

Annual Report 2009 2010



Centre d'amitié
autochtone
de Val-d'Or



Val-d'Or Native
Friendship
Centre



PRESIDENT'S NOTE

At the Board of Directors of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre, dullness is not a word to be found on the agenda. Each year brings its load of work, challenges and emotion. The year 2009-2010 was indeed one of a great emotion: pride! The welcoming ceremony for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Flame last December 31st in Val-d'Or was a great opportunity to share our desire for peace and our rich traditions as they are expressed today. Two of our employees have carried the flame, but on a daily basis, our visitors can feel the flame burning in each one of the Centre's staff members and which is passed on to our clients through a warm welcoming attitude. The year ended in beauty with extraordinary recognitions: Édith Cloutier was honoured at the Gala of the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, and Doris St-Pierre received the Hommage bénévolat-Québec 2010 Award for his 20 years of involvement as the Board's non-Native representative. Kitci Meegwetc to both of you! For the Centre's 35th anniversary, which we continue to celebrate throughout this year 2010, we owe thanks to our founders for initiating the development of such a lively Friendship Centre in Val-d'Or.

In its 35th year, our Friendship Centre is still buzzing with challenging projects aimed at better serving our First Peoples brothers and sisters. The projects currently on the drafting table will require a deep commitment from our staff. Let's mention the construction project for a First Peoples Service Centre, the starting up of a labour market integration enterprise, the implementation of a health and social services adaptation model, the development of social housing and our participation in the Odena Research Alliance: Aboriginal People in the City.

The scope of these projects reflects our people's capacity to heal themselves, become self-sufficient and play a meaningful role in a society made better and richer through First Peoples' cultural contribution.

Oscar Kistabish
PRESIDENT

**DORIS ST-PIERRE RECEIVED
THE HOMMAGE BÉNÉVOLAT-
QUÉBEC 2010 AWARD FOR HIS
20 YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT
AS THE BOARD'S NON NATIVE
REPRESENTATIVE.**



**THE WELCOMING CEREMONY
FOR THE VANCOUVER 2010
OLYMPIC FLAME LAST
DECEMBER 31ST IN VAL-D'OR
WAS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO
SHARE OUR DESIRE FOR PEACE
AND OUR RICH TRADITIONS AS
THEY ARE EXPRESSED TODAY.**





A TALL URBAN WHITE PINE

The year 2009-2010 marks the 35th anniversary of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre. For over three decades, our Centre has taken roots in the heart of the city like a tall white pine. This majestic tree is referred to by First Peoples as the *Great Tree of Peace*. The white pine's roots point to the four directions so that all the paths of peace lead to this tree.

Just like the *Great Tree of Peace*, the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre brings together people from all nations, provides an inclusive and caring living environment and offers a cultural anchor to our brothers and sisters. Bridging the gaps between peoples, our Centre has also become a symbol of peace, harmony and solidarity.

Coming from the four directions, many men, women, elders and children identify with the Centre's mission, participate in its accomplishments and support its actions. Like the white pine's bark and sap, the Friendship Centre is a soft medicine that soothes, nurtures and heals.

The white pine is the tallest tree in North-eastern America. In the forest, it serves as a reference point. It owes its prosperity and longevity to its exposure to sun's light. In the city, the Friendship Centre is like a tall urban white pine that also serves as a reference point. Today, it is the children who are our source of light, allowing the Centre to grow, provide direction and shed light on the path being built for them.

Edith Cloutier
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



MISSION

THE VAL-D'OR NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE IS A URBAN SERVICES HUB, A LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND A CULTURAL ANCHOR FOR FIRST PEOPLE, DEDICATED TO THE WELL-BEING, TO JUSTICE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION AND STRIVES FOR HARMONIOUS COHABITATION IN ITS COMMUNITY.



VISION

THE VAL-D'OR NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE, LEADER OF AN ENGAGED NATIVE CIVIL SOCIETY, ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTES TO THE SOCIAL, COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF ITS COMMUNITY WITH INNOVATIVE AND PROACTIVE STRATEGIES.

VALUES

AT THE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES ARE BASED ON HUMAN VALUES OF COMMITMENT, RESPECT, INTEGRITY AND SOLIDARITY.



ADMINISTRATIVE SECTOR

MAJOR GATHERINGS AND CROSS-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



MĚMĚGWASHI “BUTTERFLY” GALA

300 people honouring
167 students for their
perseverance in school.

PROMOTION OF LIFE WEEK “BORN TO LIVE”

On the theme of dreams,
three days of excitement
for young and old: food
tasting, Wii tournament, quiz,
conferences, and story-telling
workshop.

10TH AWARENESS WEEK FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION – MARCH 15 TO 19, 2010

Biz from the Loco
Locass was our
spokesperson for the 10th
Awareness Week!

Over 1300 people walked for
friendship among peoples.



Reflection day held at UQAT to
set the basis for the Town of Val-d'Or to eventually
join UNESCO's *Coalition of cities against racism and
discrimination*.



OPEN DOORS DAY - “DARE TO DIALOGUE”

Launching of the Minomadji8in (in harmony) Cultural Awareness Kit.
Round Table on current issues and prejudices against Native people.



NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY - CELEBRATING OUR ABORIGINAL CULTURE AND PRIDE!

Father's Day Brunch, traditional food, exhibition,
theatre performance, dancers and drummers entertained
1000 visitors!

THE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE IS ACTIVELY PRESENT AT THE LOCAL, PROVINCIAL, NATIONAL AND EVEN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL!

Various conferences on the issue of Aboriginal identity in the city and cross-cultural relationships, in collaboration with Dialog, a Quebec-based network to share ideas on Aboriginal issues, have given us an international coverage.



LAUNCHING OF A CROSS-QUEBEC PILOT PROJECT WITH **THE SIGNING OF A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT** WITH THE **CENTRE DE SANTÉ ET DE SERVICES SOCIAUX DE LA VALLÉE-DE-L'OR** (CSSSVO) AND THE **CENTRE JEUNESSE DE L'ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE** (CJAT), AS PART OF THE *ABORIGINAL HEALTH TRANSITION FUND* (AHTF) INITIATIVE.

65 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE SEMINAR UNDER THE THEME OF "ISSUES AND CHALLENGES IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES FOR URBAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE".

43

NATIVE
EMPLOYEES

27

NON-NATIVE
EMPLOYEES

61%

NATIVE
EMPLOYEES

70

EMPLOYEES AT THE
FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
AS OF 31 MARCH 2010

THE MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE RESPONDED TO 3964 REQUESTS FOR SERVICES, A 30% INCREASE FROM 2008-2009 AND A 400% INCREASE OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS.



COMMUNICATION

DVD Kinawit ejinagosiek
"Who We Are"
Agenda 2010
Three issues of Centre's Notebook

COMMUNITY SECTOR



The Community Development Sector's mandate is to improve community life through dynamic empowerment and involvement for the collective well-being of the Aboriginal community. The Community Development's approach is based on participation, capacity building, self-esteem and critical consciousness development, and creating networks.

156

DIFFERENT
YOUTHS
ATTENDED
YOUTH CENTRE

8 000

ATTENDANCE
AT THE YOUTH
CENTRE

300

LIBRARY BOOKS
IN THE
MOHIGANECH
CLUB

1 061

ATTENDANCE
AT THE
COFFEE-
MEETINGS

OUR MANDATE IS TO IMPROVE
COMMUNITY LIFE THROUGH
DYNAMIC EMPOWERMENT
AND INVOLVEMENT FOR THE
COLLECTIVE WELL-BEING OF
THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY.



CHILD SECTION

5 TO 12 YEAR-OLDS



MOHIGANECH CLUB

“LITTLE WOLVES”

Support and entertainment to 42 families and 71 children: Includes homework support, social club and summer day camp

Library with 300 books

YOUTH SECTION

13 TO 29 YEAR-OLDS



Youth Centre: close to 8000 attendances, 156 different youths served, socio-cultural, sports or educational activities to promote our youths' optimal development and improve their lives.



Summer day camp and outings in the forest during school break



Participation in the Ados-Cam project: awareness activity on HIV/AIDS

MADJIMÂKWÎN

“HANG ON!”

SUPPORT AND INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE TO LIFE PLANS, 14 PARTICIPANTS

KABADU

“PORTAGE”

HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE AND PREPARATION FOR EXAMS

RECEPTION CEREMONY OF OUR SACRED DRUM, OUR GRANDFATHER, NAMED “SPOTTED HORSE”

COMMUNITY SECTION

Socio-cultural and sports activities or themed workshops aimed at **promoting healthy lifestyles and developing global health.**

Community activities: many events celebrated such as **Mother's Day and Father's Day brunch.**

MINIKEK PROJECT

“THEY HARVEST THE FRUITS”

Diabetes prevention

Coffee-meetings: activities for all, twice a week, 1 061 attendances

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

Contribute to the growth and well-being of the individuals of the Aboriginal community by offering psychoeducational and psychosocial services that assist in creating a balance in the soul, body, mind and heart (holistic approach), allowing for the recognition and development of individuals' capacities, abilities and competencies (empowerment).

CHILD & FAMILY SECTION



ABORIGINAL HEAD START PROGRAM

Promotes the healthy development of pre-schoolers and supports extended families in terms of parental skills. The program served 74 children from 0 to 5 years old.

YOUTH/ADULT SECTION



EAGLE'S NEST PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTION SERVICE

Serves any Aboriginal individual who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, who is in a situation of vagrancy or residential instability, and coping with psychosocial problems. The Eagle's Nest team has made 6361 interventions with 568 different individuals in the past year.



HIV/AIDS PROGRAM - PIBAMADZI "WALKING IN HARMONY WITH THE ENVIRONMENT"

The program is aimed at preventing infections and supporting infected persons. Our team has made over 1000 preventive interventions and 750 support interventions in the past year.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

The Economic Development Sector, with its social economy philosophy, has the mandate to contribute to the urban Aboriginal community's collective wealth by creating job opportunities, economic profitability for its services and promoting fair trade. With the objective of bringing people together, the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre welcomes local people and visitors, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal alike. The Economic Development Sector's activities contribute to the self-funding and sustainability of the Friendship Centre's services.

THE SECTOR'S SERVICES AND PRODUCTS GENERATED APPROXIMATELY 950,000\$ IN REVENUE.

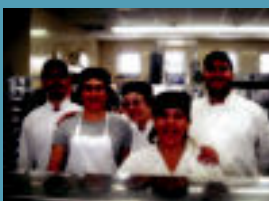
FOOD SERVICE

FAIR TRADE FOOD

A continued effort to serve healthier home-made meals, offer more fair trade food products and purchase more food products from the region or province.

57,213
MEALS
SERVED
in 2009/
2010

The 70 seating capacity cafeteria served 57,213 meals to clients and 41,030 snacks to the Abiniodjic Miguam Daycare Centre and other internal programs.



A REGIONAL COOK BOOK

The head chef, Mr. Marc-André Côté, participated in the production of a regional cook book produced by Origine Nord-Ouest, an organization that promotes the food products and chefs that are from the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region.

LODGING

24

ROOMS

55

PLACES

72%

OCCUPANCY
RATE

13 050

CLIENT/DAYS

THE 24 ROOM, 55 PLACES FACILITY SOLD 13,050 CLIENT/DAYS FOR AN OCCUPANCY RATE OF 72%.

Purchase of environmentally friendly products, such as staff clothing, cleaning products, etc.



EMPHASIS ON PROMOTING FAIR TRADE, RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND A SOCIAL CONSCIENCE, IN ACCORDANCE TO ITS SOCIAL ECONOMY PHILOSOPHY.



ARTS & CRAFTS BOUTIQUE

The Friendship Centre's Native Arts & Crafts Boutique, exclusive in the Val-d'Or region, continues to offer fair prices to the artisans.



RENTAL SERVICES

THE 60 CAPACITY MEETING HALLS GENERATED ITS RECORD REVENUES THIS FISCAL YEAR



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