

# ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

Centre d'amitié  
autochtone  
de Val-d'Or



Val-d'Or Native  
Friendship  
Centre





# WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased and proud to present the result of a full year of work achieved by the great family of the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre. Like a family, we wanted to take care of everyone, from the little ones right up to the elders. We sought advice, we consulted our friends, whom are our partners, through different collaborative efforts and by holding reflection activities on subjects such as justice, racial discrimination and homelessness. At the end of our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we acknowledged the contribution of the Centre's pioneers, and more specially the great pioneer Gabriel Commanda who was Val-d'Or's first citizen.

In 2010-2011, we primarily looked to the future with major projects such as the Minowé Clinic and Pidaban, words respectively meaning "being healthy" and "dawn" in the Anishinabe language. We wanted to give a good head start in life to our little ones with the Minowé Clinic, which results from a unique partnership in Québec and which was developed with the Centre de santé et de services sociaux de la Vallée de l'Or and the Centre jeunesse de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue. With Pidaban, we wanted to give our youth an opportunity to find their path and fully participate to society. Throughout this growth that took place within our walls, we kept on caring for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters with the advancement of the social housing project, the assistance to former residential school students and our continued collaboration on the homelessness issue.

In the past year where each one's contribution made a difference, organisations, partners, institutions, volunteers and employees, we kept heading forward one step at a time, but we engaged in a major turning point. To all those accompanying us on that road, I wish to express my gratefulness.

Kitci Meegwetc!

Oscar Kistabish  
PRESIDENT

## THE CENTRE WAS HONoured FOR ITS 10<sup>th</sup> AWARENESS WEEK FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

SPECIAL MENTION FROM THE PRIX DROITS ET LIBERTÉS 2010 AWARDED BY QUEBEC'S COMMISSION DES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE ET DES DROITS DE LA JEUNESSE DU QUÉBEC.



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE 2010 FROM THE RÉSEAU QUÉBÉCOIS VILLES ET VILLAGES EN SANTÉ. OUR PRIDE SHINES A BRIGHT LIGHT ON THE WHOLE VAL-D'OR COMMUNITY!



Photo ▶  
Jean-Charles Hubert



## BECAUSE WE ARE... KINAWIT!

What an exceptional year for the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre! With our eyes turned to a mission of wellness, harmony and peace, we can say high and loud: mission accomplished!

In Val-d'Or, we share a rich history of humanism, sharing and respect that crystallised, under the pen of François Bélisle, in the publication of Kinawit, US. This homage to the builders of our great urban teepee highlights a course charted by men and women motivated by the conviction that action does make a difference. At the Centre, whether we are Aboriginal or not, our relationships are based on solidarity and commitment, two values that are dear to our institution.

These urban paths walked with moccasins for the past 37 years are still leading us further ahead; they require self-improvement and testify to true friendships all along this journey.

These friendships, sealed throughout the years, contribute to advantageously position the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre on the Québec scene. Coming from various areas such as education and research, social, community and social economy organisations, rights and freedoms advocacy movements or public health and social services sector, these *friends* of the Centre always respond positively when asked. These combined supports weave a beautiful web, that of the dream catcher that attracts only good dreams for the Centre.

Our people are the beating heart of our Centre; our employees and volunteers give it a soul and our *friends* contribute to extending the scope of our actions. What a promising and prosperous future for the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre! Let's celebrate our accomplishments, successes and victories. Let's celebrate the artisans of this legacy of pride. Let's celebrate those who, today, take over the duty as keepers of this sacred fire!

Edith Cloutier  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



**MISSION**  
THE VAL-D'OR NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE IS AN URBAN SERVICE HUB, A LIVING ENVIRONMENT AND A CULTURAL ANCHOR FOR FIRST PEOPLES DEDICATED TO WELLNESS, JUSTICE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION, IT PROMOTES 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, PROGRAMMING AND SERVICE DELIVERY ARE BASED ON HUMAN VALUES OF COMMITMENT, RESPECT, INTEGRITY AND SOLIDARITY.



# ADMINISTRATIVE SECTOR

## INAUGURATION OF THE PLACE GABRIEL- COMMANDA

AND DEDICATION  
CEREMONY AT THE  
GABRIEL SPRING, WITH  
GABRIEL'S NEPHEW, ELDER  
WILLIAM COMMANDA.

## THE 11<sup>TH</sup> AWARENESS WEEK FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WAS SPEARHEADED BY YOUTH!

- OPEN HOUSE DAY
- CAFÉ DU MONDE AT UQAT'S FIRST PEOPLES PAVILION: LECTURE BY BÉATRICE VAUGRANTE FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND A "TALK OF THE TOWN ON ... RACISM!", A NEW FORMULA TO PURSUE THE DISCUSSION.

COMIDARITÉ MEMBERS AS  
SPOKESPERSONS



## REMEMBERING AND GETTING TOGETHER TO PAY HOMAGE



## THE MÉMÉGNASHI GALA AND THE AGENDA 2011

HONOURED SOME 150 ABORIGINAL STUDENTS.

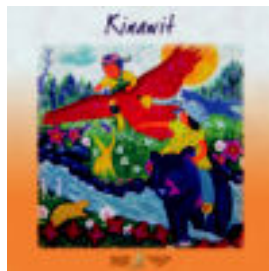
## NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY:

700 PEOPLE GATHERED AT THE CENTRE!  
A GREAT OUTDOOR SHOW HONOURING GABRIEL  
COMMANDA AND CELEBRATING THE FRIENDSHIP  
CENTRE'S 35<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND VAL-D'OR'S  
75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY.



## THE CENTRE TOLD ITS STORY IN A BOOK ENTITLED KINAWIT,

WHICH MEANS "US"  
IN THE ANISHINABE  
LANGUAGE, MORE  
THAN 35 YEARS OF  
HISTORY WRITTEN BY  
FRANÇOIS BÉLISLE.



## THE ODENA RESEARCH ALLIANCE,

at the frontline of social innovation, offers  
alternatives for understanding and meeting  
individual and societal challenges faced

by First Peoples in urban centres. In the past year, the ODENA Alliance has been a key partner in the organisation of activities at the Val-d'Or Native Friendship Centre. The purpose of these activities was to mobilise people and disseminate knowledge for a better understanding of issues such as homelessness, racism and alternative justice.



## PIDABAN, WHICH MEANS "DAWN" IN THE ANISHINABE LANGUAGE

Pidaban aims at developing Aboriginal  
youth's employability (18 to 35 year-olds).  
In collaboration with Service Canada, First  
Nations of Quebec and Labrador Human  
Resources Development Services (Urban  
Strategy) and the Centre l'Horizon's Adult  
Education - Commission scolaire de l'Or-et-  
des-Bois.

Of the 19 enrolled participants, 15 received  
their certification at the end:

- 9 employed
- 3 back to school
- 2 seeking employment
- 5 on-going training process

## MINOWÉ CLINIC:

A RESOURCE FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE, INTEGRATED  
TO THE VALLÉE-DE-L'OR HEALTH AND SOCIAL  
SERVICES NETWORK. THE SERVICES ARE DESIGNED  
FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS, 0-5 YEAR-OLD CHILDREN  
AND THEIR FAMILY. OPENED LAST JANUARY, THE  
CLINIC HAS RECEIVED 73 REQUESTS AND OPENED  
37 FILES. EIGHT PREGNANT MOTHERS PARTICIPATE IN THE SIPPE PROGRAM (INTEGRATED  
PERINATAL AND EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES) WITH THEIR 21 CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 5.



## HUMAN RESOURCES

**77**  
EMPLOYEES AS OF  
MARCH 31, 2011

**50**  
ABORIGINAL  
EMPLOYEES

**27**  
NON-ABORIGINAL  
EMPLOYEES

**65%**  
ABORIGINAL  
EMPLOYEES

**4%**  
INCREASE  
SINCE 2010

## 5 EMPLOYEES WERE HONOURED

FOR 10, 15 AND EVEN 20 YEARS  
OF SERVICE!

THE MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE  
ANSWERED 3 766 REQUESTS FOR SERVICE,  
A 265% INCREASE SINCE 10 YEARS.



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 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 the development of capacity building, self-esteem and critical consciousness, and on participation and creating networks.



## CHILDHOOD COMPONENT 5 TO 12 YEARS OLD

### MOHIGANECH CLUB "LITTLE WOLVES"

#### HOMEWORK SUPPORT

86% attendance rate for French and English speaking groups.  
210 hours of homework support.

**18 STUDENTS REGISTERED**

#### SOCIAL CLUB

**36 YOUNG PARTICIPANTS** to activities during pedagogical development days.

#### DAY CAMP

69% attendance rate. 6 weeks of activities.

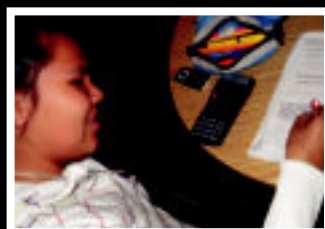
**37 YOUTHS REGISTERED**

## YOUTH COMPONENT 10 TO 29 YEARS OLD

### MADJIMÂKWÎN "HANG ON!"

Provides support and assistance to young adults from 18 to 24 years old for a life project while caring for their reality, culture and personal integrity.

**17 PARTICIPANTS INCLUDING 11 NEW ONES**



### KABADU "PORTAGE"

Homework support and preparation for exams.

### CULTURAL CONNECTIONS FOR ABORIGINAL YOUTH (CCAY)

**133 PARTICIPANTS • 154 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT  
7140 ATTENDANCES AT THE YOUTH CENTRE**

Investment of over \$ 3,000 to revitalise the youth centre!



## COMMUNITY COMPONENT

### DO8DEI8IN ELDERS GROUP "VISITING AND SHARING KNOWLEDGE"

Meets three times per month for cultural and social activities. Aims at reducing isolation through knowledge sharing.

**20 MEMBERS REGISTERED  
399 ATTENDANCES  
AVERAGE OF 10 PARTICIPANTS  
PER EVENT**



## FAVORITE PROJECTS

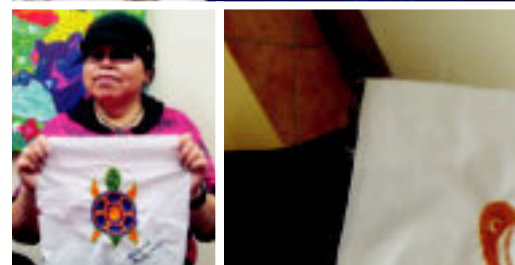
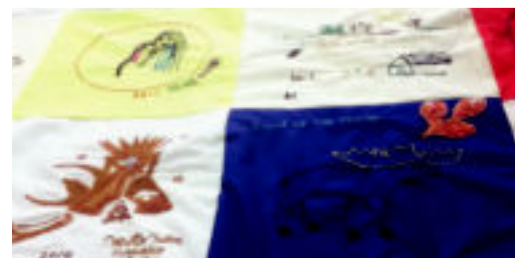
### MIKUSHAAN TRADITIONAL RECIPE BOOK-

"FOOD FOR FEAST"



### COLLECTIVE INTERGENERATIONAL QUILT:

A PROJECT INVOLVING 7 FRIENDSHIP CENTRES AND COORDINATED BY THE LA TUQUE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

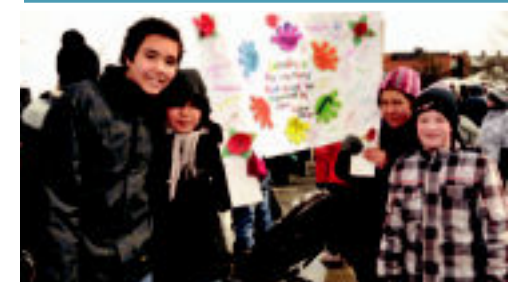


## CAFÉ MEETINGS

FOUR TIMES PER MONTH

**597 ATTENDANCES**

AVERAGE PARTICIPATION OF 10 PERSONS PER EVENT



## WABA MISKINA OPON PROJECT

"PINK LUNGS"

ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT GROUP TO QUIT SMOKING





# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECTOR

The Social Development's mandate is to 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).

## YOUTH AND FAMILY COMPONENTS

### THE ABORIGINAL HEADSTART PROGRAM

promotes healthy child development and supports extended families in developing parental skills. In the past year, our team has served 82 children from 0 to 5 years old and their family.



## YOUTH/ADULT COMPONENTS

### THE EAGLE'S NEST PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTION SERVICE

works at improving the living condition of Val-d'Or Aboriginal people faced with or at risk of homelessness or residential instability, and having psychosocial problems, through prevention activities and culturally relevant psychosocial services. In the past year, our team has made 5494 interventions with 521 different individuals.

### THE PIBAMADZI PROJECT "WALKING TO THE PACE OF THE ENVIRONMENT"

uses a community outreach approach for preventing HIV/AIDS infections and providing support to infected persons. Between August and March, our team has intervened with 931 persons for prevention or support. These are infected persons or at risk of becoming infected (young, vulnerable, marginalised or homeless people, persons involved in prostitution, etc.).



"THE STREET AS A TERRITORY: ABORIGINAL VIEWS ON HOMELESSNESS" SEMINAR  
60 PARTICIPANTS

## ELDERS COMPONENTS

### THE MINO PIMADIZIWIN PROJECT

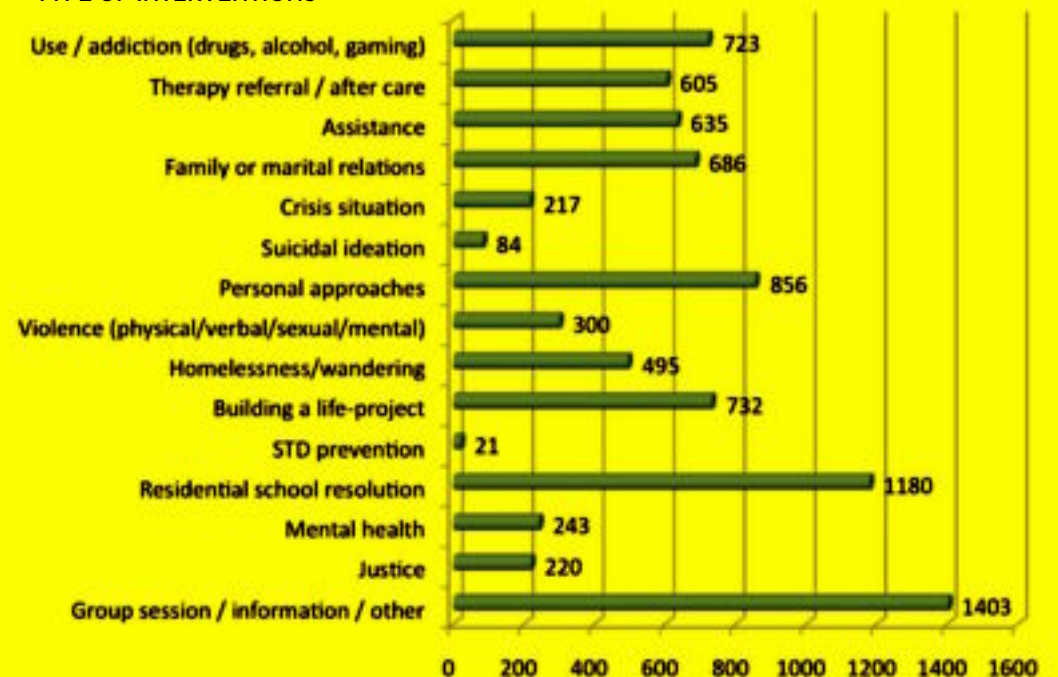
"LIVING IN PEACE WITH LIFE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE"

aims at supporting and assisting former residential school students and their family members in a healing process or a settlement process for the abuse they suffered. In the past year, our team has supported and assisted 140 different persons on their healing path.



## PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTION SERVICE

TYPE OF INTERVENTIONS





# COMMUNITY 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.

**REVENUES PRODUCED BY THE SALE OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTOR AMOUNT CLOSE TO \$ 900,000 PER YEAR.**

## EMPLOYEES

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTOR HAS SOME 20 EMPLOYEES WHO PROVIDE QUALITY SERVICES TO THE COMMUNITY ON A DAILY BASIS.

**88% OF THEM ARE ABORIGINAL.**



## FOOD SERVICE



Our steadily evolving Food Service offers the clientele a health menu entirely made up of home-made dishes, with seasonal colours and flavours. Regional produces are used as much as possible.

With a seating capacity of 70 places, the Centre's cafeteria has served 48,700 meals in the past year, not to mention the 38,500 snacks served to the children of the Abinodjic-Miguam Early Childhood Centre and other Friendship Centre's programs.

**OUR CHEF MARC-ANDRÉ CÔTÉ HAS PROMOTED ABORIGINAL CUISINE WHEN HE APPEARED AS A GUEST CHEF ON THE CURIEUX BÉGIN PROGRAM, BROADCASTED ON TÉLÉ-QUÉBEC: A GREAT SHOWCASE FOR OUR REGIONAL PRODUCES.**

Food Service's activities will expand in order to offer young Aboriginal people opportunities to develop their skills and increase their employability.



## LODGING

THE VAL-D'OR NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE IS A UNIQUE CULTURAL ANCHOR. WITH ITS **24 SINGLE OR FAMILY ROOMS**, THE LODGING SERVICE CAN ACCOMMODATE UP TO **54 GUESTS**.

IN 2010-2011, OUR **OCCUPANCY RATE REACHED 70%**, for a total of **12,708 OVERNIGHT STAYS**. These figures speak loudly of the importance of this service for Aboriginal people on a temporary stay in Val-d'Or.

## SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Emphasis is put on the promotion of fair trade and responsible consumption. All cleaning and maintenance products are environment friendly. Employees and clients are also invited to adopt eco-responsible behaviours.

## ARTS & CRAFTS BOUTIQUE

The Arts & Crafts Boutique promotes the talent and creativity of regional Aboriginal artists and artisans by selling genuine and exclusive artwork: gift ideas, souvenirs, a broad variety of items for all tastes, at an affordable price.



COVER:  
GILBERT NIQUAY, HOOP DANCER  
PHOTO PAUL BRINDAMOUR

PHOTOS:  
PAUL BRINDAMOUR AND VDNFC



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