

JohnHoward

SOCIETY OF THUNDER BAY & DISTRICT

Annual Report 2018/2019



Fostering Genuinely Safer Communities

Message from the President and Executive Director

2018/2019 was another successful year for the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District. Continuing with our focus on *growth from within*, our team has shown great commitment to the ongoing development of skills, strategies and collaboration both within our agency and in the community. To say it in another way, we are getting better at what we do. As we have observed in past years, the growth and expansion of programs and services is an exciting process. However, it takes time and dedication to truly realize the potential that exists as a result of growth. We continue to learn and make adjustments along the way as we develop a greater understanding of the needs of the people that we serve. When these needs are met, it will enable people to make the changes necessary to improve their own lives. When this happens consistently over time, it translates to positive changes in our community as a whole.

As we complete the first year of the three-year Residential Rehabilitation Program evaluation and Recreational Therapy Program, we have learned several important lessons. One of these is how vital it is for people to feel a positive connection to their community. Through recreation therapy, individuals are able to discover and try new activities and attend a multitude of community events while connecting with other people that share similar interests. By overcoming the pitfalls often encountered with perpetual boredom and building relationships with new social groups, people develop new positive coping strategies and support systems outside of the social service sector. This is essential for effective transition and reintegration into the community.

We are thankful every day that we work with a team of staff that are committed to helping our fellow community members. The work that is done at the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay is some of the most challenging in the field. It requires a great deal of patience, awareness, understanding, empathy, skill, knowledge and self-care to walk with and support people on their journey toward well-being. Each day presents a unique set of challenges. We are very fortunate to have people that regularly go above and beyond to help meet the needs of our programs and the people we serve.

Leadership and dedication are essential for an organization to grow and thrive and we are so fortunate to have people on the Board of Directors that embody both of these qualities. It is our privilege to work with people that are committed to sharing their knowledge, skills and time with us to further advance the mission of the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District. Thank you to all of our Board members for their ongoing support and for being there to see us through our challenges and successes.

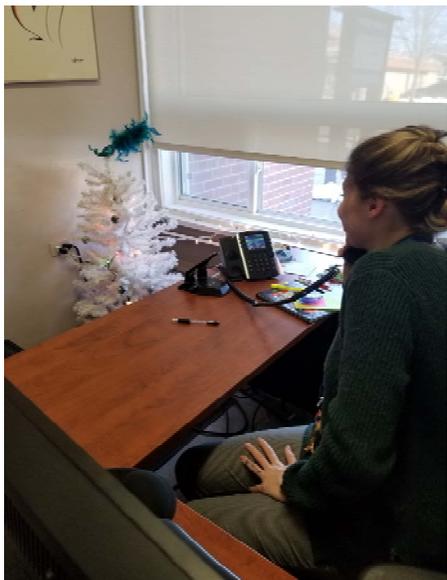
Thank you to all of our generous donors, funders and partners that truly make everything possible. We are very grateful for these relationships and we remain committed to working together to foster genuinely safer communities.

Sandy Lychowyd
President

Kevin Haynen
Executive Director

Change Happens Here

This section is dedicated to our clients' success. Each story speaks to the positive impact JHS has had on their lives and how change became a reality. Client names have been changed for confidentiality purposes. These stories are a reflection of how Change Happens Here!



Success Stories from our Case Managers

Teresa arrived at JHS through our Bail Bed program in 2016. She remained residing at JHS for the duration of her charges until they were dealt with. For the past 2.5 years, she has been compliant with her conditions and attended programming for the time she stayed here. This summer, she attended trial and was found not guilty of her charges and has cleared her record. Teresa has found that she must start all over in life, but feels as though the JHS has given her a second chance to view her life from a brand new perspective. Teresa began working a job in cosmetics and talks about her future with her kids and finding a permanent place to call her home. Teresa, we believe, was a huge success story as she has gone through the criminal justice system, found not guilty and has a brand new start at her life. Good luck in all your future endeavors Teresa!

Eric came to us through our bail bed program, homeless and struggling with alcohol addiction. Eric was quiet, but spoke about being ready to make changes in his life early on in his time with us. Upon arriving at JHS, he attended programming and began attending school at Confederation College. He graduated while here on the bail bed program and found work, full time, out of town as a surveyor. Eric spoke about still struggling with alcohol at times, but continues to embrace his sobriety by attending meetings when able. Eric has also connected with staff about attending treatment for a more thorough management of his recovery. Eric continues to work and manage his addiction after finding permanent housing in the community!



Jim came to our facility while on parole. He often spoke about his struggles with the transition from a federal institution to living in the community. In collaboration with his parole officer and case manager, counselling appointments were able to be set up quickly in order to assist Jim before he fell through the "cracks". Jim began meeting twice a week with his counsellor and noted to staff that it was helping him with his sudden transition. Jim became more open with staff about his struggles and began participating more frequently in programming. After eight months of residing at our agency, Jim transitioned into the community. He connects with our staff members on a weekly basis, keeping us up to date on his current situation. Jim is thriving in the community, attending college and making his music a priority.

Change Happens Here

Highlights from the Team

During the summer, staff put together a fitness facility for our residents to access. The facility has proven to be a benefit to our clients' wellbeing and engagement levels have increased.

John Howard tends to get into the holiday spirits during Halloween and Christmas. Staff threw a Halloween party, carved pumpkins, held a big Christmas feast, a Christmas decoration day—the list goes on. We love engaging our residents in the holiday spirits!

Soup-R-Tech and JHS has partnered together to provide our clients with a community kitchen component—cooking up some delicious soups—and then getting together to discuss topics through the tablets provided through the program. This program has been proven extremely beneficial to our clients' learning and growth—and the soup smells delicious every time!

Continuing with the partnerships, Damon, who teaches Recovery through Yoga, has committed to spending his Tuesday and Friday mornings with our residents, bright and early, to discuss recovery and challenge them with some Kundalini Yoga practice. This opportunity provides a new perspective on recovery and addiction, which is sometimes all we need.

In trying to find new and progressive ways to engage our residents through life skills, we have altered the traditional life skills programs to appear more natural and meaningful. We discuss life skill topics while on hikes, through the arts, and through many of our recreation programs that run daily. We have found that our success has increased incredibly by moving in this direction!



Change Happens Here

Lindsay—our Social Navigator

Lindsay has been actively hitting the outreach and community partnerships on behalf of John Howard Society since late 2017. Her role here at JHS has had a tremendous impact on our residents not only through housing support, but in many other areas such as food connections, outreach supports, community advocating, etc. Her focus this past year has been through homeless prevention initiatives.

Lindsay has been sitting at the Coordinated Housing Access Table, a table designed to create one list for housing in Thunder Bay through a Housing First approach. Along with the CHAT, Lindsay attends the Homeless Prevention Strategy, Supporting Women through Adversity North (SWAN) and the Human Trafficking Coalition.

In the time that Lindsay has been with us at John Howard Society, she has developed the Landlord Partnership Program; a program she designed to create partnerships with landlords in order to open doors with housing for our community members. If that doesn't sound busy enough, she has also provided wrap around services to any client that transitions out of John Howard Society for up to one year. This includes providing basic needs, housing supplies and support on an as needed basis.

On site here at JHS, Lindsay also connects clients and community members with education programs that are best suited to their needs, as well as employment opportunities. She liaisons between partnering organizations within Thunder Bay and continues to support these individuals on their journeys.

Let's see what the next year brings for Lindsay as she continues to provide support to each and every one of our clients with her incredible work ethic and drive to impact the lives of the people we work for.



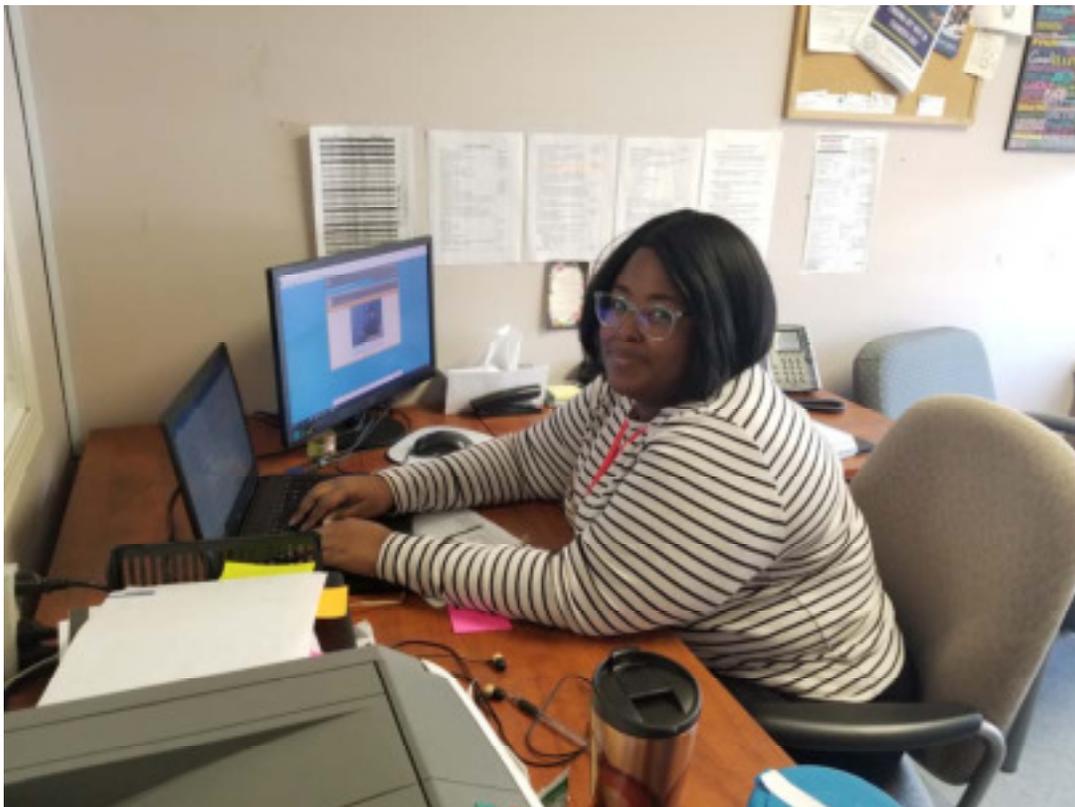
Change Happens Here

Residential Case Manager Meet Tenielle

Tenielle began with us in November 2018 and has been an incredible asset to the team ever since! Tenielle is our Residential Case Manager funded through the United Way of Thunder Bay. Her role is to connect with clients, create Resident Action Plans and foster self-determination to ensure each resident is working towards their goals. Tenielle provides us with a unique perspective, as she has a background in serving clients within a health care setting. Her knowledge of health care is a huge asset, benefitting our clients ten-fold in a holistic approach.

Not only has Tenielle taken on a case manager role, but she facilitates our monthly housing meetings, which connect clients in a large family style dinner to discuss ways to better their experience at our agency. Secondly, she facilitates Thursday morning hot breakfast, which has been a huge success to ensuring the engagement with our clients, along with ensuring a basic need is met.

Tenielle creates community partnerships with ease. Some of the partnerships she connects with frequently include the RFDA (Regional Food Distribution Association), Quilters Guild, local dentists and hotels (for donations), and she is a voting member of the Lutheran Community Care Centre. Tenielle is still navigating her community partnerships, not being from Thunder Bay and learning the “ins and outs”, but her confidence and abilities are shining through!



Change Happens Here

Recreation Therapist What's been going on?

Sheena, our Recreation Therapist, has been busy this year solidifying community partnerships in order to provide the best possible recreation for our residents. One of our most successful partnerships stems from the Community Spokes Bike Program in which clients can sign up here at the office, connect with the program off site and then build their own bike that they, in turn, can keep. This program has options for our clients in which they can build a number of bikes in order to earn a "specialty" bike, depending on their commitment levels.

In addition to some community partnerships, Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre has been attending on site to provide education on cultural practices and cultural specific programs such as crafts, teachings, bannock making, etc.

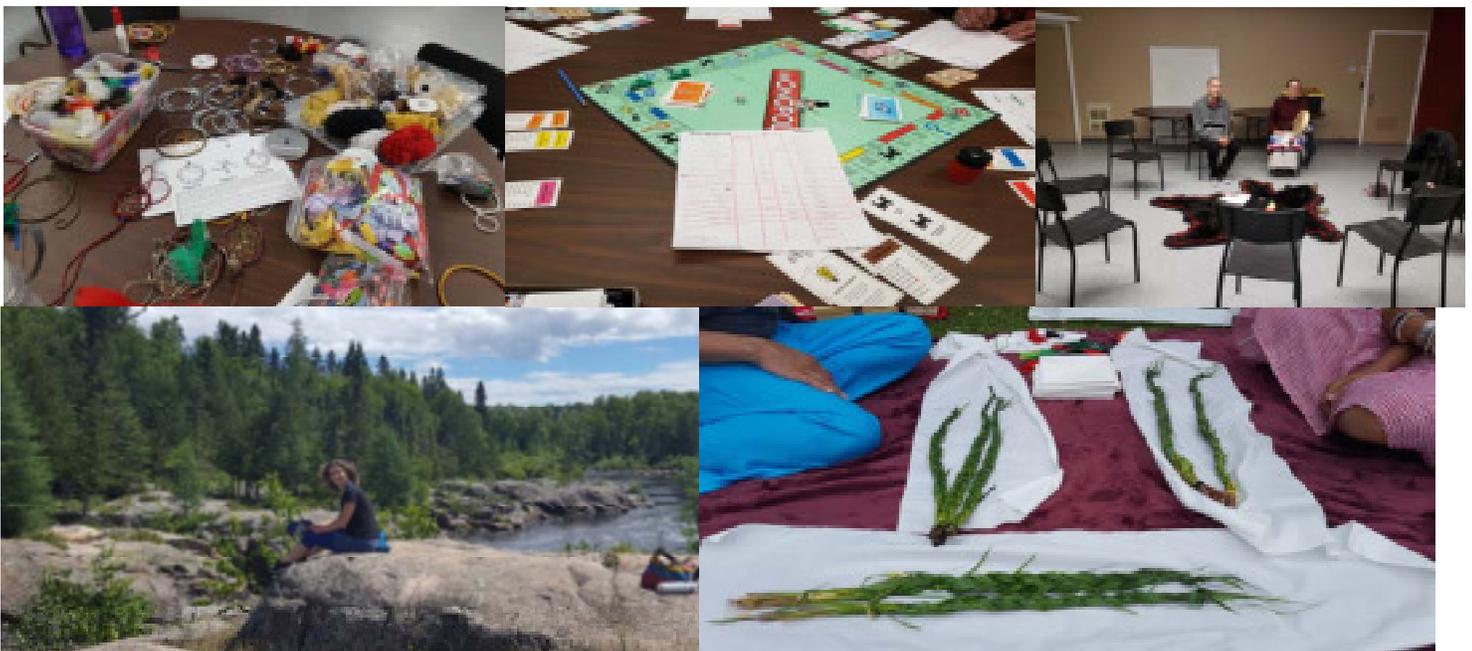
Good Learning Anywhere has been facilitating a program called Soup-R-Tech which encourages residents to participate in making a soup dish and learning through programs on tablets after a bowl of soup. This program has been highly successful in not only engaging our residential clients, but our community clients as well.

Compass North is a student led health organization from Lakehead University. They provide our clients with programs that are life skill dominant such as coping with stress, stress management, self care, etc. This provides an alternative approach to life skills and helps to ensure that there is variety in the way this important information is presented to our clients.

Other activities that our clients engage in are sweat lodges and drumming at the Dilico site and community hikes (Brule Bay, Pigeon River, Centennial, Cascades, etc.). Our agency provides passes to the Canada Games Complex for programming.

Alpha Court has connected us with one of their employees that is also a Certified Boxing Coach. Jesse attends our agency and runs a boxing program for our clients.

The program list is endless, but these are some of the highlights of the past year for our Therapeutic Recreation Program and its growth speaks for itself!



Change Happens Here

Remote Community Intervention Program

The John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District has been working in partnership with the remote northern communities of Webequie, Weagamow, and Eabametoong since 2007, with Long Lake # 58 coming onboard in 2013. Northwestern Ontario is a large region and the goal of the program is to work as a team with other programs and workers to support the youth involved in the program.

The Remote Community Intervention Workers (RCIW) are instrumental to the success of the program. They face many challenges in supporting the youth, such as taking on many duties while maintaining a fast paced schedule and providing support to probation officers, community and regional resources, and other organizations focused on the well-being of the youth in the program. RCIW'S Olive Harper (Weagamow/ 10 yrs.), Bob Wabasse (Webequie/ 10 yrs.), Marcy Lemieux (Long Lake/ 3 yrs.) and Bessie Ooshag (Fort Hope/ 5 yrs.), as well as the back-up workers in each community, have been dedicated in their desire to help the young people find healing paths since the inception of the program. The trained back-up workers in the communities are in place in case issues come up with the permanent workers. We have utilized the back-up workers several times this year. Having these back-up workers has been very successful in continued ongoing support for the youth. The permanent RCIW Workers and the back-up workers have been involved in many events, committees, celebrations, traditional activities, cultural ceremonies, and many other activities with the youth and their families in the communities. They are the right hand for probation officers and all others involved with the youth of the community.

Our Youth Counselor, Tracey Sauls, has enhanced support and services for the youth and families, providing clinical therapy to the mandated youth in each community. As part of her counseling role Tracy has recently begun traveling to the community of Long Lake # 58 to assist in providing counseling, life learning programs, and activities.

The main reason for our program is the youth, and we don't forget that, but the key to success with supporting the youth is the community intervention workers. The other key is working together. The intervention workers, youth counselor, probation officers, and community members assist each other in their efforts to support the youth. We at the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District are grateful and want to thank the RCIW's and the youth counselor for their dedication and hard work in supporting the youth involved in the Remote Community Intervention Program.



Aboriginal Student Support Program – Geraldton Composite High School

The John Howard Society of Thunder Bay and District has been working in partnership with the Geraldton Composite High School since 2007. The Aboriginal Student Support Worker Program was implemented in the fall of 2016 in conjunction with the Ministry of Children and Youth, with Erica Cormier as the first worker.

The worker acts as a liaison between students, teachers, counselors, administrators, community agencies and families. Acting as an advocate for Aboriginal students and their families, as well as providing supportive counseling, is the core of the Aboriginal Student Support Worker position.

Erica has done an extraordinary job in developing and implementing cultural programming, and utilizing community resources and partners in providing educational workshops for the students.

An overview of the programs implemented include:

- Orange Shirt Day: Remembrance of victims of residential schools
- Traditional Elder Counseling for students
- Weekly drumming sessions
- I Matter, You Matter, We Matter Campaign: A totally student led campaign to promote school attendance, and assist students struggling with legal and housing issues
- As facilitated in Native Education classes
 - Kizhaay Workshop Course – I am a kind man (violence prevention)
 - Street Wolf Workshop: An eight-week Aboriginal beliefs class for grades 9 and 10

The Indigenous students, in partnership with Elders and community partners traditionally feasted a new drum, created a new Eagle Staff and painted three traditionally themed murals. The highlight of the year however was the first ever Geraldton Composite High School Pow-Wow which was attended by an astounding 1000+ people!

The Aboriginal Student Support Program in partnership with Dilico, ONWA (The Ontario Native Women's Association), the Thunderbird Friendship Center, Matawa, The Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Kairos, and the Ontario Provincial Police have been a great support to students, families and teachers at the school.

On-Track Peer Mediation Program – Westgate CVI

This year the Peer Mediation program saw the successful merger of 1100 students from Westgate CVI and Churchill High School together into one school. As a result, there have been many challenges. Once things got moving, we had a very successful year.

From the start of school in September until May 31st we have had 687 individuals served, 140 assessments completed and are operating at a 99% mediation success rate. One major change to the program this year was the addition of a number of devices to create a stress free zone at Westgate. We have added a punching bag, blue tooth speaker for background music and art supplies for students that need a stress release during the day.

We are very proud to have written four letters of recommendation to the Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal Youth Achievement & Recognition Awards for our mediators. All four mediators were chosen as winners out of hundreds in each category. We have provided workshops for the mediators this year, including Mental Health Awareness, Mental Health First Aid, Peer Mediation Training for twenty-two new mediators, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, a Turtle Concepts workshop and a Stages of Change Workshop.

To communicate with the students more effectively, we created a social media class in the Remind 101 application. This has provided the ability to get direct information to all of the mediators. We have successfully promoted the program through school announcements, classroom visits, social media and community involvement (Christmas Cheer, Polar Plunge and the Gender Based Violence Campaign). The mediators were recognized for their contributions at a Christmas lunch, a year-end Lunch and Movie day.

Fundraising & Community Involvement

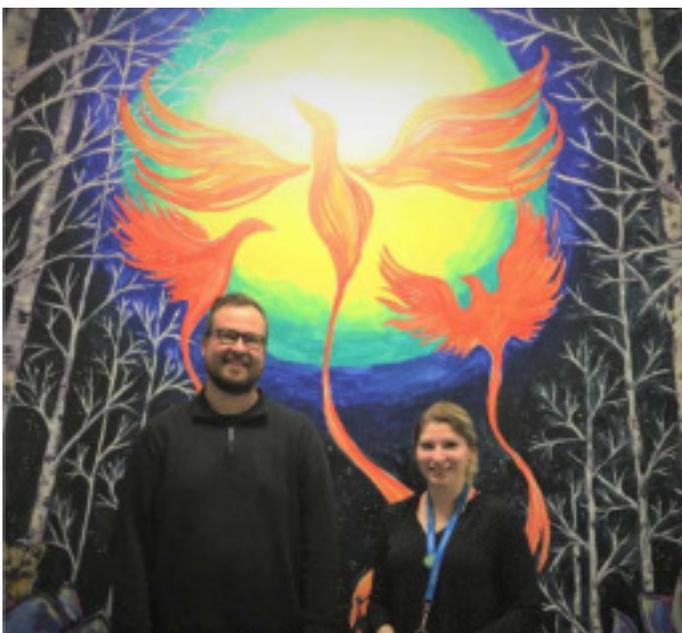


The John Howard Society of Thunder Bay has been actively participating in the community to bring awareness and an end to human trafficking here in our city.



Our very own team members, Kevin and Chantal, participate in the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council, offering up our unique perspectives in how to create more awareness around our services and perspectives on effective responses to crime.

Our team partnered with the Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council, among other organizations, to clean up our south core. Boston Pizza and Eat Local donated pizzas for the entire team to ensure volunteers were well fed!



Kevin Haynen, Executive Director, and Chantal Petit, Case Manager, Bail Verification and Supervision Program



Board of Directors 2018/2019

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- Paul Carr..... Vice President
- Clifford Mushquash Secretary
- John Allen (AJ) Johnson Treasurer
- Shirley DeWilde Director
- Margaret Aalto Director
- Kim Ducharme..... Director
- Afton Brown Director

Staff 2018/2019

- Kevin HaynenExecutive Director
- Maryann BilenkiManager of Finance and Administration
- Colleen PetersTraining and Development Manager
- Sean Tresierra.....Youth Services Manager
- Rory BellinProgram Manager
- Rianna Hampton.....Administrative Assistant

Staff 2018/2019 Continued

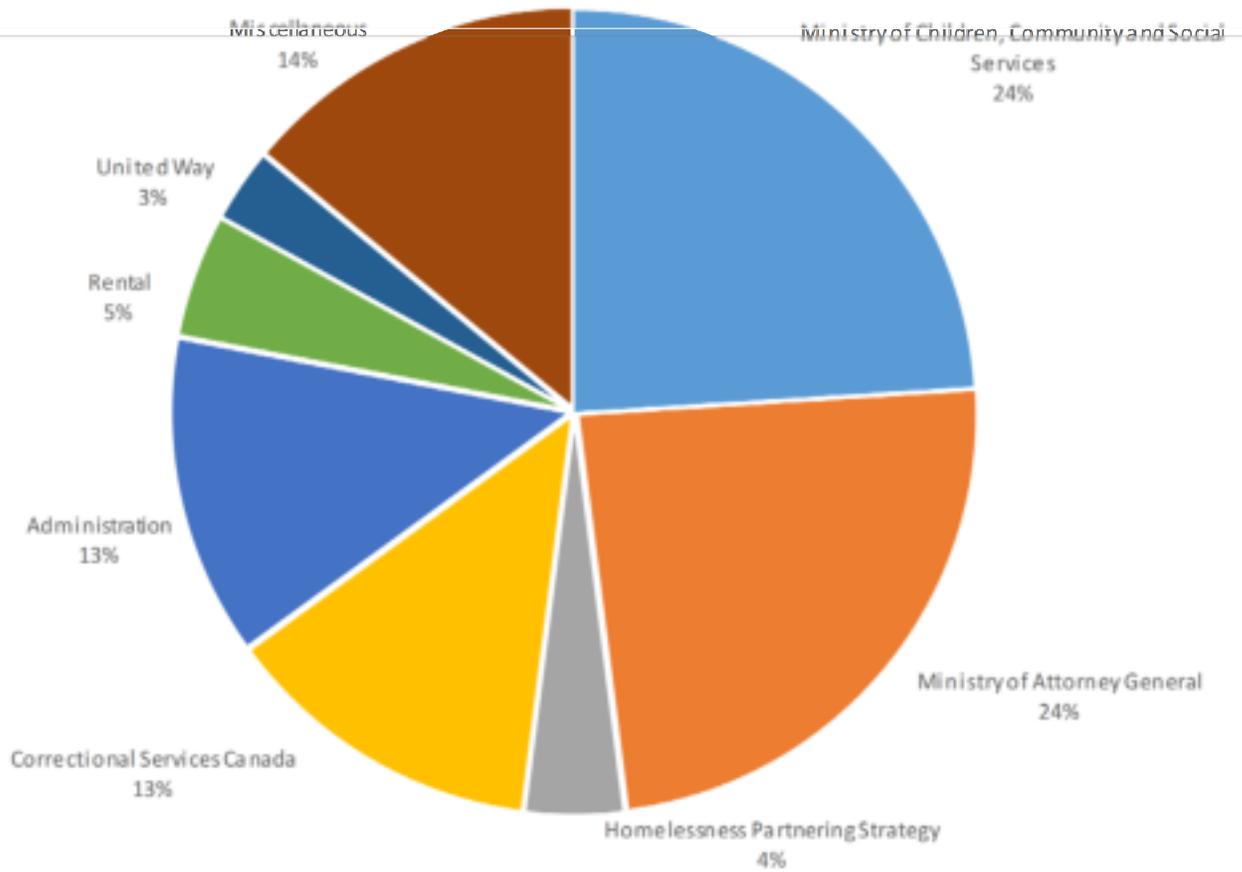
| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Chantel Randell | Residential Rehabilitation Program Coordinator |
| Colleen Aiken..... | Community Justice Worker |
| Shayna Larson..... | Community Justice Worker |
| Cassandra Martin..... | Community Justice Worker |
| Rafaela Jobbitt..... | Community Justice Worker |
| Kelly Sokoloski..... | Community Justice Worker |
| Chantal Petit..... | BVSP Case Manager |
| Alex Petrynka..... | Residential Case Manager |
| Tenielle Patterson..... | Residential Case Manager |
| Lindsay Martin..... | Social Navigator |
| Sheena Campbell..... | Recreation Therapist |
| Angeline Grover..... | BVSP Mental Health Worker |
| Desiree Danilko..... | CSO / WASH Court Worker |
| Tracey Sauls | Remote Community Youth Counsellor |
| Bob Wabasse | Remote Community Intervention Support Worker |
| Gen Beardy | Remote Community Intervention Support Worker |
| Bessie Ooshag | Remote Community Intervention Support Worker |
| Renee Wesley | Remote Community Intervention Support Worker |
| Olive Harper... .. | Remote Community Intervention Support Worker |
| Marcy Lemieux | Remote Community Intervention Support Worker |
| Donald McLeod..... | Remote Community Intervention Support Worker |
| Erica Cormier..... | Aboriginal Student Support Program Coordinator (Geraldton) |
| Charles Brown..... | On-Track Student Support Program Coordinator (Westgate) |

Staff 2018/2019 Continued

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Tony Silvestri..... | Maintenance/Custodian |
| Benjamin Niittula..... | Maintenance/Custodian |
| Jeffrey Krueger..... | Maintenance/Custodian |
| Larry Leochko..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Doug Mawhinney..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Taylor Bond..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Tara Hahkala-Crawford..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Celine Leger..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Sheikh Harun-Or-Rashid..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Kayla Knapp..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Pauline Fogarty..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Kelly Sokoloski..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Jaimin Patel..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Alana Smith..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Alexa Hiebert..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Brooke Raynsford..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Chantelle Chretien..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Jodie Konior..... | Residential Services Night Staff |
| Thatcher Bannon..... | Residential Services Night Staff |

Thank You To Our Funders

Revenue Summary



Thank You To Our Funders



Canada



Ministry of Attorney General

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