

Nshwaasnangong Child Care and Family Centre



- The Tree of Life-Donald Chretien

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 ceremony 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