Nshwaasnangong Child Care and Family Centre



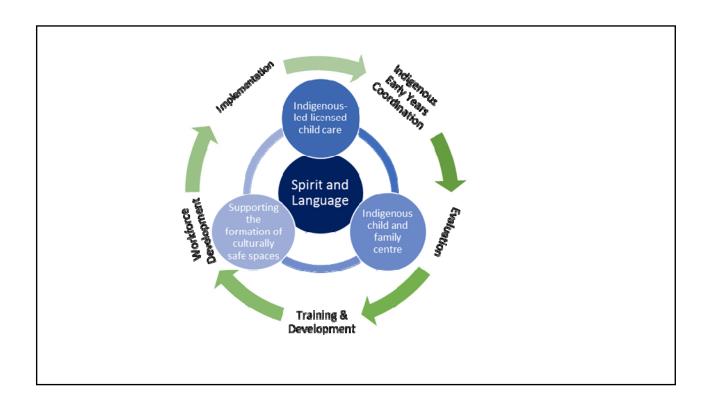
• The Tree of Life-Donald Chrétien

Background

- Early Years and Child Care planning was an opportunity to reflect on how London was supporting Indigenous families
- Journey Together supported engagement with families to understand their experiences with child care and early years
- Shared information with cross section of urban Indigenous organizations and allies
- The Indigenous community members decided to develop proposal for a submission to the Ministry of Education through the CMSM (London).
- Province of Ontario provided funding for child and family centre under Indigenous –led child care and early years (formerly the Journey Together)
- Province of Ontario / Government of Canada provided capital funding for child care under Community Based Child Care.
- These projects will be jointly constructed as a one building

Funded projects include:

- Capital for constructing an 88 space Indigenous –led child care centre and Family Centre. These will both be rooted in culture and language
 - To be constructed at 449 Hill St., London (near Colbourne and Horton St), some operating
- Culturally relevant EarlyON programming for London -Middlesex
- Training for non-Indigenous-led early years programs to develop culturally safe spaces



Planning for Nshwaasnangong

- Indigenous Early Years Coordination
 - Funding to support
 - Quality
 - Seamless service
 - Capacity building (HDLH)
 - Support for staff with language and culture
 - · Licensing navigation
- Workforce Development
 - Supporting those in the community to access education that will support families
- Training and development
 - Non-Indigenous staff to create culturally safe spaces
 - Relationships
- Evaluation
 - Develop an evaluation framework for what is success
- Implementation
 - Leadership from the Journey Together committee

Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre is the lead organization for the Design, Construction and Operation of the Child Care and Family Centre

- Vision
- A healthy balanced life through mental, physical, spiritual and emotional well-being.
- Mission
- To empower Aboriginal families and individuals to live a balanced state of well-being by sharing and promoting wholistic health practices.
- Values
- SOAHAC's culture will be most healthy if these values are intentionally lived out and reinforced on a regular basis.
- Respect for all
- Compassion
- · Quality in health promotion and care
- · Honouring all traditional values

Current Status of Projects:

Culturally Safe Spaces in London and Middlesex County

- Workshops delivered in May/ June 2019
- Gifts shared with child care and early years providers
- Upcoming workshops for Culturally Safe Spaces:
 - November 13, 27 (Central Library) and December 5 (Komoka Wellness Centre)
 - Continuing the Conversation
- Upcoming Getting to the Roots of Tolerance Workshops
 - November 19, 20 and December 11, 12
 - Online Cultural Safety Training
- Liaison recently hired by SOAHAC to support relationship building with Child Care and EArlyON providers in London /Middlesex

Current Status of Project

Construction of Nshwaasnangong Child Care and Family Centre

- City of London purchased land downtown, close to the river and transportation with sufficient land for learning
- City Demolished existing building and transferred land to SOAHAC
- Finalizing permit details to begin construction in early November
- Construction to be completed in late 2020
- The Centre received it's name in ceremony in June 2019
- Preparation for construction has included cleansing cermony and land blessing ceremonies

Current Status of Development:

Engaging Families

- Working with the City of London to Engage families about the upcoming Family Centre
 - 1. Who are you, Where are you from?
 - 2. What kinds of activities do you like to do with your children?
 - 3. What are the gifts that you see in your child and would like to nurture?
 - 4. When you gather together with other people, what makes you feel comfortable or welcome there?
 - 5. How would you like to receive communications about the project?

Next Steps:

- Continue to work with Licensing Branch of the Ministry of Education
- Develop policies for Child Care, Early ON and the Family Centre to support the outcomes of the project
- Continue to engage families in London, Middlesex and surrounding communities.
- Registration of families
- Collaboratively plan for services at the Family Centre
- · Recruitment of staff
- Opening December 2020