

Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK

Annual Report

2025 2026

Heart of the Community:

Listen

Connect

Support

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Opening by the Vice-President

Since 2008, the NETWORK has been growing, changing, and building relationships. That history represents years of work by community members, staff, leadership, organizations, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, youth, and countless others who have contributed their knowledge. We inherit that work, but we also have a responsibility to carry it forward.

The NETWORK plays an important role in creating connections! It brings people and organizations together, supports community-led initiatives, encourages collaboration, and helps connect Indigenous people with services and resources throughout the City.

Since stepping into the role of Vice-President of the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK, I find myself thinking less about where to begin and more about what it means to join something already in motion.

As Vice-President, I am grateful to contribute to this work alongside the new Board President (Kamâmik Poundmaker), Executive Director (Leilani Shaw), the NETWORK staff, our partners, the community, and our Board of Directors.

This year marks something special: our youngest Board of Directors yet! With that comes new perspectives, new energy, and a new generation stepping forward to help shape the future of our community. We do so while building upon the knowledge and work of those who came before us.

The NETWORK stands as a supportive role in the urban-Indigenous community, and we are excited to be a part of such an amazing line of work. We will strive to continue creating more inclusion, representation, and to better understand each other's needs and experiences. This year, our Board of Directors will bring unwavering values and activism into our work, as we continue our journeys as community leaders.

Thank you for having us!
Kajusigit / Keep going,
Sâkihito-maskihkiy / love medicine
Kindly,

Pasha April Partridge
Vice-President

Kamâmik Poundmaker
President

on behalf of the Board of Directors

Opening by the Executive Director

Shé:kon sewakwé:kon, hello to our members and partners,

I would like to thank you all for the incredible support and dedication you have shown to urban Indigenous peoples, communities, and initiatives across Tiohtià:ke. This annual report from the NETWORK holds a mere fraction of the work we have accomplished together throughout 2025-2026.

As I reflect on the past year, I'm amazed by the exceptional amount of care, passion, and integrity from our members, partners, funders, staff, and volunteers. It has become more apparent than ever that culturally rooted programming remains vital to the health and safety of our Indigenous community members in Tiohtià:ke. Most of our efforts this year focused on community wellbeing and gathering, with a special emphasis on program stability, impact and accountability.

Creating spaces for community to gather and celebrate achievements remains close to the NETWORK's mission. We opened the year with an event welcoming over 250 guests to officially launch our INDex tool, an online resource that centralizes important programming available to Indigenous people in Tiohtià:ke. For the first time in NETWORK history, we hosted a three day sectoral training for Health Navigators. The training gave Health Navigators from many organizations space to come together, receive clinical supervision, and use culturally grounded practices to support one another. With the help from our co-hosting partners, the NETWORK was also fortunate to continue supporting the Indigenous Winter Market, which brings together over 70 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis artisans to showcase and sell their creations over a weekend. As the largest Indigenous Winter Market in Quebec, this two-day event generated over $64,000 in sales, with 100% of the proceeds going directly to Indigenous artists.

It's been wonderful to see the ways in which our partners continue to show up for community members. It would be a disservice not to acknowledge that this work happens within larger colonial frameworks that rely on underfunded, under-resourced community organizations to carry the load. As a result, Indigenous community members in Tiohtià:ke still face disproportionate barriers to housing, health, and safety. Despite this, community workers show up day after day, giving their time and attention to immediate needs while also addressing long-term systemic barriers. Government funding remains vital to supporting access to essential programming, but it is not always fast, flexible, or sufficient. That is why the generosity of our 189 donors and the trust of our financial partners matter so much : they allow the NETWORK to respond to needs as our community defines them, not as a funding cycle dictates.

To our Board, our team, our partners, and everyone who stands alongside our mission — niawenhkó:wa, mikwetc, nakurmiik, tshinashkumitin, thank you, merci. I am proud of what we built together, and I look forward to what comes next.

Skénnen, in peace,

Leilani Shaw
Executive Director

About the NETWORK

OUR MISSION

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

We accomplish our mission by implementing four main approaches:

OUR VISION

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

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

1. Gathering those who directly serve community members

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

2. Alleviating the burden

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

3. Empowering Indigenous leadership

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

4. Transferring knowledge

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

OUR VALUES

Indigenous led

Led and created by and for urban Indigenous communities.

Community oriented

Priorities and solutions identified and developed by the community.

Strategic partnerships

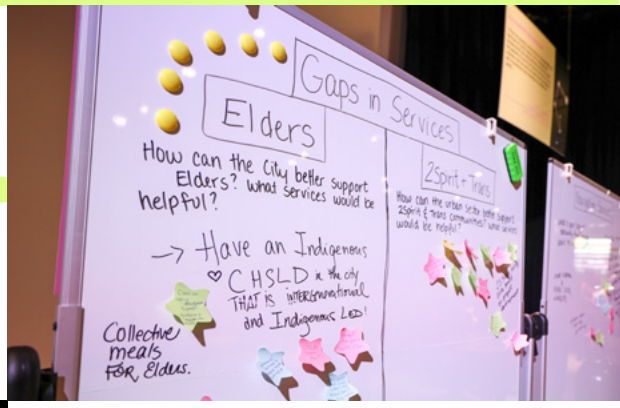
Building and nurturing relationships between the community sector and strong allies.

Collective heartbeat

Working together for the betterment and empowerment of Indigenous communities.

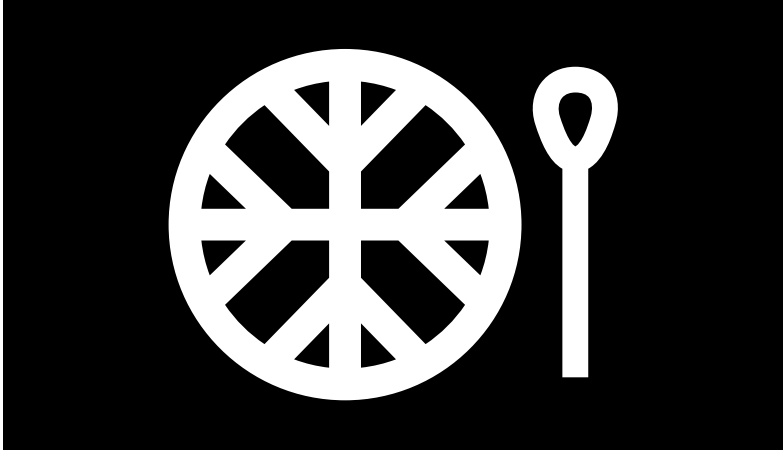
OUR PARTNERS

To attain our collective goals, we work in collaboration with our partners in the Indigenous community sector:



Projets Autochtones du Québec, the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal, the Indigenous Support Workers Project, daphne, the First People's Justice Centre of Tiohtià:ke/Montreal, Mikana, Makivvik, the Southern Quebec Inuit Association, Tshuapamitin, Quebec Native Women, the First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec, Native Montreal, the Indigenous Health Centre of Tiohtià:ke, Tasiutigiit Association, Qavvivik - Inuit Family and Community Health Centre, the Native Women's Shelter of Montreal, Miyskamin, Rising Sun Daycare, the Refuge Mitshuap Montréal, Résilience Montréal, Plein Milieu, Doctors of the World, the Open Door Montreal, the Women's Center of Montreal, Concordia University - Office of Community Engagement, and Chez Doris.

Our Board



The NETWORK's Board of Directors consists of Indigenous individuals with experience or a keen interest in the Indigenous community sector, with a commitment to social justice and decolonization. Their role is to maintain the vision and the integrity of the NETWORK, as well as to act in the best interest of the organization, its partners, and its members. Indigenous governance is fundamental to the vitality of the NETWORK and the community, and the organization has maintained a 100% Indigenous Board of Directors since its incorporation.

Our Board members for 2025-2026:

Brittanny Janvier
President
Cold Lake First Nation

Dominick Mikkelson
Vice-President
Cree with Mohawk ancestry

Clara Halliday
Treasurer
Treaty 5, Tataskweyak Cree Nation

Jocelyne Couture
Secretary
Métis Nation of Ontario

Pasha April Partridge
Administrator
Inuk and Kanien'kehà:ka

Minnie Annanack-O'Connor
Administrator
Inuk

Raymond Jordan Johnson-Brown
Administrator
Afro-Mi'kmaw

Our Team

The NETWORK team is a multidisciplinary group composed of both Indigenous experts and non-Indigenous allies. The diversity of our knowledge and experience is a substantial strength in achieving a common goal: improving the well-being of First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities in Tiohtià:ke.

Our team members in 2025-2026:

Executive Leadership

Leilani Shaw
Executive Director

Amanda Moniz
Deputy Executive Director

Communications

Katia McEvoy
Communications Manager

Alexandra Apple
Communications Strategist

Johnny Boivin
Communications Coordinator

Katherine Nequado
Communications Intern

Tara Westbrook
IT and Communications Coordinator

Community Projects

Nicole Fornelli + Elisa Cohen-Bucher
Community Projects Manager

Bobby Manning-Leduc
Events Coordinator

Research

Stephen Agluvak Puskas
Research Manager

Morgan Kahentonni Phillips
Food Security Researcher

Elizabeth Fast, Dr.
Project Development and Funding Consultant

Rachelle Perron
Health Navigation Researcher

Programs

Romain Jean-Jacques
Mental Health Program Coordinator

Finance

Raul Piñeros
Finance Manager

Reporting

Sarah Charlebois
Reporting Coordinator

Human Resources

Véro Marengère
Human Resources Manager



YEAR IN REVIEW

2025
2026

Gathering Those Who Directly Serve Community Members



INDex launch

On May 8th, 2025, the NETWORK hosted its biggest event to date, held at the Society for Arts and Technology (SAT). This event was organized to launch the long awaited new online tool called **the INDex**. This vital resource is a community database providing essential information on programs and services specifically for Indigenous individuals in Tiohtià:ke, whether they are living here, studying, or simply passing through the city.

The presentation of the INDex included the origins of the project, key milestones and perspectives for the future. Some organizations featured on the platform had the opportunity to step on stage and present their services, and explain why the INDex is essential to gather all the resources available into one community-based platform. In addition, a panel on navigation services was held at the launch, highlighting the reality seen from the frontline and the developments needed. Guest speakers on the panel were **Keo Sinclair**, Community Organizer at the ***Native Friendship Centre of Montreal***, **Minnie Annanack-O'Connor**, Health Navigator at the ***Southern Quebec Inuit Association***, and **Emily Reuangrith**, Wellness Navigator at ***Native Montreal***.

With the participation of the attendees, a portrait of services for Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke was made through an interactive activity, which invited guests to identify areas of success and gaps to be filled in the Indigenous community sector.

At the launch, the **281 guests** not only got to familiarize themselves with this new innovative platform and test it themselves, but also got to enjoy two performances by Inuit artist **Saali Kuata**, and by **Siibii**, Juno nominee Cree singer. The event also held space for **8 Indigenous artists** to display and sell their crafts.

The artists:

Cory Hunlin (This Claw)
Kelsey Deer (KEL Tech Gear)
Kelly-Ann Desrosiers (Kilia Art)
Jolene Robichaud (JR Fashion Designs)
Eva Mae Angiyou (R2BEAD2)
Destiny Thomas (Destiny Thomas Designs)
Saali Kuata
Lauren McComber (Lotus + Sage Holistics)







Mental Health Program Sectoral Training

From September 12th to September 14th, the NETWORK held its very first **Mental Health Program sectoral training** at the First Peoples Garden of the Montreal Botanical Garden. This initiative aimed to build emotional resilience, strengthen peer networks, and create a more sustainable and culturally responsive workforce within the Indigenous frontline sector.

This training welcomed **11 frontline workers** from Indigenous and Indigenous-serving organizations, and offered them a supportive environment where lived experiences and knowledge were shared through a peer-to-peer learning model. Frontline workers also received practical tools to navigate and manage secondary trauma and chronic stress, all centered on cultural safety, land-based practices, and collective healing.

Participants also received guidance from Elders **Sedalia Fazio** and **Tealey Ka'senni:saks**, participated in reflection circles with **Catherine Richardson** and breathing exercises facilitated by **Esther Kalaba**. This 3-day event came to a close with a sweat lodge ceremony.



Montreal Indigenous Health Advisory Circle

This year, the Montreal Indigenous Health Advisory Circle (MIHAC) continued its work toward advancing systemic change in health and social services for Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke. Composed of 20 Indigenous and Indigenous-serving organizations, the MIHAC is dedicated to improving equitable access to culturally safe, holistic health and wellness services while addressing barriers that impact Indigenous communities.

Through the MIHAC, the NETWORK maintained its role to inform, advise and strengthen partnerships with public health institutions and government bodies, such as the *Department of Public Health* and the *Centre Intégré Universitaire de Santé et de Services sociaux* (CIUSSS), and Indigenous frontline organizations to advance shared priorities and support meaningful progress. This year, the MIHAC held 2 full-circle meetings focused on identifying gaps in services and bringing forward Indigenous-led solutions to improve health outcomes for urban Indigenous peoples. Members also participated in 1 meeting of the *Table locale d'accessibilité aux services de santé et services sociaux en milieu urbain pour les Autochtones à Montréal* and 4 Executive Committee meetings dedicated to reviewing and proposing a governance structure better aligned with the Table's evolving needs.

In addition, biweekly meetings were held with the CIUSSS, approximately 18 meetings over the year, to discuss the ongoing needs of organizations supporting Indigenous community members, provide updates on funding initiatives, and coordinate proactive responses to emerging health priorities. Through these collaborative efforts, the MIHAC continued to inform and influence public health and health service planning, ensuring that Indigenous voices remain central to improving health outcomes across the city.

The members of the MIHAC in 2025-2026 are:

Refuge Mitshuap
Quebec Native Women
First Peoples Justice Center of Tiohtià:ke/Montreal
Southern Quebec Inuit Association
Native Montreal
Makivvik
Native Friendship Centre of Montreal
Indigenous Support Workers Project
Indigenous Health Centre of Tiohtià:ke
Projets Autochtones du Québec
Tasiutigiit Association
Resilience Montreal
Qavvivik
Tshuapamitin
Rising Sun Childcare
Doctors of the World
Chez Doris
The Open Door Montreal
Women's Centre of Montréal
Direction de la Santé publique régionale de Montréal

Alleviating the Burden

Health Navigation Taskforce

The **Health Navigation Taskforce,** a sub-committee of the MIHAC, works to improve access to culturally safe health services for Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke. In collaboration with the **MIHAC** and the **Table locale**, the Taskforce monitors actions, outcomes, and performance indicators related to culturally safe practices, collaboration among health navigators, and service improvements across the health sector.

While the initiative was initially focused on developing training resources, the Taskforce first recognized the importance of understanding the **roles**, **needs**, and **challenges** faced by Indigenous health navigators. Through a participatory approach, navigators became active contributors to the project, identifying key issues such as **professional isolation**, **burnout**, and **limited coordination** across organizations. In response, the Taskforce established a **Community of Practice** and began addressing gaps related to communication, privacy, and service coordination.

Building on this work, the Taskforce is currently overseeing the development of an **Indigenous Health Navigation Bundle,** a comprehensive toolkit designed to support navigator onboarding, professional practice, and wellness. Consultations with **13 leaders from Indigenous organizations** and **12 Indigenous health navigators** have informed the development of this resource.

Indigenous Organizational Advisory Circle

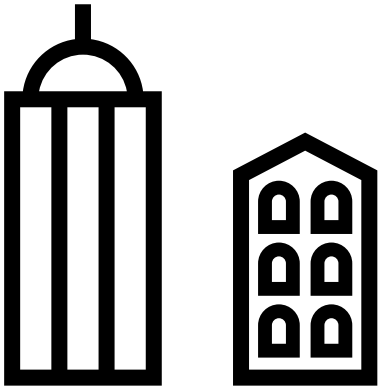
The **Indigenous Organizational Advisory Table** (IOAT), which held **8 meetings** this year, brings together leaders from **13 Indigenous non-profits in Tiohtià:ke** to strengthen organizational capacity and share best practices across the sector. Its core objectives are to:

- **Share best practices** across member organizations
- **Collaborate on problem-solving** for shared challenges
- **Build networks and connections** among organizations and potential collaborators
- **Strengthen capacity** through workshops and training sessions
- **Support the development** of emerging organizations
- **Cooperate on funding initiatives** to strengthen the sector's financial sustainability

Through these meetings, the IOAT provides a space for organizations to connect, learn from one another, address shared challenges, and build partnerships that contribute to a stronger and more sustainable Indigenous non-profit sector.

Urban Governance

Through various consultation processes, the NETWORK has developed a better understanding of the broader governance needs of Indigenous organizations in an urban context, as identified by community partners. These conversations highlighted the importance of strengthening organizational foundations, supporting collective advocacy, and breaking down sector silos. Designed for Indigenous community organizations across Tiohtià:ke, the Urban Governance project supports Indigenous-led groups in building internal capacity, fostering meaningful relationships and cross-organizational collaboration, and strengthening sustainable operations.



The Urban Governance project focuses on three main pillars:

1 Fostering Collective Governance

Facilitating the Indigenous Organizational Advisory Circle, a collaborative space where leaders from diverse urban Indigenous organizations gather monthly to share best practices, align priorities, and break down operational silos.

2 Developing the Bundle

Creating practical, Indigenous-led organizational tools, templates, and guidelines spanning human resources, financial management, board governance, and community-centered program evaluation.

3 Direct Organizational Support

Providing hands-on, tailored support to partner organizations in key operational areas such as strategic planning, HR policy development, and financial systems.

Indigenous governance doesn't stop at community borders. While many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities have established their own decision-making structures, the NETWORK is building a distinct urban governance model tailored to the realities of Tiohtià:ke. Grounded in self-determination and an "by and for" approach, this initiative strengthens the health and sustainability of our community organizations so they can better serve urban Indigenous communities.



The Bundle

As part of the Urban Governance project, the **Bundle** will serve as an online resource for Indigenous organizations and frontline workers in Tiohtià:ke. It will bring together culturally grounded guidance, practical examples, templates, and other tools developed by the NETWORK to support urban Indigenous organizations in strengthening their policies, internal systems, and day-to-day operations. Organizations will be able to adapt these resources to their mandates, services, and workplace cultures, while newly formed organizations can use the Bundle as a starting point rather than developing policies and systems from scratch.

The platform is also intended to reduce the administrative burden faced by organizations by making key governance and organizational resources easier to access and apply. Grounded in a decolonial approach to non-profit governance, the Bundle will support organizations with policy development, reporting, and decision-making, while creating stronger conditions for staff retention, wellness, and healthy workplace cultures.

So far, 5 modules have already been drafted for the Bundle:

- **Wellness Bundle:** Supporting Employee Well-being in Indigenous organizations
- **Showing up in Good Ways:** Creating your own staff accountability policy bundle
- **Working in Good Ways:** Creating your own conflict resolution process and policy
- **Upholding Respect:** Addressing harassment in Indigenous organizations
- **Indigenous Health Navigation in Tiohtià:ke:** Onboarding and resource bundle for navigators

Together, these efforts will contribute to greater organizational sustainability, self-determination, and self-governance within the Indigenous sector in Tiohtià:ke. They will also advance broader goals related to urban Indigenous governance and Indigenous data sovereignty, ultimately strengthening the availability of meaningful, culturally responsive, and community-driven resources for Indigenous individuals in Tiohtià:ke.

Indigenous Winter Market





Once again, the Indigenous Winter Market provided Indigenous artists with an opportunity to showcase and sell their work while strengthening community connections. This annual weekend event creates a space for Indigenous community members to gather, share meals, build relationships, and network with fellow artists and vendors over two days. The 2025 Indigenous Winter Market was held on November 29 and 30 at Entrepôts Dominion and was co-hosted with the *Southern Quebec Inuit Association* and the *Native Friendship Centre of Montreal*.

The market welcomed 69 vendors and attracted 2,055 visitors, more than 200 additional guests compared to the previous year. Based on vendor reporting, the total weekend sales were estimated between $64,254 and $79,206, representing an average revenue of approximately $931 to $1,148 per vendor. These results highlight the market's continued role in supporting Indigenous economic development while celebrating the creativity, talent, and entrepreneurship of Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke.

The artists:

Pasha's Projects R2BEAD2 Nugumis Hands Little Giizis Kilia Art Paniks Creations Nuraki Designs Aupaluk Designs Morgana Made It Qajaq Studio Inutsuapik Rayes Creates BBR Lotus + Sage Holistics Kahnawake Corn Poppers Oròn:ia Devil Creations Aqiggiqs beads Fleurs et perle Nisnipawset Beadwork Summer-Harmony Twenish Trashy n Tradish Washashqawin Orenda Beads Bobby TANSI MASKWA Uummati Productions Inc. KEL Tech Gear + Candles by Kel Nancy Angilirq NIL Zippie and Annie Nochasak Courtney Papigatuk GothicbeadsbyTrish The Beaded Lady Nimee Veevee Bead't Bling La Gordita Designs Neebageesis Beadwork Big Fat Toe Creations Jasmin Gunn Art Prim Delta Dawn Shop DragonWolf Designs Seepa Nutarasungnik's Handmade Stitching's Earring's Oddly.monalisa.creations AdornUDeadly The Aunties Beadwork by the Goulds Diverse Roots Creations Deer Apothecary Ani Beadz Aqiggiqs beads Kaliska earrings Wapachee Gray Cree Promotions Wariso:se Beadwork Mirquluk designs Atelier Kijâtai Valentine's suncatcher Cree Stones Jewelry Little Inuk Beadwork Iqniuapi creation Ironstar Co Billy Amittuk Ohontsakeka Designs Pauojoungie Saggiak Jennifer Qupanuaq May Ellef Daisy Savard Sabrina Cost Émilie C & Maina S (Nirlik) Annie Hickey Kenuajuaq Tobi (Sayliny) Nashak William Coonnush Chandra Labelle Annie Roussy-Ste-Croix

Empowering Indigenous Leadership



Mental Health Program

With the financial support of the *First Nations and Inuit Health Branch*, our Mental Health Program aims to enhance the well-being of front-line workers from Indigenous organizations and organizations serving Indigenous communities in Tiohtià:ke. Faced daily with demanding human and emotional realities, these individuals can access support tailored to their needs and preferences, whether through traditional healing practices, psychotherapy, or art therapy.

In 2025-2026, the program supported 102 participants, matched them with 68 caregivers, covered more than 811 support sessions, and invested $156,880.56 in access to services that promote mental health and well-being. In addition, the NETWORK diversified the care services by incorporating EMDR therapy and facilitating access to culturally safe and appropriate approaches, including participation in cultural retreats and ceremonies, as well as access to Indigenous medicines.

This year, the NETWORK has also launched an app for caregivers, designed to centralize information and improve session tracking and service coordination.

"To be able access psychotherapy as a front-line worker with Indigenous populations helped me regulate my own distress."

- Front-line worker

"I would like to thank the NETWORK for the excellent support they provided. Communication was easy and accessible, and the team was able to adapt to my specific needs, particularly the challenges posed by my leave of absence, and showed patience and understanding throughout the process. Knowing that resources were readily available was deeply reassuring."

- Front-line worker

Winter Gear

The **Winter Gear** project continues to have a significant impact on members of the Indigenous community in Tiohtià:ke, particularly those experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness. This year, the NETWORK distributed **$100,000** to **10 Indigenous and Indigenous-serving frontline organizations**, increasing the amount of essential winter supplies distributed to the community's most vulnerable members. This marks the fourth consecutive year that this project has been successfully implemented.

Thanks to this initiative, more than **4,000 community members** received essential supplies to help them through the winter. These included coats, boots, shoes, underwear, scarves, hats, socks, gloves, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, blankets, and hand and foot warmers. Recipients also received hygiene products, food, and gift cards to purchase other basic necessities.

By meeting these immediate needs, partner organizations help reduce the health risks associated with prolonged exposure to the elements for Indigenous people experiencing homelessness in Tiohtià:ke. Access to adequate clothing, food, and hygiene supplies also supports individuals in navigating the often difficult process of accessing essential services without compromising their health and safety. Beyond addressing immediate material needs, the initiative contributes to the well-being and dignity of Indigenous community members experiencing homelessness and helps ensure they have the resources necessary to connect with vital services.

This project is particularly important given the longstanding underfunding of Indigenous frontline organizations and organizations serving Indigenous individuals in Tiohtià:ke. By directing resources toward these organizations and the communities they support, the initiative helps address critical gaps in services and provides practical support where it is most needed.



Mobile Clinics

Now in the hands of the ***First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec*** (FNHRDCQ), the **Mobile Clinics** initiative continues to receive financial support from the NETWORK, while coordination is provided jointly by ***FNHRDCQ*** and ***Service Canada***. The Mobile Clinics aim to improve access to essential identification and documentation services for Indigenous people in Tiohtià:ke, with a particular focus on those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless. By bringing government services directly to community spaces, the initiative also strengthens relationships and collaboration between Indigenous communities and participating government agencies.

Over the course of the year, **4 Mobile Clinics** were set up in partnership with sector organizations, including ***Miyoskamin***, ***Native Montreal***, the ***Native Friendship Centre of Montreal***, and ***Projets Autochtones du Québec***.

Fiduciary Duties

The NETWORK continues to play a vital role in reducing the administrative and financial burden on Indigenous organizations. Through its committees and sector partnerships, the NETWORK responds to community priorities by supporting project development, coordinating reporting requirements, and helping ensure that funding reaches the organizations and initiatives that need it most.

In 2025-2026, the NETWORK once again leveraged its charitable status to serve as a fiduciary partner, distributing $382,000 through 6 charitable contributions to Indigenous organizations.

- **$5,000** to the ***First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec***
- **$8,000** to ***Native Montreal***
- **$20,000** to ***Tshuapamitin***
- **$72,000** to ***Tasiutigiit Association***
- **$100,000** to ***the Southern Quebec Inuit Association***



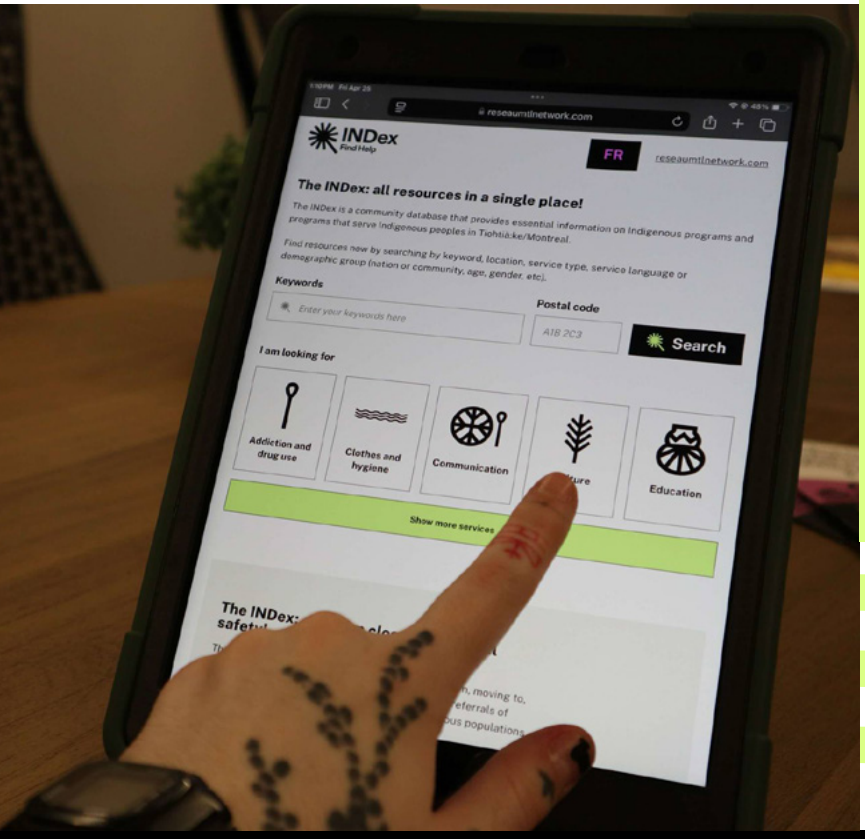
Funding received from private foundations enabled the NETWORK to support 20 individual projects strengthening the Indigenous community in Tiohtià:ke. The generous contributions of our private sector partners were instrumental in directing resources to organizations addressing critical community needs. The NETWORK is deeply grateful for their commitment to investing in community-led solutions. Through health advocacy, capacity building, and direct project support, the past year demonstrated the power of collaboration and the importance of sustaining vital community initiatives amid ongoing funding instability.

Transferring Knowledge

INDex

Following the official launch of the INDex on May 8th, 2025, the platform has continued to grow, both in content and user engagement. This year, 3 organizations and 11 programs were added to this extensive database, which now holds a total of 43 organizations and 126 programs serving Indigenous peoples in Tiohtià:ke.

The platform's impact is becoming increasingly evident, with more than 10,000 views recorded over the year, helping connect community members with the services and resources they need. The most frequently accessed categories were Housing and Shelter, Justice, Food Resources, and Health.



Community Announcements

The community announcements have become a key component of the NETWORK's efforts to connect Indigenous community members in Tiohtià:ke with relevant opportunities, services, events, and resources. Beyond serving as an information-sharing platform, community announcements help amplify the voices of Indigenous organizations, particularly those with limited capacity or visibility, ensuring their initiatives reach a broader audience.

Announcements are published on the NETWORK's website and shared across our social media platforms, expanding their reach and accessibility within the community. Over the past year, the NETWORK published 263 community announcements, generating a combined total of 134,913 views across Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. This represents an increase of 71,392 views compared to the previous year, demonstrating the growing role of the NETWORK as a trusted hub for community information.

Social Media

The NETWORK's social media platforms not only serve as a space for sharing community announcements, but also as a tool for public education, awareness campaigns, and resource sharing. Throughout the year, the NETWORK develops content which includes key events and initiatives taking place in Tiohtià:ke, particularly around significant dates such as National Indigenous Peoples Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

This year, September 30th also marked the launch of Level 3 of the Decolonial Toolbox. During the winter season, the NETWORK also promoted donations to Indigenous organizations and compiled information on holiday schedules for organizations providing essential services to community members.

In 2025-2026, the NETWORK's social media content generated a total of 946,541 views and reached an audience of 11,931 followers, representing an increase of 1,990 followers from the previous year. These numbers do not simply reflect the amount of followers the NETWORK has gained, they reflect new eyes on issues that matter to the community, and more reach for the messages they share through us.



Internship

For the second time, the NETWORK participated in the internship program offered through *Concordia University*'s Office of Community Engagement, providing Indigenous students with opportunities to gain experience within Indigenous organizations. This year, the NETWORK welcomed Katherine Nequado, who completed a year-long internship with the communications team. Katherine played a key role in developing and delivering communications initiatives, including the social media campaigns "Ancestral Ways of Dealing with the Heat" and "Indigenous Identity in the City". The last campaign alone generated 15,366 views, the strongest performance recorded across our social media platforms to date. She was also responsible for publishing community announcements across the NETWORK's website and social media platforms.

The NETWORK is grateful for the opportunity to participate in this program, which fostered meaningful learning and growth for both the intern and the organization. Katherine's creativity, storytelling skills, and background in film brought fresh perspectives to the communications team and contributed to stronger engagement with community members. Her work helped bridge the gap often experienced by second-line organizations by creating content that was accessible, relevant, and community-focused. As Katherine now continues her studies in New Zealand, the NETWORK team thanks her for her many contributions and wished her continued success in her future endeavors.

Looking Ahead

Building on the hard work and momentum established by the NETWORK team in 2025-2026, the year ahead is already taking shape around several key areas of focus. The NETWORK plans to organize a second edition of the **Mental Health Program sectoral training**, providing further support to those working on the front lines of the Indigenous sector. At the same time, the **Health Navigation Taskforce** will continue its efforts to finalize the **Health Navigation Bundle**, expand the **Community of Practice**, and advocate for the structural supports needed to strengthen and sustain Indigenous health navigator networks across Tiohtià:ke.

The **Indigenous Organizational Advisory Circle** will work to co-develop a new funding application process and shared framework for evaluating funding requests from community organizations. Aligned with the seven priorities identified by the IOAT, this process will help ensure that funding decisions reflect what matters most to Indigenous community members in Tiohtià:ke. By grounding funding requests in these shared priorities, the NETWORK aims to support organizations and grassroots groups working toward community-driven change, helping direct resources toward initiatives identified by Indigenous communities as having the greatest impact.

Ensuring the continuity of essential services will remain another important focus in the year ahead, with funding secured for the **Mobile Clinics** for the 2026-2027 period. The NETWORK will also focus on expanding awareness and use of the **INDex** through a targeted promotional campaign. Initial efforts are already underway, including the creation and distribution of INDex-branded notebooks to frontline workers whose organizations are featured on the platform. Alongside these promotional efforts, the NETWORK plans to implement a structured feedback and content review process to ensure the platform remains accurate, accessible, and responsive to the evolving needs of the community.

Partnerships and opportunities for continued learning will also remain an important part of the NETWORK's work. Through its partnership with ***Concordia University***'s Office of Community Engagement, the NETWORK will welcome a new intern for the winter semester. The NETWORK will also once again co-host the **Indigenous Winter Market** alongside the ***Southern Quebec Inuit Association*** and the ***Native Friendship Centre of Montreal***. Held annually, the market continues to grow, welcoming an increasing number of artists and visitors who come together to celebrate, view, and purchase authentic local Indigenous art.

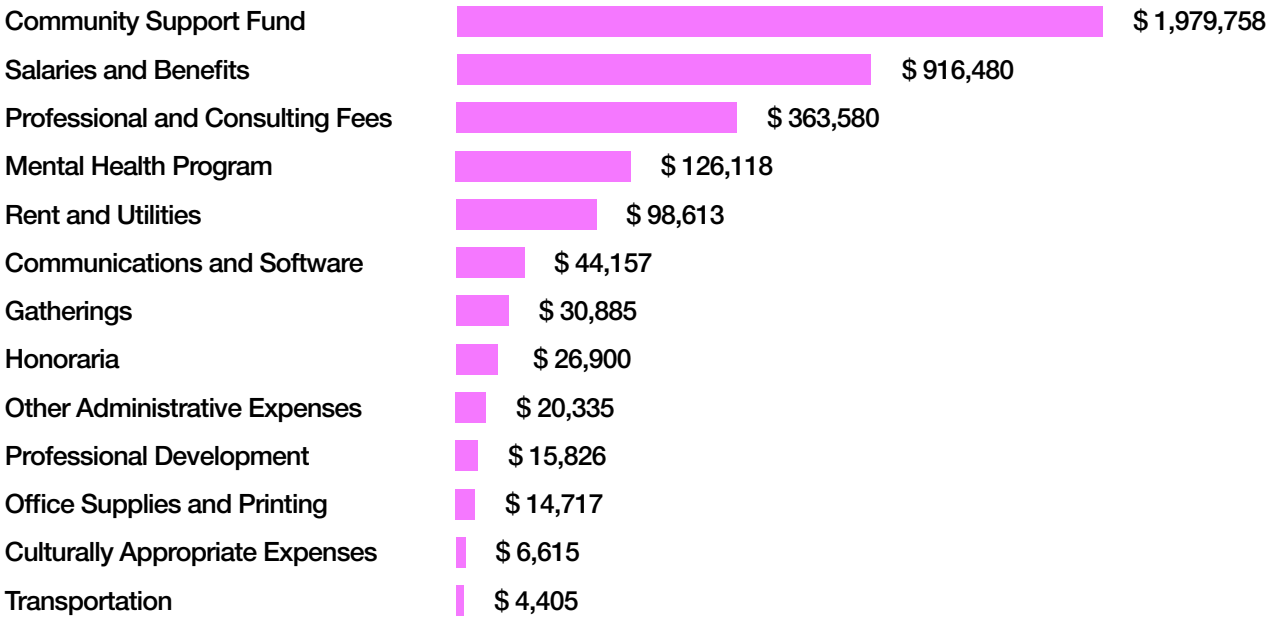
Together, these initiatives reflect the NETWORK's continued commitment to strengthening community connections, supporting Indigenous-led organizations and services, and responding to priorities identified by Indigenous communities in Tiohtià:ke.

Our Funding

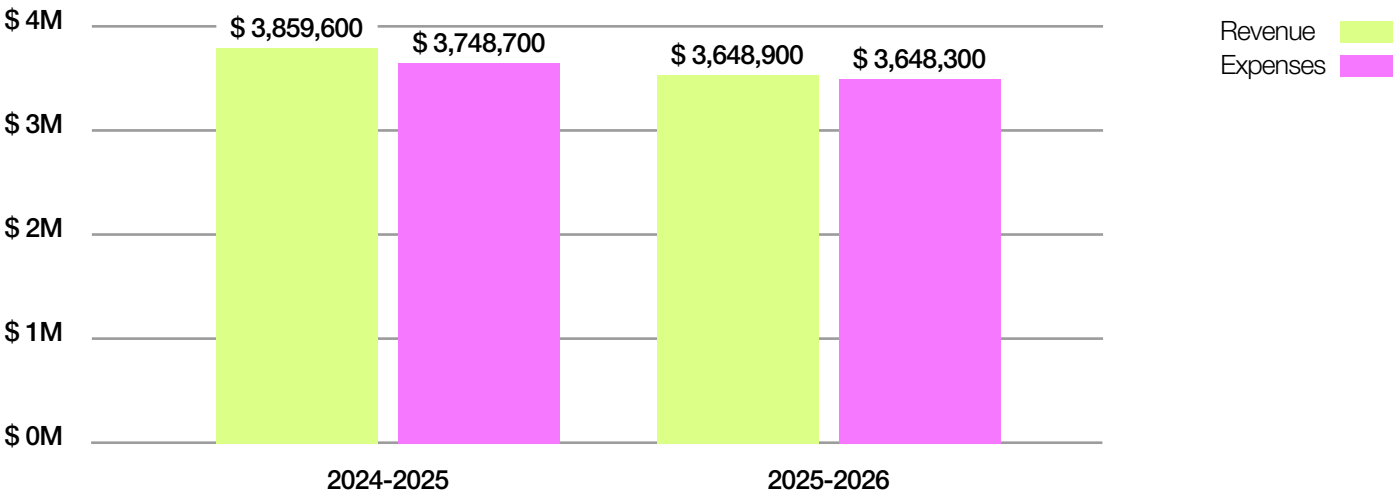
Transparency is central to the NETWORK's work. As part of its commitment to accountability, the organization shares its financial statements and an overview of its budget with the community, providing a clear and accessible picture of how resources are managed. Openly presenting this information helps community members understand the NETWORK's financial priorities and how its resources are allocated to support its overall mission.

Financial Overview

Total expenses for 2025-2026: $ 3,648,389



Revenue vs Expenses



Donations

Donors play a crucial role in helping the NETWORK support urban First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities in Tiohtià:ke. Indigenous community members continue to be disproportionately affected by unemployment, homelessness, incarceration, child institutionalization, and other systemic inequities. Addressing these challenges requires a proactive, collaborative approach that invests in culturally grounded support services, prevention initiatives, and Indigenous-led solutions.

The NETWORK serves as a bridge between government, community, and allies to ensure donations reach Indigenous groups and organizations quickly and where they are needed most. While government funding plays an important role, it often comes with restrictions, administrative burdens, and long delays. Donations and community fundraising help fill these funding gaps, providing flexible resources that respond to the priorities identified by the Indigenous community in Tiohtià:ke and demonstrating trust in Indigenous leadership.

All donations are directed toward community-identified needs and priorities, creating opportunities for Indigenous communities to thrive culturally, socially, and economically. When changes in funding affect organizations serving these communities, donations can also provide direct support to help address those gaps.

$ 22,100.11 Collected

189 Donations

15 Monthly Donors

How Can I Donate?

- Online at the following address: www.reseaumtlnetwork.com/en/donate
- By cheque, to the attention of the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK, including the full name and address of the person or entity to whom the official receipt is to be given. Mail it to:
  P.O. Box 2568 Kahnawà:ke,
  QC J0L 1B0
- Our Quebec Enterprise Number (REQ) is 1174512625
- All donors will receive a receipt for tax purposes.



Funding the Community

Our donors play a direct role in helping support important community projects. As a way to encourage donations and to thank donors for their generosity, people who have donated to the NETWORK at our INDex launch were given postcards designed by queer Algonquin Anishinabe artist **Summer-Harmony Twenish.**

This year, youth and family programming initiatives were supported financially through the NETWORK's donations funds and Strengthening Family Program. A total of $35,000 was redistributed to 4 organizations, namely $3,000 to the *Southern Quebec Inuit Association* for their Back-to-School Support Program, $5,000 to *Projets Autochtones du Québec* for their Indigenous History Month campaign, $7,000 to *Tasiutigiit Association* for FASD Training Development and $20,000 to *Native Montreal* for Physical Activities for Children and Youth.

Recognizing Outstanding Donors

The NETWORK would like to express our gratitude to the following donors for their generous contributions:

Pierre Steevens Brutus, McGill University, David Glanteney, Kira Bratton, Stantec Consulting Ltd., VIVAcroyoga, Studio Moving Just Fine, Balle Molle Queer Softball Montreal (BMQS Montreal), La Maison Fauve, Canadian Friends of Sabeel, and Galileo Adult Education Centre.

Financial Partners

It is with the contribution of our financial partners that we are able to address community needs and sustain essential initiatives. Together, we can make change happen and deliver concrete results. We wish to thank the following partners for their valuable contribution :

Housing, Infrastructure & Communities Canada, Indigenous Service Canada, Public Safety Canada, Santé Québec, Direction régionale de santé publique de Montréal (DRSP), Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS), Ville de Montréal, Fondation Lucie et André Chagnon, Martin Family Initiative, The McConnell Foundation, Trottier Family Foundation, and the Toronto Dominion Bank.



Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK

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