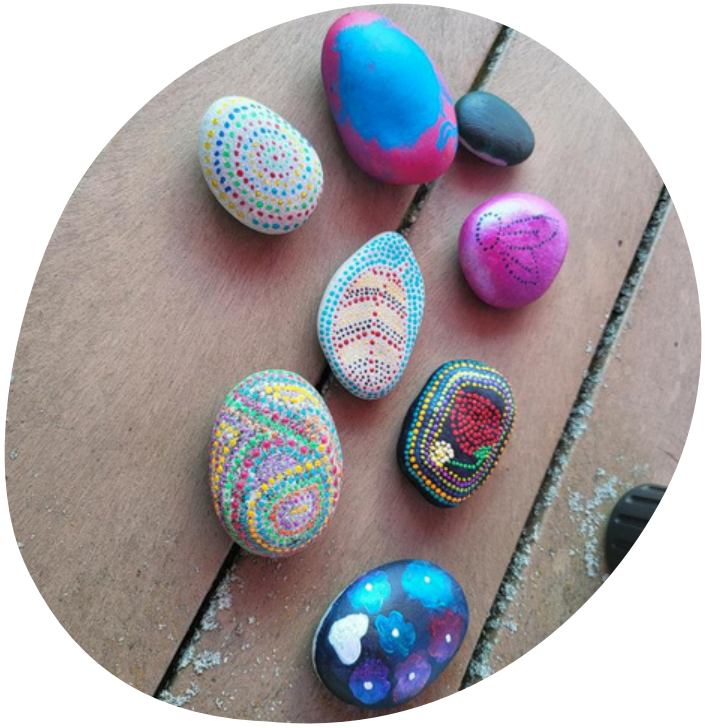
IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026



Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag
Child & Family Services

www.binnoojiiyag.ca



About the Cover Photo

Being on the land, surrounded by Creation is fundamental to our well-being. Each Winter and Summer, we host On the Land Camps for children and youth to connect with the land, themselves and one another. The cover photo and the one to the left were taken at the On the Land Camp in August 2025. Children and youth expressed themselves through art, painting on rocks.

In addition to On the Land Camps, our Cultural Services team responded to **291 cultural referrals** by sharing **cultural teachings over 300 times**, hosting **171 hands-on artistry workshops** and **supporting 100 ceremonies.**

Our Circle Facilators supported **nearly 900 children, youth and families** through **374 Circle Requests**.

ON THE LAND CAMPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

3
Camp Regions

6
Camp Sessions

114
Happy Campers









Senior Leadership Team
Photo taken: Rama First Nation, June 2026

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Our Senior Leadership Team gathers together in person at minimum twice per year. Our time together is about deepening our understanding and connection to culture, to each other, and to the responsibilities we carry as leaders of the Agency. We spend time in conversation around the role of carrying and working with our Bundles, the Eagle Staff, and Ceremony.

These gatherings remind us that leadership is not simply about overseeing programs and services. It is about carrying our responsibilities in a good way, grounded in our teachings, guided by our values, and accountable to the children, youth, families, communities and Nations we serve.

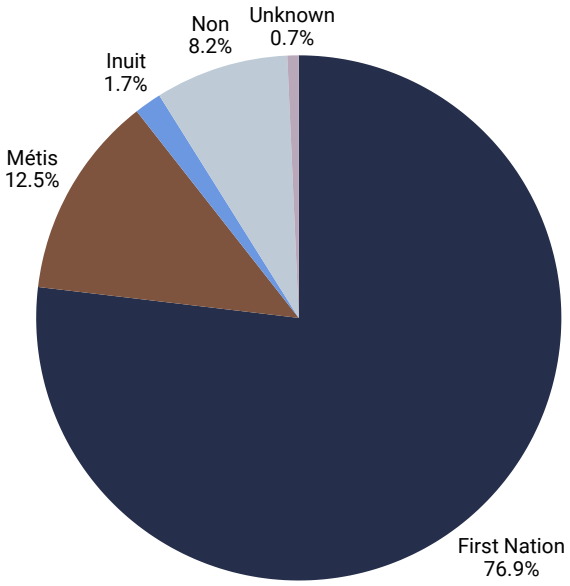
As we reflect on this past year, we are proud of the commitment to doing things differently, in our own way, to better serve our children, youth, families and the Nations and communities from which they belong. Our work has been informed by data, staff expertise and cultural knowledge, though we recognize we need to include more community voices to inform our service delivery.

To our children, youth and families, chi miigwetch for your steadfast determination to grow, heal and thrive. You inspire us every single day.

All Our Relations

BUILDING STRONG RELATIONSHIPS WITH FIRST NATIONS

Child & Youth Identity



CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED

Of the 712 children and youth served as of fiscal year end, 78% (552 total) identify as First Nation (status, non and mixed), just over 12% (90 total) identify as Métis (including mixed race) and under 2% (12 total) of those young people served identify as Inuk, 64 non-Indigenous and/or unknown.

At times, it is in the best interest of the children to serve the entire family who may be blended, some siblings identifying as Indigenous and others do not.

FIRST NATIONS JURISDICTION

Over the past year, the Ontario Final Agreement (OFA) was ratified by the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) on February 25, 2025 and approved by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) on March 30, 2026. The OFA establishes new reporting requirements that are Nation-specific. To demonstrate just how complex the situation is, at year end, the 1,172 active services represented children, youth and families affiliated with 140 different First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. There were also another 247 active services of families with unknown Indigenous affiliations who are supported by our family finders to explore ancestry.

4

Inuit and Métis community affiliations

136

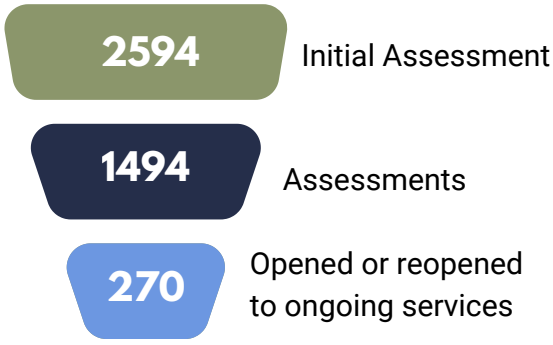
First Nation affiliations across Turtle Island

719

open cases with First Nation affiliations across Turtle Island

Service at a Glance

PRIORITIZING FAMILY-BASED CARE

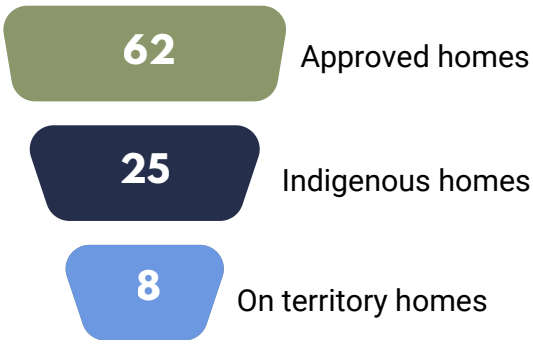


ASSESSMENTS AND ONGOING

Of the 2,594 calls we received to initial assessment, 1,494 were further explored and 270 resulted in an ongoing case opening or reopening. Of important note, we received 285 referrals (19% of all assessments) from a child, parent or other family member including **61 self referrals** by a child or parent.

ALTERNATIVE CARE

The number of caregiver inquiries continues to decrease year over year. Recruitment of community-based homes continues to plague the child well-being sector. Of the 24 inquiries we saw during the fiscal year, one withdrew from the the process and three (3) were screened out. The remaining 20 inquiries transferred into the formal application process resulting in seven (7) home openings–the process continues into Fiscal Year 26-27.



As of fiscal year end, over 40% of our Alternative Care homes are First Nations, Inuit and/or Métis homes. And of those, one third (32%) are located on First Nations territory.

123 = **60** **63**

Children and youth returned to their parents, caregivers or kin/family

Children and youth returned to their parent/caregiver

Children and youth returned to their kin/family

Service at a Glance

CULTURAL & WELL-BEING SERVICES

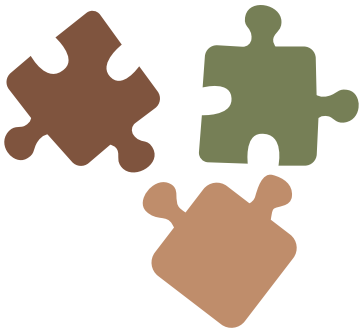


EDUCATION SUPPORTS

This fiscal year, our Education Liaisons support 213 children and secured **$108,000 from the Transportation and Stability Fund** to support Indigenous children and youth in achieving positive educational outcomes. Of the children and youth supported, 31% required support to address learning differences.

SUPPORTING COMPLEX NEEDS

Our Urgent Response Service (URS) and Coordinated Service Planning (CSP) team **supported 210 children and youth with complex needs**, marking a 40% growth compared to year prior. These supports are vital in navigating systems and advocating for wholistic care.



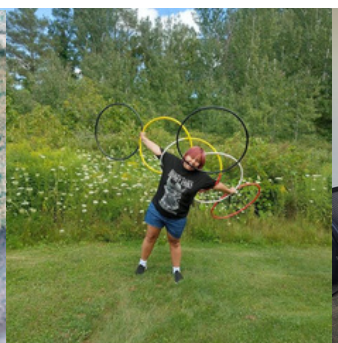


FAMILY CONNECTIONS

The family connections team **supported 420 children** through geneological searches, family finding and community building. The team helped to enhance relational permanence for **35 children and youth**. First Nations, Inuit and Métis ancestry was found and verified for **17 families** who previously had no known connections.











Quality Partners

COLLABORATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

PROJECTS	PARTNERS	DETAILS
Enhancing an attachment program to strengthen parent-child bonds	New Path Youth & Family Services and Knowledge Institute on Child and Youth Mental Health and Addictions Funding	Building on last year's success, we expanded the Family Support program to include Foundational Theraplay.
Autism services for Indigenous children, youth and families	Mackenzie Health Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences	This project has been funded since 2023 by MCCSS Ontario Autism Program and supported over 20 families through Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) service.
Supporting Challenging Behavioural Needs within the Child Welfare System	Mackenzie Health Centre for Behaviour Health Sciences	Since 2023, we have partnered with the Mobile Behaviour Treatment Team (MBTT) to support families in their homes.
Children At Risk of Exploitation (CARE) Unit	Durham Regional Police Services, Victim Services and Durham CAS	Since 2021, we've been a part of the CARE pilot as part of the province's Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy, a first for Ontario.
Cultural Based Intervention Evaluation	Public Health Agency of Canada, Native Child & Family Services of Toronto, Peel CAS & University of Toronto	A five-year project to support participating agencies to use program evaluation data to inform service planning. We are piloting our Circle Facilitator program.

Quality Partners

COLLABORATING WITH OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

PROJECTS	PARTNERS	DETAILS
Service Navigation for Indigenous Families	Resources for Exceptional Children and Youth (RECY)	To provide culturally sensitive, wholistic support and navigation for Indigenous young people who have complex medical needs.
Coordinated Service Planning for Indigenous families	Children's Treatment Network (CTN)	This partnership began in 2019 and continues to be one of the most critical supports we can provided to our children, youth and families.
Clinical Services for Indigenous Families	United Way	Since 2022, we've provided Indigenous Mental Health Clinical Service to children, youth and families.
Early Childhood Education/Early Years Cultural Services Support	Children's Services Division at the Regional Municipality of Durham	To support culturally relevant early years programs and enhance Indigenous early years learning in Durham Region since 2023.
	Northumberland County and Cobourg EarlyON Child and Family Centre	To support culturally relevant early years programs and enhance Indigenous early years learning in Durham Region since 2026.

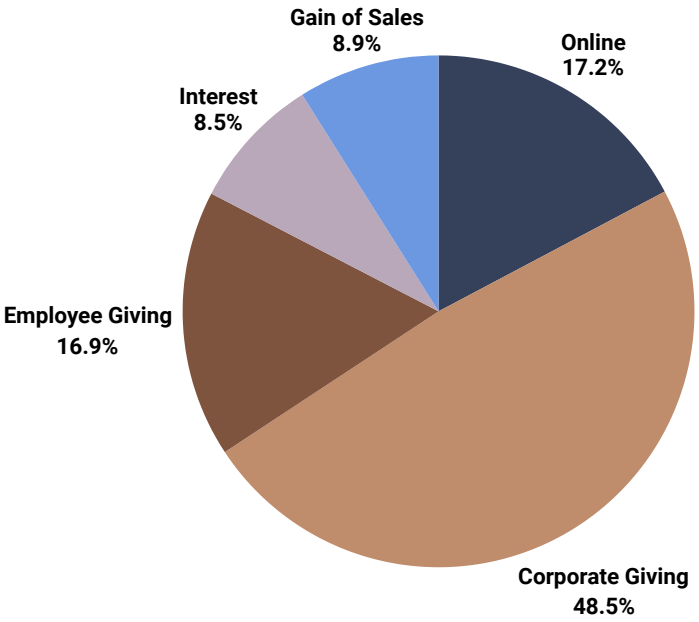
Statement of Financial Position

AS OF MARCH 31, 2026

	2026 $	2025 $
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	16,583,783	13,969,050
Accounts receivable	1,813,206	2,860,752
Prepaid expenses	225,308	248,002
	18,622,297	17,077,804
TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS	2,787,541	3,608,933
	21,409,838	20,686,737
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	8,089,001	8,134,234
Due to Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services	3,304,799	2,412,097
Deferred revenue	9,405,801	8,815,243
	20,799,601	19,361,574
DEFERRED CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2,637,541	3,458,933
	23,437,142	22,820,507
FUND BALANCES		
Unrestricted	(2,925,316)	(2,947,642)
Equity in tangible capital assets	150,000	150,000
Internally restricted funds	748,012	663,872
	(2,027,304)	(2,133,770)
	21,409,838	20,686,737

Charitable Activities

ENHANCING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



CHARITABLE DONATIONS

During the fiscal year, we received a total of $44,418.05 in donations. Half of our donations came from local businesses and companies as part of their corporate giving. We attribute this recognition to our active involvement in the growing number of communities we serve. Together individual and employee giving account for nearly a third of all donations.

CHARITABLE PROGRAMS

The Charitable Spending Review Committee, comprised of leadership, service, admin and a community member representative decide how and when to spend charitable dollars. This past fiscal, we expended our available funding (a total of $30,797.89) on our Winter Solstice (holiday program) to alleviate some of the financial pressure the holidays bring so families can instead focus on spending time together creating memories. Additionally, we awarded six youth recipients with a $2,811 bursary each to pursue their artistic interests. The Indigenous Youth Bursary is in memory of Rhiannon-baa Aird, a Service Supervisor who had a love for the arts.



2025 Indigenous Youth Bursary Recipients along with our team and Rhiannon-baa's family
Photo taken November 2025