



**TRUE NORTH AID**

# 2025 IMPACT REPORT



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# A Message From Our Board Chair



Dear Supporters,

2025 has been a year of meaningful growth and deepened impact for True North Aid. The pages that follow tell the story of a year in which we expanded our reach across northern and remote Indigenous communities, strengthened our partnerships, and stayed true to our foundational belief: that Indigenous self-determination is the key to addressing the profound inequities that persist in too many communities across Canada.

Through our eight Stones of Support: housing, culture, food, reconciliation, self-determination, water, health, and education, we have worked alongside community champions to deliver practical solutions to urgent needs. Whether it was providing essential supplies, supporting cultural initiatives, or addressing food insecurity in regions where the cost of groceries can be three times the national average, we have remained focused on listening first and responding with purpose.

Our work is only possible because of the trust communities place in us and the generosity of supporters like you. Every dollar donated, every volunteer hour given, and every partnership formed creates ripples of positive change that extend far beyond what any single organization could achieve alone.

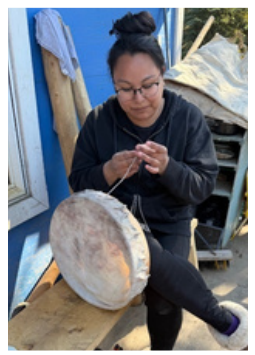
As I look at what we have accomplished together this year, I am filled with both gratitude and renewed determination. The challenges facing northern and remote Indigenous communities are significant, but so is the strength, resilience, and vision of Indigenous Peoples leading the way forward.

Thank you for standing with us in this critical work.

With gratitude,  
Bob Langlois  
Chair of the Board  
True North Aid

# Our Mission

to provide practical humanitarian support to northern and remote Indigenous communities in Canada



# Our Mandate

- To advance education by providing books, equipment and educational aids to students in northern Indigenous communities;
- To relieve poverty in northern Indigenous communities by providing food, clothing, shelter, sustainable solutions and other basic necessities of life to individuals and families who are poor, of low income, or in need;
- To provide publicly available scholarships and educational programs for the benefit of Indigenous youth;
- To support reconciliation efforts through programs that promote meaningful cross-cultural exchanges, respect for diversity and inclusion, and national awareness about the ongoing impacts of Canada's unique history for Indigenous people, particularly in the most northern and remote areas in the country; and
- To undertake activities ancillary and incidental to the attainment of the above-mentioned charitable purposes.

# Our Why

Indigenous peoples in northern and remote communities continue to face inequitable access to essential resources, shaped by the lasting impacts of forced assimilation, restrictive policies, and displacement. These systemic harms have contributed to ongoing gaps in health, education, food security, economic sovereignty, and housing.

True North Aid exists to support Indigenous-led solutions, grounded in self-governance and self-determination, so communities have what they need to thrive on their own terms.



# Who We Are

True North Aid recognizes the importance of being guided by the voices and leadership of the communities we serve. As a non-Indigenous-led organization, the Indigenous Advisory Circle, along with Indigenous members of our Board and broader network, provides essential insight, direction, and accountability in our work.

Their guidance helps ensure that our programs remain responsive, respectful, and aligned with the priorities and evolving needs of northern and Indigenous communities. This collaborative approach strengthens our ability to support community-led initiatives in a meaningful and appropriate way.

We are deeply grateful to the Elders, Knowledge Keepers, educators, and community leaders who generously share their time, knowledge, and guidance. Their contributions are foundational to our growth and to ensuring that our work continues in a good way.

## Indigenous Advisory Circle

Paul Carl  
Kerry Spence  
Mshkiki Gitigaan Kwe

## Board of Directors

Bob Langlois  
Scott Harris  
Jennifer Wood  
Steve Kataquapit  
Rana Thiara  
Linnea Kalchos

## True North Aid Staff

Kenneth Smid  
Marilyn Shuart  
Lisa Mazzocato  
Bethany Sorichetti  
Ally Cooper



"I am honoured and humbled to be able to support True North Aid as part of the Indigenous Advisory Circle. I am amazed at the ideas that the northern Indigenous communities put forward in their grant applications. Being asked to review these grants allows me to see not only the amazing ideas, but also the need for these ideas to be supported, which True North Aid does in a culturally respectful way."

Paul Carl, Indigenous Advisory Circle

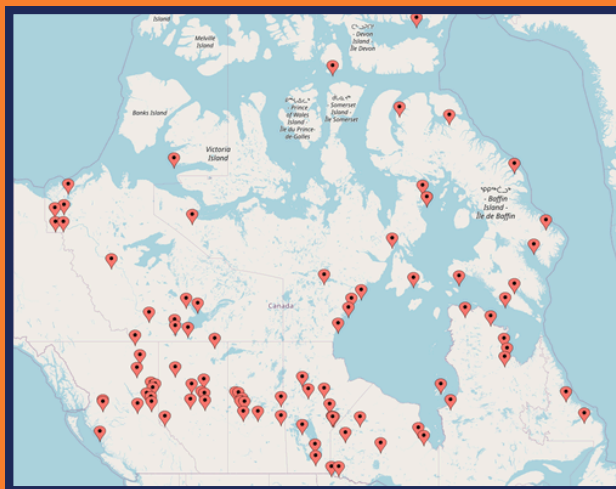
# Your 2025 Impact



85,986  
People Supported



## From Coast to Coast to Coast



173

Communities Supported



“I have always been supported by True North Aid with whatever needs I have and if they can support northern communities... True North Aid will!”

Community Initiatives Program Recipient



# Community Supplies Program

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES PROGRAM

In 2025, our Educational Resources Program supported students in northern and remote Indigenous communities by helping ensure they had the tools they needed to start and succeed in the school year. Through our **Back to School** program, students received backpacks filled with essential school supplies, removing barriers for families and helping children arrive at school prepared and confident from day one.

Complementing this work, our **Northern Reads** program strengthened community literacy by providing culturally relevant books to schools and libraries. These resources support learning while also affirming identity, language, and lived experience, helping young readers see themselves reflected in the stories they read.

In partnership with



2057



Backpack Kits Delivered

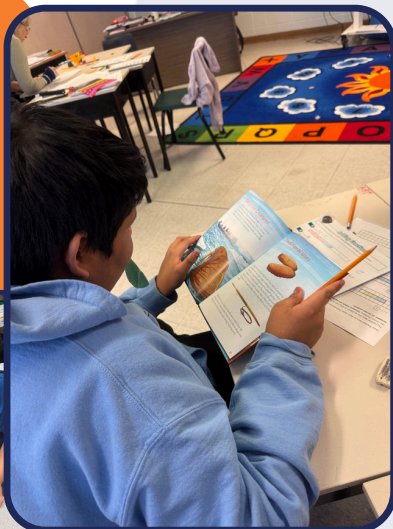


In partnership with  
**Strong Nations**

2966



Books Delivered



## 27 Communities Served



## A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP

A Good Night's Sleep is rooted in a simple but powerful belief: rest is foundational to health, learning, and overall well-being. Through this program, we work alongside northern and remote Indigenous communities in partnership with Silk & Snow to provide beds, mattresses, and bedding to community members who need them. In many remote communities, the high cost of goods and limited access make these essential items difficult to obtain, often leaving multiple family members sharing inadequate sleeping spaces.

By responding directly to community-identified needs, A Good Night's Sleep helps create safer, more comfortable home environments where individuals can rest, recover, and thrive. Improved sleep supports physical health, mental wellness, and a child's ability to focus and succeed in school. Each delivery reflects a collaborative approach guided by relationships, respect, and community leadership.

This program is about more than providing beds; it is about supporting dignity, stability, and the conditions that allow communities to continue building strength on their own terms.

In partnership with

# silk & snow



7

communities



206

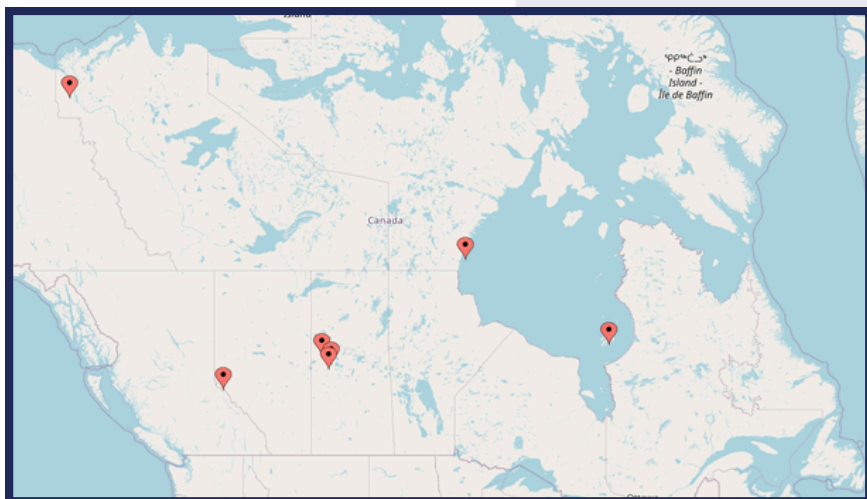
bed sets



*"We are so grateful and blessed. Our children thank you and so do our elders. Now I have to fight to get them out of bed!"*

Rebecca, Birch Narrows, SK

## 7 Communities Served



Since 2021, True North Aid has delivered over 1398 bed sets total to 58 northern and remote Indigenous communities across Canada.



# Community Initiatives Program

Our Community Initiatives Program (CIP) is how we support community-led solutions in northern and remote Indigenous communities across Canada. Rather than prescribing what support should look like, this program is built on the belief that communities know best what they need, and that lasting impact comes from investing in their leadership, knowledge, and vision.

Through the CIP, we provide direct funding to initiatives that are designed and led by communities themselves. These projects are as diverse as the communities we work alongside, and can include land-based learning programs, cultural revitalization, youth leadership initiatives, wellness and healing programs, and other efforts that strengthen community wellbeing. Every project is rooted in local priorities, relationships, and ways of knowing.

Applications are reviewed with care and respect, including guidance from our Indigenous Advisory Circle, ensuring decisions are informed by lived experience and community perspective.

At its core, the Community Initiatives Program is about trust, partnership, and self-determination. By placing resources directly in the hands of communities, we are not only supporting individual projects, we are helping to strengthen the systems, leadership, and connections that allow communities to thrive on their own terms.



# Community Initiative Program

## Recipient Highlights

### Shāwthän Näzhì Recovery Support Program

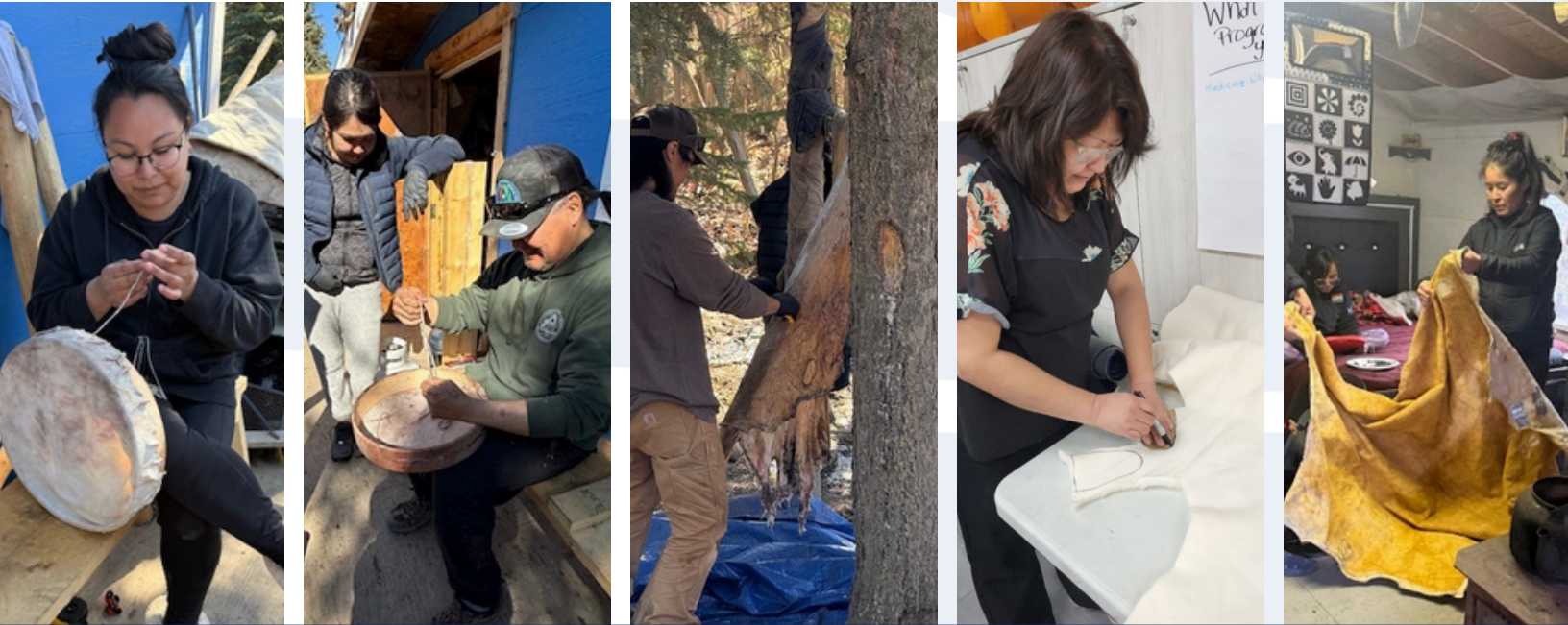
The Shāwthän Näzhì Recovery Support Program was formed with acknowledgement that people who are on a recovery journey require ongoing, tailored supports to manage their health and wellbeing. The program was also foundationally built on recognition of the insidious nature of intergenerational trauma, which can be addressed using land-based approaches to healing.

The program values the perspectives of individuals, families and communities in facilitating their own healing, and emphasizes understanding, learning, as well as respect for different ideas and opinions. The pilot program was supported by a program manager, team leads, traditional artist, and traditional firekeeper. The program took the form of weekly 4-hour sessions at a meeting space in Whitehorse. Participants were also welcomed onto the land during their 10-month-long programming.



# Community Initiative Program

## Recipient Highlights



### Moosehide Tanning Workshop

This project in Fort McPherson, Northwest Territories, brought together 20 participants and their families for a meaningful and impactful experience rooted in culture, learning, and connection. Throughout their time together, strong relationships were built and deepened, creating a shared sense of community and belonging.

Participants engaged in cultural teachings and hands-on learning, gaining a deeper understanding of traditional knowledge, including the process and significance of hide tanning. For many, this was also an opportunity to reconnect with the history and practices of their ancestors, fostering a renewed sense of pride and appreciation.

The experience extended beyond skill-building. It created space for reflection, storytelling, and shared moments of laughter, all of which strengthened connections among participants. Many left with not only completed hides, but also the confidence and intention to continue tanning together in their own time.

Overall, the project offered valuable insight into the meaning of community by working collectively, supporting one another, and learning together. Participants expressed a strong desire to return, both to deepen their knowledge and to continue being part of the relationships and community that were built.

# Community Initiative Program Recipient Highlights

## NWT Traditional Skills Program

From November 2-6, 2025 Focus Forward partnered with the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Council of Friendship Centres to facilitate a Traditional Skills & Active Living camp informed by the NTNUCFC Youth Council. Nine youth from First Nations communities across the Northwest Territories participated in four days of cultural activities, knowledge-sharing, skill-building workshops, and physical movement in Yellowknife, NWT.



## Reconnecting Our Spirit

The “Reconnecting our Spirit” project is an annual, 10-day cultural gathering that brings together community members across the Municipal District of Opportunity to celebrate and revitalize Cree heritage. Open and free to all, the event welcomed approximately 4,500 participants, the majority of whom are First Nations. Through the leadership of Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and community members, the gathering created space for cultural teachings, hands-on learning, and shared experiences that honour tradition and strengthen identity.



# MOON TIME CONNECTIONS



2025 was yet another monumental year for Moon Time Connections (MTC). Over the past year, the organization significantly expanded its reach while deepening its impact in Communities across northern and remote regions.

One of the most important areas of growth was the Moon Time Auntie and Kin Education and Training Program, funded by the Women and Gender Equality Canada through the Menstrual Equity Fund (MEF). This program continues to strengthen both the reach and depth of conversations around menstruation from an Indigenous approach and view. This capacity-building program welcomed 65 Aunties and Kin in 2025, equipping Community members with culturally grounded tools to support menstruators. Building on this momentum, MTC expanded its educational offerings in 2025 to include new modules on perimenopause and menopause, further broadening the life-cycle approach to menstrual health education. As of January 2026, MTC has trained and certified more than 150 Moon Time Aunties and Kin across the country, helping ensure culturally relevant menstrual education reaches Communities nationwide.

The MEF was further extended to allocate \$2.4 million worth of menstrual products for distribution through MTC in northern Communities where access gaps remain. This support enabled the organization to reach thousands of menstruators with essential supplies. In 2025 alone, MTC supported 69,034 menstruators with millions of products in 173 communities across the country.

**150**  
Moon Time  
Aunties & Kin  
trained and  
certified

**\$2.4 million**  
in product  
to **173**  
communities



# Important Research

In November 2025, MTC launched the second phase of its research partnership with Douglas College, funded by the Shoppers Foundation for Women's Health, aimed at deepening understanding of the experiences and needs of northern Indigenous menstruators. This research will help inform future programming and advocacy efforts. Community members were invited to participate in the ongoing survey.



# Rising Visibility

MTC's work also gained significant national visibility throughout the year. Our organization was shown in two books this year: *The Bleed Book* by joni, and *Northern Blood: Period Politics and Activism in Canada*. MTC was featured in media coverage across Canada, including online and print stories in local and national outlets such as CBC North, the Carillon, and CBC Saskatchewan. The team also shared its work through television appearances on CTV Saskatoon, and was covered in both radio and paper through CBC Sudbury, and The Carillon in Winnipeg, helping bring greater attention to menstrual equity in northern and Indigenous Communities.



Moon Time Connections' work is carried forward by a dedicated team including Nicole White, Veronica Brown, Janessa Roy, Neha Menon, Madison Morrison, Murray Unger, Caryn D'Silva, Heather Lane, and Kat Cooper.

The team extends its heartfelt gratitude to the many volunteers, donors, Community partners, and especially the team at True North Aid for their ongoing support in advancing menstrual equity across Turtle Island.



# Reconciliation In Motion

The Work 2 Give Initiative (W2G) constructed and delivered four tiny homes to Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation, which formed the initial phase of their tiny home village for Indigenous community members experiencing homelessness or living rough. The builds occurred at Beaver Creek Institution (BI, Bracebridge, Ontario), Joyceville Institution (JI, Joyceville, Ontario) and Collins Bay Institution (CBI, Kingston, Ontario).



A PARTNERSHIP  
BETWEEN



Correctional Service  
Canada

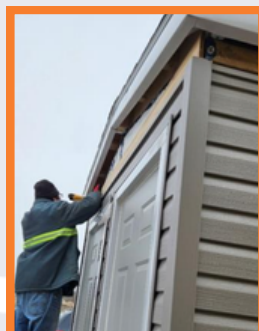


**MOVEMBER®**



Working together on the JI Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory Rattle Project and the Sagamok Feather Box project, Indigenous W2G participants crafted ten rattles and feather boxes that are to be gifted to Wiikwemkoong and Sagamok First Nation. W2G men learned the finer skills of craftsmanship while sharing the teachings of the rattle used for ceremony.

**“To go from feeling so lost, to being given the opportunity to be a part of Work to Give, feels amazing.”**  
- W2G Participant



Indigenous men helped each other find, create, and develop a plan to achieve the project goals of building two Kennels for Sagamok First Nation. The men in the Collins Bay Institution W2G program continue to learn, experiment, and hone their skills in vinyl siding, building rafters, shingling, and making fascia. The project has created the opportunity to put some personal touches on the structure that demonstrate the quality of craftsmanship developed in Work 2 Give.



Together W2G participants at Collins Bay Institution crafted twenty-five picnic tables, three park benches, six garden beds and twelve planters. The picnic tables were built for the purpose of gifting to Chippewa of the Thames First Nation (COTTFN) in strategic areas where families can gather, enjoy their time, and share stories. The garden beds and planters were built for COTTFN's food sovereignty program that will help community grow the food they need to be sustainable and contribute to community members in need. The items were built and loaded with immense pride. The men understand the need for food, especially for those that may be experiencing tough times.



Indigenous men at BI gathered to craft seven hand drums inspired by the request from COTTFN Board of Education. Together they soaked the hides, cut the holes, laced the drums, and put their heart and positive energy in creating a ceremonial tool that will help Indigenous youth express themselves and heal in a good way. The drums were delivered to COTTFN elementary school in September 2025.



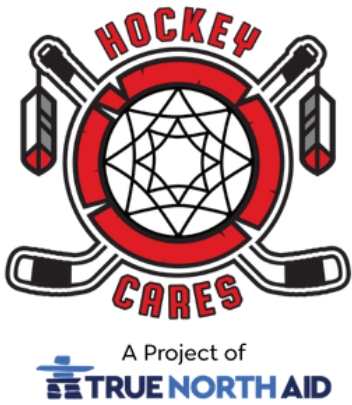
**“W2G serves incarcerated Indigenous men and Indigenous community members where it matters the most. W2G creates an environment that provides a true sense of identity for participants and a solid foundation for the next generations in community.”**

**-Robert Rittwage, W2G Project Lead**



W2G is working away on constructing an amenities house commonly referred to as the Wiki Bath House. It is a commercial building with dimensions of 60' long/30' wide/12' high. The building is being retrofitted by W2G participants with the vision of creating a common space where Wiikwemkoong community members may access all the necessary amenities in their tiny home village - Miikaan naa aki.





The 2025 Hockey Cares exchange created meaningful opportunities for friendship, cultural learning, and team building through visits in both Oakville, Ontario and Constance Lake First Nations. From June 25<sup>th</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>, Constance Lake youth visited Oakville, ON. They enjoyed making friends on and off the ice, exploring post-secondary pathways with a special focus on firefighting, spending a day with the Oakville Fire Department and discovering water activities through Wanui Outrigger and Charterability. The Oakville community once again showed its generosity, with the Lions Club covering the cost of jerseys and Film.ca hosting a night at the movies.



From November 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, the Oakville youth travelled to Constance Lake First Nation, where they reunited with friends and took part in a memorable week of land-based learning and cultural connection. Hailey Chum, the Youth Outreach Coordinator, did an incredible job hosting and organizing activities, including trapping demonstrations, fishing, archery, and fire-making competitions. The youth also experienced Oji-Cree traditional foods, including moose tacos, moose stew, and smoked goose meat. Constance Lake First Nation Chief Robert Allan hosted a wonderful welcome dinner and spoke to the youth about the importance of continuing to build relationships.

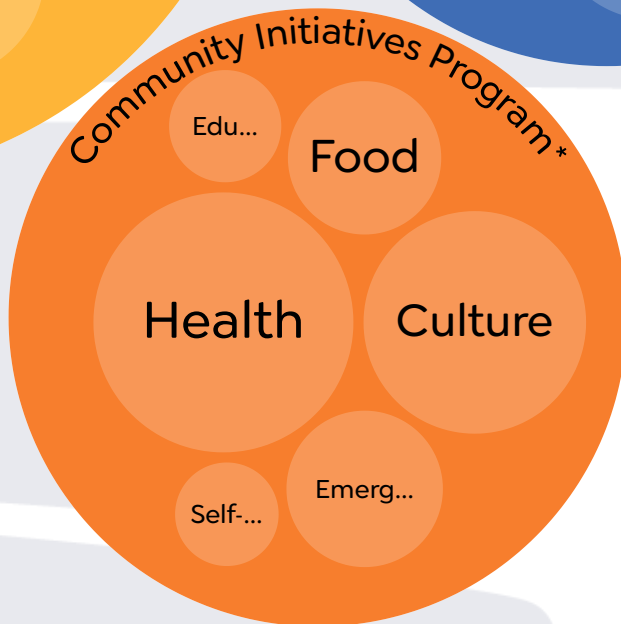
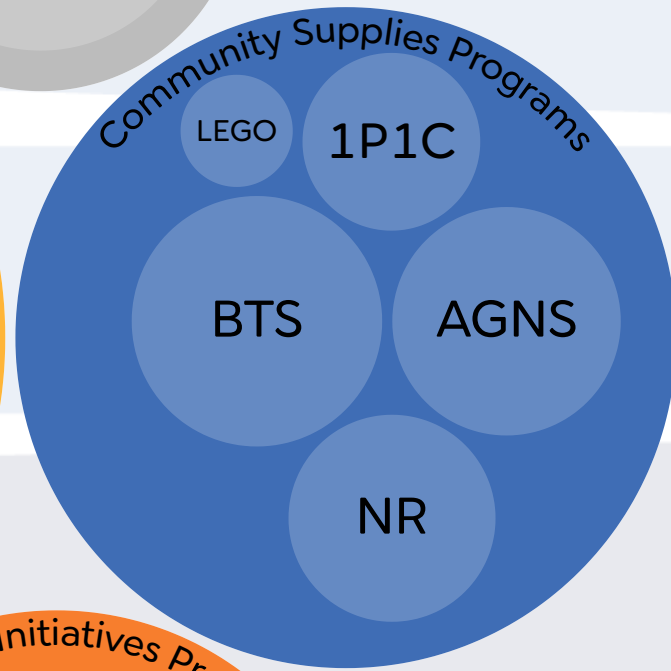
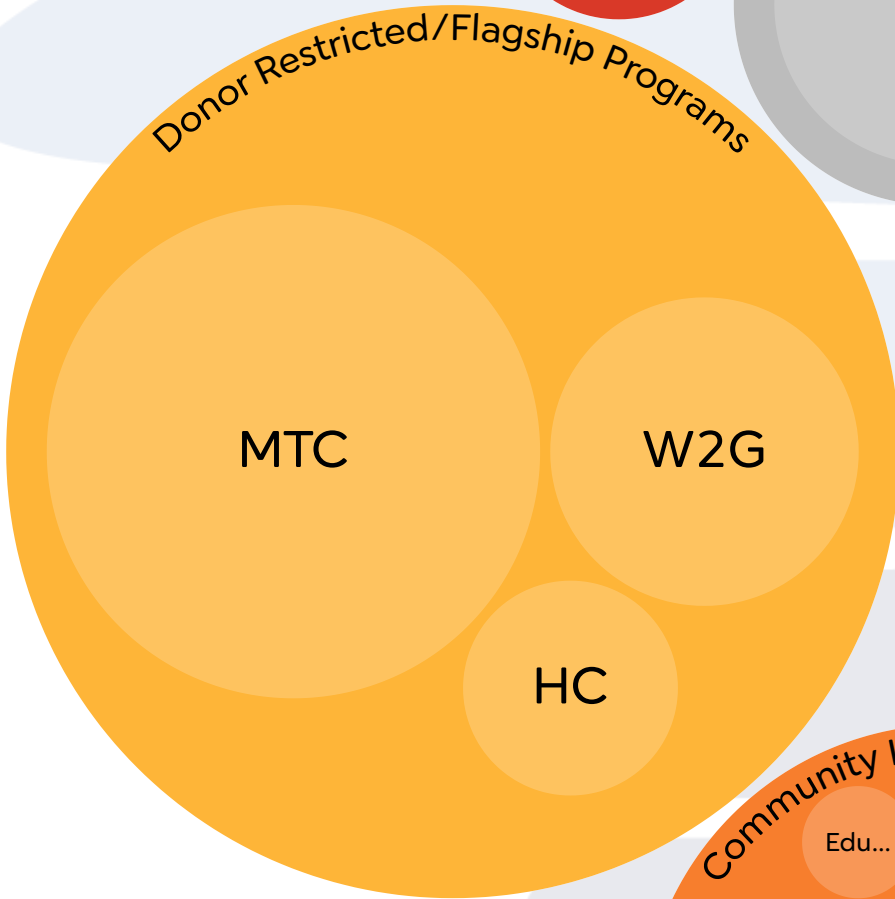
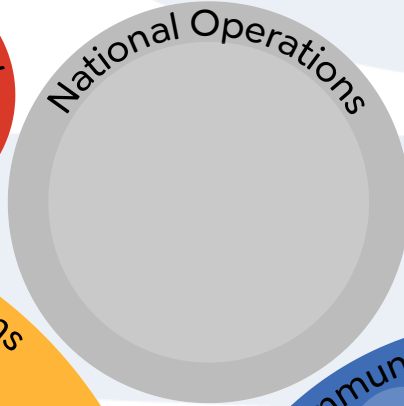
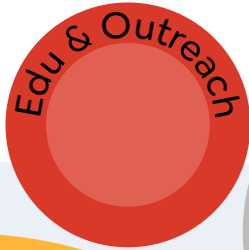


Across both visits, committee members, parent volunteers and community partners played an essential role in making the exchange a huge success. Their support helped create a welcoming environment where youth could build relationships, deepen cultural understanding and create lasting memories.

# Financial Snapshot

## Expenses

**Total Expenses**  
**\$2,072,443.20**



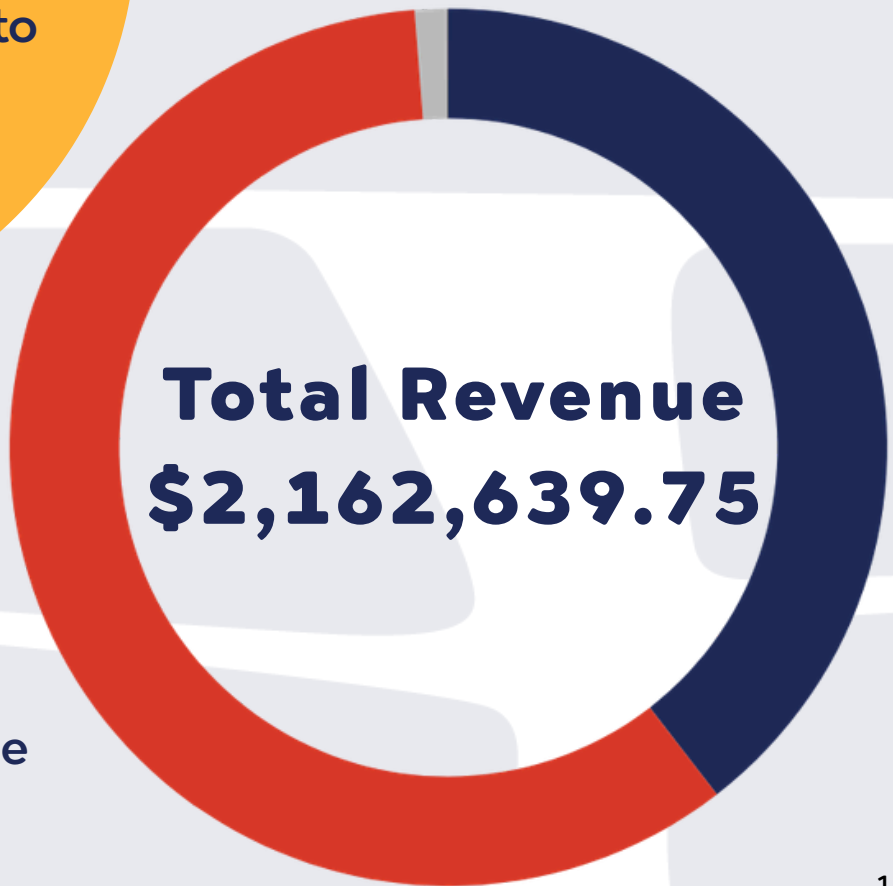
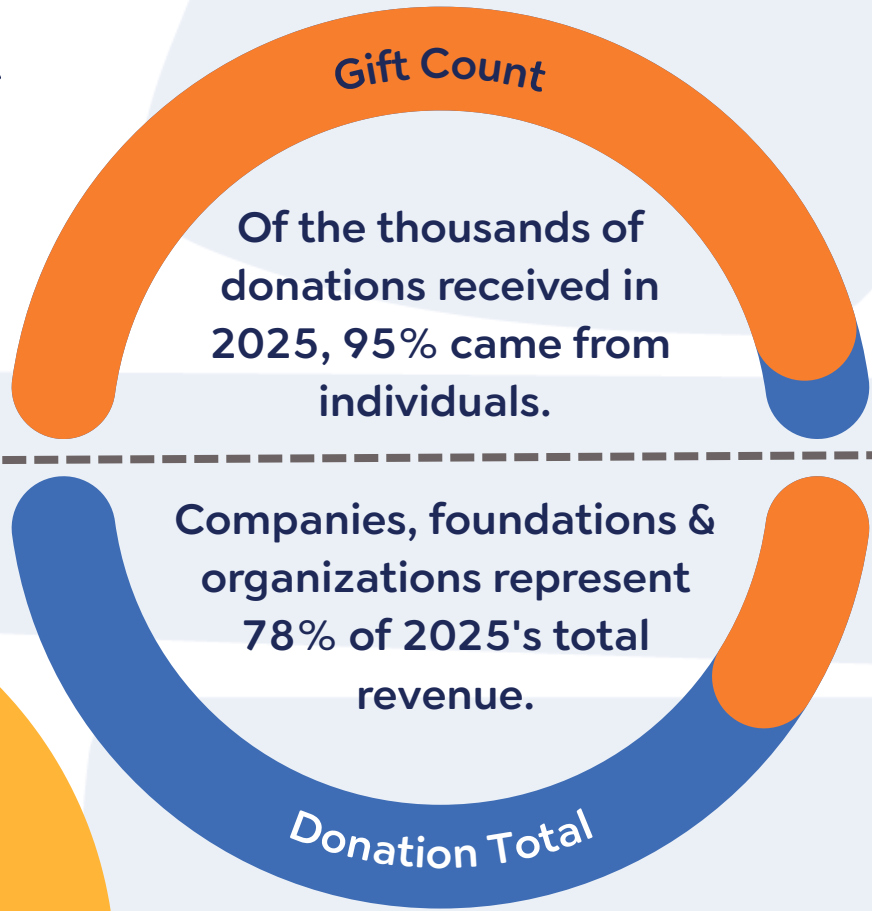
- Moon Time Connections
- Work2Give
- Hockey Cares
- Lego
- One Pallet, One Community
- Back To School
- A Good Night's Sleep
- Northern Reads
- Education
- Food
- Health
- Culture
- Self-Determination
- Emergency

\*We paused our Community Initiative Program for 5 months in 2025 to restructure the program and launch us into a stronger future!

# Financial Snapshot

## Revenue

Every donor makes an impact. Every donation is felt. Whether you donate \$5, or \$500,000, every dollar is respected and stretched to reach as far as possible!



- 39.52% Donations
- 59.24% Grants
- 1.17% Interest Income
- 0.07% Sales

# Major Sponsors

Every contribution we receive plays a vital role in making our work possible. We are deeply grateful to all of our donors, including the individuals, families, organizations, and partners, whose generosity allows us to support community-led initiatives across northern and remote Indigenous communities.

We are pleased to recognize a group of our major sponsors whose significant contributions have helped us expand our reach and deepen our impact. While we highlight these partners here, we want to emphasize that every gift, at every level, is valued and essential to the work we do.

Together, this collective support reflects a shared commitment to equity, dignity, and community-led change.



# Get Involved



Flexible funding is critical to ensuring we can respond to the areas of greatest need as they arise. Our work is guided by priorities identified directly by Indigenous communities, allowing us to provide support that is timely, relevant, and rooted in real, on-the-ground needs.

This type of funding enables us to remain responsive and adaptable in the face of changing circumstances whether addressing urgent challenges, supporting community-led initiatives, or helping remove barriers to essential resources. It allows us to act quickly, allocate resources where they will have the greatest impact, and support communities in ways that align with their goals and priorities.

Without flexible funding, our ability to respond with the same level of care, speed, and effectiveness would be significantly limited.

There are several ways to provide support:

## DIRECT DONATION

Individuals, organizations and corporations are invited to make an online donation at [truenorthaid.ca](http://truenorthaid.ca). Alternatively, a cheque can be mailed to True North Aid at the address below. If you are able, please consider giving monthly; either automatically withdrawn from a bank account or charged to a credit card.

## CUSTOM GROUP FUNDRAISER

Organizations of any kind (church groups, schools, corporations, unions, etc.) can engaged employees with a company fundraising campaign to meet a goal within a set timeframe. Please contact Donor Relations at [donate@truenorthaid.ca](mailto:donate@truenorthaid.ca) for assistance in setting up your company fundraiser.

## SPONSOR A COMMUNITY INITIATIVES PROGRAM

Commit \$10,000 to directly fund a Community Initiatives Program. CIP programs are developed by Indigenous communities and go through a rigorous application process before funding. Donor/fundraising tools are provided, as well as a final report and photos showing your impact in the community. Make a direct impact and connect with a specific community!

## LEGACY GIFTS

You may be in a position to arrange a legacy gift; a bequest in your will, a gift of stocks or mutual funds or naming True North Aid as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy. In addition to helping others, the charitable tax receipt issued can reduce your taxable income. Please contact [donate@truenorthaid.ca](mailto:donate@truenorthaid.ca) to make your wishes know.



 **TRUE NORTH AID**

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