## Message from the Chairperson

In February 2016, the Native Women's Transition Centre crossed a very important bridge in our life as an organization. We held a special meeting where five (5) Indigenous community leaders including our Elder Velma Orvis joined the existing Board of Directors to lead the organization into its next phase of hiring a permanent Executive Director, determining how the organization can best serve the evolving needs of our community and enhance partnerships with our sister organizations and funding partners.

This was made possible because of the leadership, love and support by former Board members, Sherri Walsh and Jackie Newton, Interim Executive Director Denise Pelland from the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre who led our organization through important traditional ceremonies meant to ground and strengthen our relationships with Board and Staff and our community and funding partners for your patience, understanding and support during our time of great change. We will be forever grateful to the group of seven Indigenous community leaders who stepped forward at a time when we needed the most and stepped aside to honor the important role community plays in our governance: Kelly Holmes, Sandra Delaronde, Tammy Christensen and Elder Velma Orvis. To the Board members who committed for the long haul, Rosie O'Connor, Trudy Martens and Chantal Fiola.....Gichi Meegwetch!

The future is bright for the Native Women's Transition Centre, Annetta Armstrong, newly appointed Executive Director brings her natural leadership and passion to our organization's programs with a deep sense of commitment to our staff, families and community. She brings more than 20 years of experience working with families in Winnipeg's inner city including being previously employed by the NWTC – welcome home!

Most importantly, we honor the women and children we have the gift to serve. We work very hard to create a safe, loving environment with lots of opportunities for healing, ceremony, laughter and supporting you on your journey. Thank you for trusting us and allowing us to be a part of your life.

in Friendship,  
Diane Redsky

## Message from the Executive Director

It is exciting to celebrate 37 years!

I am very honoured to become the Executive Director as of June 2016. This is my third time back at the Native Women's Transition Centre. I feel I have been away for too long and am excited to be given this opportunity to return to my family; my home.

I would like to acknowledge the Interim Board. You have proven to be true leaders in our community by stepping up to take the lead at an essential time. With much respect, thank you.

Thank you to all the funders who have continued to support the work of Native Women's. I appreciate the opportunity to move forward together as we provide service to women and mothers.

I would like to acknowledge the staff who have been essential to the success of the organization. Thank you for your commitment. This amazing team of staff work together every day to provide support and guidance to women who are trying to overcome systemic and multi-generational barriers. I am confident that this coming year will prove to be one of most transformative as we continue to work towards our philosophy that every woman has a right to live in a nurturing environment.

I would also like to acknowledge the residents. I am proud of you. I am proud that you are brave. I sincerely hope that the Native Women's Transition Centre can provide the support, structure and tools that you need to continue your journey in a good way.

This past year the Native Women's Transition Centre has proven to be incredibly resilient. I anticipate this coming year will be exciting and successful with our new Board and a renewed commitment from staff and community.

Respectfully,  
Annetta Armstrong