



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



MANITOBA INUIT
ASSOCIATION
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Inuit Societal Values

Ajiiqatigiinni

Decision making through discussion and consensus.

Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq

Respect and care for the land, animals and the environment.

Piliriqatigiingniq/Ikajuqtigiinni

Working together for a common cause.

Inuuqatigiitsiarniq

Respecting others, relationships and caring for people.

Pijitsirniq

Serving and providing for family and/or community.

Pilimmaksarniq /Pijarriuqsarniq

Development of skills through observation, mentoring, practice, and effort.

Qanuqtuurniq

Being innovative and resourceful.

Tunnganarniq

Fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming and inclusive.

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Our Mission Mandate and Goals

Mission

Enhancing the lives of Inuit in Manitoba by promoting Inuit values, community and culture while connecting to services that meet our evolving needs.

Mandate

Manitoba Inuit Association is the Manitoba non-profit organization representing Inuit residing in Manitoba.

Goals

Build a vibrant Manitoba Inuit community by connecting Inuit through activities and initiatives that sustain and build Inuit culture, values and language;



Improve education, employment and training outcomes for Inuit in Manitoba;



Develop research partnerships that help improve the health status for Inuit in Manitoba;



Foster organizational capacity and innovation.

In Memory of Fred Ford

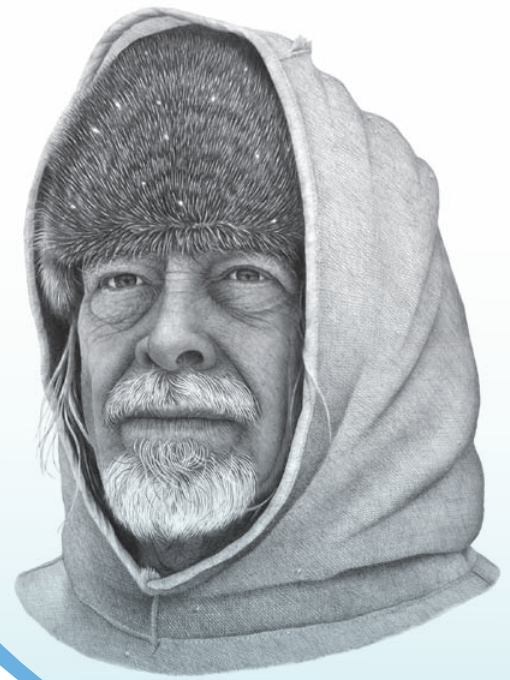
Fred Ford 1949-2022

Fred Ford was the grandson of Uqalujujuq (otherwise known as Henry Thomas Ford), his paternal grandfather from Labrador. Fred was a father, brother, uncle, grandfather, partner, friend and mentor to countless people he met on his journey.

Fred had the heart of a servant and was a pragmatic leader and advocate for Inuit in Manitoba and Canada. He was also there for anyone who needed help or friendship that was being “left behind”. He led with compassion and empathy, and celebrated his Inuit ancestry through creating spaces for Inuit art and culture as will be remembered through his work within many local community organizations that celebrate the richness of culture, music, art and ministry. He was at home in both his communities of Winnipeg and Nunavut.

Fred was a long-standing board member and President and Board Chair of Manitoba Inuit Association. He had an incredible impact on the organization and the Inuit community in Manitoba.

Manitoba Inuit Association will be one of Fred’s great legacies reflecting a long life of service to his community.



Pencil portrait
by Gerald Kuehl



President and Board Chair Message

As a former board member, a decade ago, I am honoured to return to service to my community as I come back around the board table, with my fellow Inuit, as the President and Board Chair of Manitoba Inuit Association.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank past president, Wayne Clark for accepting the position of Interim Board Chair in the fall when Fred, our former president became ill. It is never easy to take the reins during an incredibly busy time in an organization, let alone supporting our community during the pandemic but Wayne rose to the challenge and provided the steadiness we required through our transition. We are very thankful for his support and leadership during this period.

I also want to remember my brother Fred for his leadership and passion in running the organization as the President and Board Chair and thank all the community for your condolences in his passing.

I am in a unique position to come back to this organization which we started with a meeting in the Chocolate Shoppe, with the support of the Federal Government and the Social Planning Council in 2007. I then returned to the organization a few years later when it was in a small office within an allied community agency with one staff member and minimal resources. And I return this year with a staff of 17 and we continue to grow and provide services to our Inuit community in Manitoba. On Nunavut Day in July 2019, we opened our own offices at 1000 Notre Dame Avenue and this past year we expanded our footprint, adding an additional 2,500 square feet of office space and enhanced our partnerships and funding levels to be in a place where we can provide hope to our community and make positive changes.

I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank the leadership and staff of Manitoba Inuit Association for guiding our community through a very challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic with our IQ principles as the forefront of our approach. Your voice and advocacy for Inuit to be prioritized in the provincial deployment of COVID-19 vaccinations shows what Inuit can do when we take a stand for the rights of our people. Thank you to

Rachel Dutton and the staff who worked tirelessly through the pandemic. It has been a remarkable journey with amazing people, and I am humbled to be a part of this dynamic team, organization and community.

As we move on in our journey as an organization, we are thrilled to have Mr. Nastania Mullin, join us as our Chief Executive Officer of Manitoba Inuit Association and Ikayuqtiit Inc. Mr. Mullin joined us in September 2022 bringing his years of leadership, government experience, passion, drive and Inuit knowledge that will propel the organization into its next chapter. Welcome Nastania!

Marti Ford

Chief Executive Officer Message



Having recently joined the Manitoba Inuit Association (MIA) and Ikayuqtiit Inc. as the new Chief Executive Officer is a great honour. Having the trust and support of the Board of Directors to further advance the rights of Inuit in Manitoba is something I am looking forward to advocating for.

I would like to thank the acting president Dr. Wayne Clark and the current president Marti Ford on sharing their knowledge, leadership and years of experience within the organization.

I would also like to thank Rachel Dutton for acting as the Executive Director. I look forward to leaning on Rachel's experience as she transitions to her role of Chief Operating Officer.

Working with the Federal and Provincial governments on advancing truth and reconciliation is essential. It is with their support that we can continue to move in that direction.

Creating strategic partnerships with other indigenous organizations will be a great steppingstone for Inuit to be able to advance our rights and addressing common themes.

I look forward to furthering the work of addressing the gaps that Inuit of Manitoba face.

Nastania Mullin



Message from The Chief Operating Officer (Past Acting Executive Director)

These are difficult times as the world struggles with the impacts of climate change, global conflicts, food shortages and the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has shown unprecedented public health challenges that have devastating economic impacts on households and labour markets. Declines in health outcomes and food insecurity are among the disproportionate impacts on its most vulnerable citizens around the world.

The pandemic sharpened the focus on the inequities of healthcare, Inuit data sovereignty issues and the impacts of colonization and racism on the life expectancy of Canada's Indigenous Peoples. However, when given the agency, Inuit, First Nations and Metis will take a distinctions-based approach to lead their communities and allies through a health crisis if given the resources and capacity to act. This was our story at Manitoba Inuit Association during the height of the pandemic.

The pandemic journey started with a crash-course in microbiology, epidemiology, public health and the work of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). We learned about COVID-19 testing and its importance, the significance of health surveillance of the population you serve and vaccines/vaccine deployment.

The fall/winter of 2020, MIA sat in virtual spaces with federal/provincial governments, COVID-19 scientists, public health officials and Indigenous organizations that were grappling with access to COVID-19 testing and health surveillance on their populations to determine test positivity rates and intensive care unit hospitalizations. We worked collaboratively with Indigenous organizations throughout the country and at home, advocating for provinces to follow the NACI recommendations that prioritized First Nations, Inuit and Metis in the first rounds of vaccine deployment throughout Canada.

December 2020 in Manitoba, First Nations were granted a 20-year age differential to the age eligibility set by the provincial government and vaccinated on-reserve First Nations and in January 2021 vaccinated off-reserve First Nations. This followed the NACI prioritization for First Nations, Inuit and Metis in COVID-19 vaccines. However, Inuit were not included in the provincial deployment of vaccine to prioritized/vulnerable populations.

MIA took a distinctions-based approach to vaccine deployment and by March 2021 we successfully negotiated our Inuit-led vaccine clinics for Inuit households 18+. We hosted MIA vaccine clinics in April, May and June and later in December and vaccinated Inuit at an unprecedented rate in the first round of COVID-19 vaccine deployment. Our MIA team was at the frontlines of the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on Inuit in Manitoba; food insecurity, diminished PPE capacity in Inuit households and barriers to accessing COVID-19 testing sites that we addressed through MIA's COVID-19 Food/PPE hamper program that reached hundreds of Inuit throughout the province of Manitoba.

Through our vaccine clinics and public health advocacy, we were able to continue to meet needs and serve our community throughout the provincial health restrictions and closures. Now it has been the gradual return to our work/community spaces and readjusting how we work with social distancing. From this, we learned how to pivot and deliver services online and still provide the most vital capacity to keep Inuit healthy through Inuit ways of knowing.

As we embark on our new landscape of providing service and advocacy for Inuit in Manitoba, we welcome our new President and Board Chair, Marti Ford and new Chief Executive Officer, Nastania Mullin.

Rachel Dutton

Province of Manitoba Land Acknowledgement

The Manitoba Inuit Association ensured the inclusion of Inuit in the Province of Manitoba's first-ever Land Acknowledgement. Drafting and offering this Land Acknowledgement was a historical step for the province, and we were at the table along with First Nations and Red River Métis leaders to help the Government of Manitoba. We were present to witness their Acknowledgement being delivered for the first time at the opening of a sitting of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba on November 29, 2021.



We acknowledge we are gathered on Treaty 1 Territory and that Manitoba is located on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishininewuk, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk Nations.

We acknowledge Manitoba is located on the Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We acknowledge northern Manitoba includes lands that were and are the ancestral lands of the Inuit.

We respect the spirit and intent of Treaties and Treaty Making and remain committed to working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in the spirit of truth, reconciliation and collaboration.

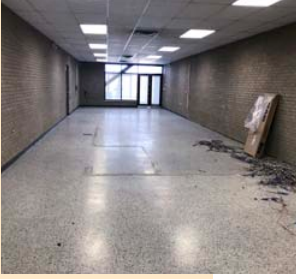
Every time they sit down together at the Legislature, the Province of Manitoba now officially recognizes that Inuit have an ancestral relationship with this land, and that the government has responsibilities to advance truth and reconciliation for Inuit in this jurisdiction. This will impact the government's cooperation, inclusion and support for Inuit. Manitoba's land acknowledgement makes it clear that the province now understands that its efforts toward truth and reconciliation must include Inuit.



Expanding Manitoba Inuit Association Offices

Community Need and 2021 Facility Expansion: Inuit

More than 27% of Inuit are now living outside their land claim regions and this figure is growing exponentially, and Manitoba's shared border with Nunavut makes it a primary destination for Inuit. Every year, more than 15,000 Inuit from the Kivalliq region of Nunavut travel to Winnipeg to access healthcare. Until now, there was no community hub for Inuit to go to find cultural connection and culturally specific support in this province.



In spring of 2019, we opened Manitoba Inuit Association's offices located at 1000 Notre Dame Avenue in Winnipeg, and in 2021/22 we added another 2,500 square feet to our offices for a combined 5,000+ square foot facility, which includes a community kitchen, large multipurpose programming space, a family room, a reception area, and offices. This transformed us as an organization and brought our ability to better serve the Inuit community. It gave us a place where we could bring more Inuit together to build relationships and share culture, enabled us to include more partner organizations at our meetings and events, and made it easier for everyone to access our services.



Manitoba Inuit Association During COVID-19



Within a year of opening, the pandemic struck and having our own Inuit community centre proved its value in a whole new way. When public gatherings were restricted and our space could not be filled with people, we used this as an opportunity to stock food and supplies for our Food Hamper Program. Instead of attending a community celebration or cultural workshop, many Inuit families' first experience visiting our new office was attending one of our COVID-19 vaccine clinics. Having such a well-equipped facility enabled us to respond quickly to community needs, empowering us to do so much more for Inuit during such a dangerous and difficult time.



An Inuit Place to Come Together

The Manitoba Inuit Association's footprint in Winnipeg is a major step forward in the province, providing much-needed space for our rapidly growing Inuit community to come together and share resources, services, programming and culture. A lot of Inuit culture is land-based, the fact that we are located outside of Inuit Nunangat (the Inuit homeland) makes it especially important to have a cultural home-base to call our own, and to be able to invite all our Inuit and non-Inuit friends, family and neighbours. We are so thrilled to be able to offer a safe, warm, welcoming place for Inuit to share and connect with each other and with the entire community.



Inuit Health Research: Qanuinnngitsiarutiksait (“Tools for the Safety/Wellbeing of Inuit”)

The Need for Inuit-Specific Health Research

Like First Nations and Métis, Inuit continue to suffer from poorer health status than non-Indigenous Canadians. The reasons for this are complex. Inuit families face many disparities, inequalities, and inequities that negatively impact their health and wellbeing. This includes inadequate access to healthcare within their traditional territory, and the absence of culturally specific supports when they seek healthcare outside of Inuit Nunangat.

While governments have begun to provide culturally specific support for Indigenous people who are living within their own land claim territories, the needs of displaced Inuit have not been properly understood or provided for. Every year, Inuit travel from Nunavut to Manitoba, primarily to access healthcare, education/training and other services. Of those who travel here for health services, some stay for a day or two, while others relocate to Manitoba for ongoing healthcare that they cannot otherwise access in their home community. The Manitoba Inuit Association is working with researchers to learn about problems Inuit have with healthcare in Manitoba and work on how to make things better.

Our Research Team

Through Manitoba Inuit Association’s partnership with The University of Manitoba’s Ongomiizwin Research, the largest Indigenous education and health unit in Canada: Ongomiizwin (“Clearing a path for generations to come”), also known as The Rady Faculty of Health Sciences’ Indigenous Institute of Health and Healing. Our team includes members from the Manitoba government, the government of Nunavut, the Iqaluit-based Qaujigiartiit Health Research Centre, the University of British Columbia, the Manitoba Métis Federation, members of the Northern Medical Unit, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Aboriginal and

Northern Health Office. Ongomiizwin exists to provide leadership and advance excellence in research, education and health services in collaboration with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. This work is guided by Knowledge Keepers and Elders and helps to achieve health and wellness of Indigenous peoples.

Qanuinnngitsiarutiksait (“tools for the safety/wellbeing of Inuit”)

Since 2017, the Manitoba Inuit Association has been partnering with the Ongomiizwin Research Department and the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy to conduct a major Inuit healthcare research project called Qanuinnngitsiarutiksait (“tools for the safety/wellbeing of Inuit”). Originally a 4-year project, this initiative has grown into a 7-year partnership that will run until 2023. Our goal is to document the needs of Inuit in Manitoba through the lens of healthcare, educational and social services. We want to use this information to guide us as we work to improve the health and wellbeing of Inuit accessing healthcare in Manitoba, whether they are residents or visitors temporarily accessing Manitoba healthcare centers.

We quickly determined that gathering data for this type of research is challenging. Our researchers have worked diligently to gather a robust set of data tracking Inuit health trends in Manitoba. In January of 2020, the Ongomiizwin Research team met in person with our team’s Inuit Elders Advisory Council to discuss preliminary data trends and get input on what to investigate next. Our research partnership is designed to include this type of ongoing dialogue. Inuit perspectives are essential in order to help non-Inuit scientists decide what questions they should ask and guide their inquiries to make sure they are not making incorrect assumptions about what the data means due to their lack of cultural knowledge or lived experience of being Inuit.

Impact & Future Plans

We began publishing our initial research findings in 2021. This work has already had a vital impact on the health of Inuit in Manitoba. The Inuit health data created in this study assisted in MIA’s advocacy that held the Province of Manitoba to prioritizing Inuit in the provincial age eligibility of COVID-19 vaccination deployment and support MIA’s COVID vaccine clinics for Inuit.

As the project continues, we will be looking to Inuit community members to provide further input and insight into the health challenges they have faced and the problems we need to address. We are going to work together with Elders, knowledge keepers, Inuit community members, government, and other organizations to help make the changes that will enable Inuit families to be safe, healthy, and well.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the unmet needs of Inuit in Canada. Today, approximately one third of all Inuit in Canada live outside Inuit Nunangat. Annually there are 15,000 hospital visits from Inuit from the Kivalliq region (in Nunavut) who access short, medium and long-term healthcare services in Winnipeg. There are approximately 1500 Inuit living in Manitoba, 60% of which live in the Winnipeg area. This number is likely to grow over the next decade as Inuit living in Inuit Nunangat continue to relocate here for health care, higher education, housing, jobs and opportunities not available in their home communities.



“If anyone has a problem MIA can help.”

– Community member, MIA vaccine clinic

Food Hamper Program

Food security and access to other essentials like personal PPE was one of the most immediate and pressing needs for Manitoba Inuit when the pandemic hit. We moved quickly to establish a Food Hamper program to address those needs, and we have continued to provide this for the duration of the pandemic.

The program has struggled with a shortage of transportation and staffing, but through it all we managed to be certain that all who needed access to food were able to receive regardless of the issues that we were challenged with. Our Food Hamper program has provided support to Inuit throughout Manitoba, serving hundreds of individuals and families each year.

For those in Winnipeg and the surrounding area, we have been able to provide access to country foods (e.g. whale, caribou, char) as well as weekly donations of food and supplies that we have gathered at our center. We have been supporting Inuit in other areas of Manitoba through monthly grocery store gift cards. The amount in each hamper or gift card reflects the size of the household/family receiving it.

To support our efforts, we established COVID-19 Emergency Hamper Partnerships with: Costco, Northern Meats & Cantors, St Mary's Church (Superstore & Co-op Gift Cards), Co-op, The Northwest Company, U-Haul, and United Way of Winnipeg.

Some highlights from 2021/2022:

- Minister of Indigenous Services Canada, Marc Miller visited Manitoba Inuit Association on August 5, 2021. During his visit, Minister Miller and his team toured the space where the Hamper Program took place and discussed the successes and challenges of the program.



- United Way of Winnipeg donated hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes to the hamper program, allowing us to provide those items in the hampers.
- Country foods were purchased from Kivalliq Arctic foods in Rankin Inlet, NU and included in hampers.
- Each family received a box of meat from Cantors Meat (for those in Winnipeg).
- We sent out Christmas hampers to over 100 Inuit in Winnipeg. We also held a raffle for a hamper during Christmas that was open to all Inuit households in Winnipeg.
- 36 families & individuals were added to the list bringing our total in Winnipeg to 116 households and rising on a weekly basis.
- In rural Manitoba we have a total of 18 Inuit families/individuals receiving gift cards each month.
- For those in Churchill and rural/remote northern Manitoba, we have continued our partnership with the Northern Store. 35+ Inuit families have received store credit each month.
- We have been making care packages for the vulnerable Inuit population who are displaced and unhoused who face greater challenges. Included in the care packages are bus tickets, gift cards, face masks, hand sanitizer and quick meals such as drinks, protein bars and other items. In the winter, we gave them hand warmers and boots. We also provide information on other resources in the city (e.g. warming shelters and food programs).
- Our Covid-19 Hamper program was covered by APTN news on Dec 23, 2021.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vej8qbLPm1c>

Qujanamiigikajutaulauqapta.

“Thank you so much for helping us during this difficult time, when extra income was nowhere to be had. With the hamper program, it has helped my family make ends meet. It has kept us going for another month. Without the program, many of us would have gone without the necessary staples we need. We appreciate the help we received through the hamper program from Manitoba Inuit Association”.

With great appreciation,
– Maatamit (Elder from Brandon, MB)

"I am so thankful for the hamper program it was a great help to me and my family as I enjoyed sharing with my family members as well."

– Grace Clark (Elder from Winnipeg, MB)

"The 2021-22 hamper was great. Was very helpful. I'm glad MIA got to help us again. Thank you very much MIA!!"

– Lina Angoo (Family Hamper recipient, Churchill MB)

"I just wanted to let you know that I really appreciate the hampers I have been given. The stuff in the hampers helps a lot because food and supplies are hard to buy when you have a limited income and bills come first. The cost of toiletries and food has gone up so much and the items given are so hearty and helpful. Everything we get is never wasted. The gift cards help me to get the fruits, cheese, vegetables and a treat."

Qujannamiik

– Darryl Kablalik (Individual Hamper Recipient, Winnipeg MB)

"I just wanted to say that the hampers I receive is very helpful for me and my family. The foods help with breakfast, lunches and suppers. The variety helps make many different meals. The cleaning supplies are great because before I got the hampers it would be the last thing I would buy because everything else used up the money I had. It's really nice to get the little surprises each time. Like cookies and dried fruits. The gift cards help me to get fresh produce and dairy products. It is always nice to see Jenelle and get to chat for a bit. The Manitoba Inuit association staff is all great and welcoming."

Thank you for taking care of me and my family,

– Ezura (Logan) Kablalik (Family Hamper recipient, Winnipeg MB)



MIA Inuit Vaccine Clinics

Advocating for Inclusion of Inuit in the Province of Manitoba's Pandemic Response

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommended early access to the COVID-19 vaccine for Inuit. Citing income inequality, vaccine hesitancy, and social determinants of health, NACI predicted poor health outcomes for Inuit who contracted COVID-19.

By January 2021, Manitoba was the only jurisdiction in Canada with a significant Inuit population that did not prioritize Inuit for early access, unlike Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, Newfoundland, NWT and Nunavut. Even as Manitoba First Nations living off-reserve were granted a 20-year age differential, Manitoba Inuit could not access the vaccine at the same rate as First Nations.

The Manitoba Government maintained that there was no specific Manitoba data pointing to the need for early access specifically for Manitoba Inuit. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) generously shared some of their vaccines with Inuit Elders in Winnipeg. MIA worked quickly to identify Inuit Elders to get them to the AMC clinic.

The Manitoba Inuit Association mobilized quickly to gather and present data on Manitoba Inuit, and advocate for vaccine clinics to serve the Inuit population in line with Inuit values. This took up valuable time, but we succeeded at convincing the Province of Manitoba that they must support Inuit through:

- **Early Protection For Elders:** Ensuring Elders were vaccinated as soon as possible. Inuit Elders are at greater risk of severe health outcomes from contracting COVID-19. MIA wanted to

ensure Elders had early access to the vaccine if they chose to be vaccinated. Elders hold the key to Inuit culture and knowledge and needed priority access to the vaccine.

- **Equitable Access:** All Inuit aged 18+ to have access vaccines like other Canadian jurisdictions (and for Inuit household members aged 12+ when other jurisdictions started vaccinating Inuit aged 12+).
- **Access for Entire Families:** Non-Inuit living in Inuit households to have access vaccines at the same time and age eligibility as non-Inuit. Inuit did not want to leave their non-Inuit family members behind - and it was important to many same-age couples to attend the clinic together to ensure high uptake rates. Advocating for non-Inuit members of a family to access the vaccine at the same time as their Inuit family members aimed to remove a significant barrier to Inuit who may not otherwise access the vaccine.

Hosting Vaccine Clinics at Manitoba Inuit Association

By late March, the government agreed to allow MIA to hold a single-day pop up clinic for Inuit on April 26th (2021). Only one week before the clinic was to be held, the province finally agreed to allow Inuit 18+ to be vaccinated at the MIA April clinic (an acknowledgement of the Province that Inuit must be prioritized based on advocacy and information provided by MIA). It was a partial, but important victory for Inuit access to the COVID-19 vaccine.

We held 4 Vaccine Clinics in 2021/2022 and will continue offering them in the future as needed. MIA designed all its vaccine clinics using an Inuit lens. Following Inuit societal values, we placed



priority on Elders and used an “Inuit household” approach, immunizing families together regardless of race to encourage all members of Inuit households to attend. This “household approach” had an excellent turnout, as members of Inuit families encouraged each other to attend the welcoming, Inuit-specific clinics. MIA worked with other Inuit organizations to help with transportation for Inuit families who required assistance and provided childcare on site. Through the work of dedicated staff, a major online presence, a pre-booking and appointment system, and follow up with hundreds of Inuit, MIA worked to attract as many Inuit family members as possible.

Successes

There are many successes to be celebrated by both MIA and the many Provincial representatives who worked to make the MIA vaccine clinics a success:

- Our health research partnership with the University of Manitoba provided us with our MIA-owned data was invaluable in making our case for support to the Province of Manitoba.
- MIA’s ability to reach the Inuit community in Southern Manitoba helped to increase MIA’s profile within our community.
- We also celebrate the successful partnership with the province and the actual delivery of the vaccines with the Provincial FIT team. MIA delivered 350 vaccines to members of Inuit households at three clinics held at MIA offices on Notre Dame April 26th, May 25th and June 16th (2021). Staff at MIA have continued to help the remaining Inuit access vaccines at permanent vaccine clinics as needed. We plan to hold additional clinic(s) if/when the need is arises.
- Covered by CBC, Global News and APTN, MIA was one of the most publicized pop-up clinics serving a specific hard-to-reach population and was hailed as a successful model for reaching a specific group. CBC carried the story on national radio and television.
- The province’s recognition of MIA’s advocacy and ground-breaking data collection on Inuit health helped MIA make a national impact. Manitoba Health drew on the methods developed by our research team to identify Inuit in their administrative data, and report to MIA bi-weekly on the number of COVID tests and cases in the Inuit community living in Manitoba and accessing services in Manitoba.

Manitoba is the only jurisdiction in Canada to have acknowledged the critical role of an urban Inuit organization as an invaluable partner in pandemic planning and service delivery. This was a first for Manitoba, which previously engaged with First Nation and Métis organizations, but ignored the Manitoba Inuit Association; we understand this shift as an acknowledgement by the province that the Manitoba Inuit Association is key for Inuit self-determination.

Constraints & Recommendations to the Province of Manitoba

We also learned a lot about our challenges and constraints in meeting the needs of the hard-to-reach Inuit community in Manitoba during a pandemic. MIA was not recognized as the voice of Inuit in Manitoba at the start of the pandemic, and we did not have core funding from the Province of Manitoba at that time, to support our work which slowed our collective response.

While Manitoba tourism promotes the talents of Inuit through the Winnipeg Art Gallery and the allure of Inuit way of life advertising trips to Churchill, there is a deep lack of knowledge at top levels of the Provincial Government about the realities facing Inuit who live in Manitoba. The data gap on Inuit living here is extreme, and the lack of Provincial recognition of MIA as an official representative of Inuit led to serious delays in providing services to Inuit.

To prepare for the future, we have called on the province to work with the Manitoba Inuit Association to:

1. Officially recognize Manitoba Inuit Association as primary representative of Inuit in Manitoba, and fund accordingly
2. Create an Inuit-Crown Relations Branch within Government of Manitoba
3. Manitoba Health to embrace distinctions-based approach to Inuit health care
4. Create a Provincial-Inuit task force to ensure Inuit health data is embedded in Provincial health data for future decision-making





Education Connections

Designed to help increase Inuit student graduation and enrollment in post-secondary education, our Education Connections program provides targeted support to Inuit High school students from grades 9-12 and post-secondary students who either live or fly to Winnipeg to continue their studies. Our Inuit Student Support Workers provide mentorship, assistance, and cultural connections for Inuit students in order to:

- Empower Inuit to access what they need to succeed in their studies and future employment
- Give Inuit opportunities to access and enjoy their culture while they are living/staying outside of Inuit Nunangat

Assistance & Support for Inuit Students

We have continued assisting Inuit students throughout the pandemic. Our staff are here to help Inuit learners find what they need, build a support network, and feel at home here in Winnipeg - whether they are here as temporary or long-term residents.

We provide students with hampers, referrals and personalised assistance with things like budgeting, funding, bursaries, scholarships, applying for schools, seeking employment, housing, finding furnishings, accessing childcare, networking with other community groups, locating things in the city (e.g. laundromat) and addressing concerns on campus (e.g. helping to ensure a safe and inclusive space in Residence).

We recently held a student giveaway with 3 prizes. Inuit students aged 15+ were eligible for the draw, and the winners each received new backpacks full of supplies. Each backpack contained notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, agenda, folders and water bottles, and one special prize for each winner: a tablet, some earbuds, and a Fitbit.

We also connect with students via email social media, including a Facebook messenger group chat to share information about resources and events in the area. In January 2022, we started a monthly e-newsletter for students and acquired 2 laptops for student use. These computers are available for students to use at our community centre, and we have pre-loaded them with helpful resources for students (links to resume building websites, job hunting sites, tips for interviews, etc.).

Partnerships

We continue to build our relationships with local schools and post-secondary institutions to connect with Inuit students and make sure that they know they can come to us if they need something the school does not provide. We have also been spreading the word to Nunavut schools so that prospective Manitoba students can connect with us for information or assistance. Now that schools and post-secondary institutions are back to in-person classes, we can return to those places to meet with more academic advisors, check out campuses, introduce ourselves to staff and students, participate at events and give cultural presentations in those spaces.

Connecting Students with Educational Opportunities

Education Connections also provides field trips and presentations for Inuit youth to explore education options and get acquainted with post-secondary institutions and training centres in Winnipeg. This has been interrupted by the pandemic, but we look forward to returning to it soon.

One of our pre-pandemic highlights was our 3-Day Scholarly Exploration Workshop, offered in partnership with Ongomiizon Education and at the University of Manitoba in 2020. We brought Inuit high school students to the University's Bannatyne and Fort Garry campuses, visiting the Asper School of Business, Migizii Agamik - the Indigenous Student Centre, the Faculty of Engineering - ENGAP Engineering Access Program, and then went to the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences to learn about opportunities at the College of Rehabilitation Science, Ongomiizwin Education, the College of Dentistry, and the College of Pharmacy. The project was recognized in a UM Today News article that featured one of our participants.

"I didn't know some of those careers existed and it was really an eye-opener to see what else is out there and what the world has to offer."

– Anonymous (youth participant)

After School Mentorship Program

Our mentorship program had to go on hold due to the pandemic, and we look forward starting up again soon. Including both high school students and post-secondary students, this program creates a buddy system between students who have relocated to Manitoba for their studies. One of our goals is to build a community feeling for homesick students by connecting them with each other, with their culture, with the local Inuit community, and the broader Winnipeg community. We are providing educational support and access to Inuit culture for youth that are away from family and new to the city and serving Inuit youth who may have lived in Winnipeg all their lives. This includes many students who may not have opportunities to travel up north, and who need more ways to connect with their heritage here - where they live.

Participants gather at MIA to take part in activities together. The program is student-led, meaning our specific activities are based on the needs, interests, and priorities of participating

youth. In response to their requests, past programming has included things like learning Inuktitut, mitt making, and land-based education. We have gone on various excursions, including a trip to the Winnipeg Art Gallery and an opportunity to view their Inuit art collection. We also hosted guest speakers to share information about student employment and training opportunities, including university courses and programs that our participants wanted to learn more about. One of the biggest highlights was the food we shared together at our gatherings. From caribou and bannock to beluga whale and arctic char, our traditional meals were full of the comforting flavours of the Inuit homeland that are harder to come by here in Winnipeg.

We are planning to resume the After School Mentorship program in 2022/23. Meetings will be held twice monthly, and include speakers from local organizations, elders, and knowledge keepers. Based on current student interests, we are hoping to do some carving lessons soon (e.g. soapstone, other natural materials, bone). We are also planning a Money Stories session with SEED Manitoba to help students with budgeting and planning for the future.

The Inuit Student Mentorship Program is unique in Manitoba. There are no other Inuit-specific programming or resources like this available for Inuit living in Winnipeg. We are excited to get back together to develop skills, share culture, and build connections between Inuit students.

Culture & Community Connections for Students

We also offer stand-alone workshops and excursions for students outside of the Mentorship program. These were interrupted by the pandemic but resumed in early 2022. They were open to Inuit students (high school and post-secondary).

Mitt Making (February 2022): For this online learning event, 8 participants were sent supply kits with pre-cut materials. We all met online and had a wonderful time learning to make mitts while getting to connect personally as a group.

Ice Fishing Trip (March 2022): In partnership with Oceans North, we brought 17 participants to Lake Manitoba (Patricia beach) for the day. We rented ice shacks, practiced ice fishing, made fried bread tacos, and ate some of the fish we caught. There was enough fish to send some home with participants and bring back for a fish fry to share at Ikayuqtiit. For some participants, this was their first ice fishing experience. Others said it made them feel like they were home. Everyone agreed it was nice to be outdoors and out of the city. Some brought their children, and it was so nice for their kids to be able to experience it too.

Manitoba Moose Hockey Game (March 2022): We took students to a Manitoba Moose game for Follow Your Dreams Day. Sponsored by Arctic Cooperative, this initiative is meant to encourage youth to follow their athletic/sports dreams. This included a lunch prepared for us, Follow Your Dreams Day shirts for everyone, and tickets to the game.

Sharing Inuit Knowledge, History & Culture with All Manitobans

Education Connections also supports Manitobans of all backgrounds in learning about Inuit culture, with an emphasis on students (K-12 and post-secondary), and agencies that serve and include Inuit and want to benefit from a deeper connection with Inuit culture, history and perspectives. This has taken us to communities across Manitoba and included everything from teaching children to throat sing at Parc La Salle school, to giving presentations on Inuit culture and history at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police D Division and 17 Wing Canadian Forces Base.

Our outreach to schools has been interrupted by COVID-19 but we are planning to return to it soon. It is a powerful tool as it gives us a way to educate the next generation of Manitobans while also enabling us to reach the Inuit children and youth who attend different schools around the province.

One of our pre-pandemic highlights was our trip to Churchill to lead 4 days of activities with grades K-8 at Duke of Marlborough School. We took the kids on a deep dive into Inuit culture - creating igloo sculptures and building inukshuks, drawing and coloring Inuit-themed pictures,



learning the myth and legend of the owl and the raven, making fried bannock and moose meat, learning and practicing traditional tattooing, and sharing the artifacts, traditional clothing, music and books we brought along with us. When the time came for us to leave, they were sorry to see us go. The students told us they had learned so much, they loved having us there, and they were already looking forward to our next visit. These exchanges are educational and empowering for us too, and we feel very fortunate to be doing this important work.





Kativik “A Gathering Place”

Kativik provides culturally responsive, community based, trauma informed support for Inuit. The program began in 2017, in an emergency response to the lack of Inuit-specific supports for survivors and families of MMIWG2S+. It has since grown to include outreach to any Inuit who are in critical need of support and do not know where to turn. We do not only help Inuit who reach out to us. Staff work proactively on identifying and connecting with Inuit who are vulnerable or in greater need so that we can support them through trying times.

Our outreach worker helps Inuit dealing with heavy issues like trauma, victimization, mental health, housing/homelessness, food insecurity, domestic violence, addictions, healthcare, child welfare agencies, Jordan’s Principle and more. This help can include anything from individual counselling to personalized assistance (e.g. translation, resources/referrals, advocacy/assistance navigating government “systems”).

Kativik is not adequately funded or resourced, and we are working to build capacity in multiple areas. Over the coming year, we will be hiring an Inuit Health Researcher and a Jordan’s Principle Coordinator to provide more support for Inuit in need.

Escalating Need

The pandemic has only increased the barriers and disparities that marginalized Inuit face, escalating personal crisis of our community and putting more people at risk of falling through the cracks. We have been receiving a lot of calls for help since COVID-19 and assisting in the following areas:

- Complex mental health and addictions issues
- Increased homelessness, victims of crime, unsafe and sometimes dangerous living conditions.
- Jurisdictional barriers and challenges

- Increasing numbers of Inuit traveling to Winnipeg with no plan for housing or employment which quickly leads to home insecurity and income assistance
- Inuit children and child welfare complicated by inter-jurisdictional policies and bureaucratic systems which leaves children vulnerable
- Inadequate financial support from disability and EIA e.g. people with multiple medical issues managing with below poverty income
- Increased barriers in navigating support. People in greatest need are often without reliable access to phones and they need our help to navigate this barrier and participate in programs that are designed to help them. Limited to no access to phones and computers also means no “reminders” or messages are received regarding appointments. This is an additional barrier and makes it hard for people in crisis to keep track of appointments when living on the street.

Networking & Partnerships

We continue to network and partner with organizations and agencies to make referrals, to advocate for Inuit, and to work together to create positive change. This is not only to address the immediate needs of our clients but also to start gathering more data to support our requests for more government funding and cooperation. Over the past year we have been building partnerships in areas like:

- **Women’s health:** Working with the Women’s Health Clinic to help gather information on Inuit needs and to support things like continuity of care, building trust in the medical system, and ensuring that female, non-binary, trans Inuit can get treatment without discrimination.
- **Homelessness:** Partnering with groups like End Homelessness Winnipeg, Spence Neighbourhood Housing Committee and Main Street Project to address Inuit needs and work toward becoming an access point for those chronically homeless to help get them housed.



Indian Residential Schools

Missing Inuit Children of Residential Schools

The identification of unmarked graves and burial sites of Indigenous children at former Indian residential schools has had huge impacts for Inuit, and all Canadians. The dramatic increase in public awareness has resulted in the Federal Government offering unprecedented support to help families and communities to locate their missing children.

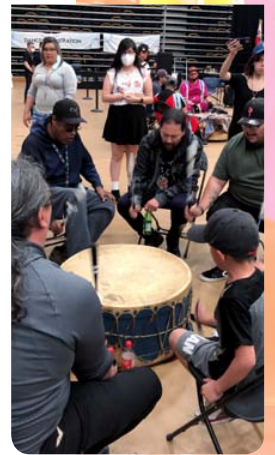
MIA was a member of the Inuit and Métis council that helped to develop our *National Day for Truth & Reconciliation*.

- We are also a member of the First Nations, Inuit and Red River Métis Council on Residential Schools (providing guidance and coordinating efforts to locate missing children in Manitoba).
- We attended a National Gathering in Edmonton and met with Natan Obed, President of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Kimberly Murray, Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools to help us get started with our research.
- MIA is assembling a team dedicated entirely to this enormous task. They will work together to find our children, uncover the truth about what happened to them, and bring them home to their loved ones.

The Work Ahead

Inuit face unique circumstances and challenges in locating children who went to Manitoba residential schools and did not return home, e.g.:

- Tuberculosis and Inuit deaths at residential schools are inter-related. This further increased the likelihood of Inuit children dying while at school.



- Inuit children were brought from so many different regions of Inuit Nunangat to so many different locations in Manitoba. This means we need to work with numerous communities for inter-jurisdictional partnerships, community consultations, research, and repatriation. This includes communities in Nunavik (Northern Quebec), Nunatsiavut (Labrador), Northwest Territories, and Nunavut Territory (Kivalliq & Baffin Regions), as well as an additional 28 First Nations and Métis communities in Manitoba who are, or will be, leading searches at residential schools within their territory.

The Manitoba Inuit Association is undertaking this work on behalf of Inuit survivors of residential schools, their families and their communities, to ensure that Inuit children's remains found at any/all residential schools located in Manitoba are repatriated to their home communities in Arctic Canada. We will support families and communities in their Inuit led commemoration of their children and ensure access to trauma-informed and Inuit led healing and mental wellness supports for survivors and families. All aspects of Inuit Traditions, Culture and Values will be followed to ensure that we assist those who have lost their loved ones to this tragedy, help to bring those children home, and commemorate and memorialize their lives.

Threads of Reclamation

In early 2022, our *Threads of Reclamation* project brought Inuit who have been impacted by residential schools together for a special series of Sewing Circles in Winnipeg. Participants had an opportunity to reclaim part of their traditional Inuit education by learning how to design and sew a parka that reflects the culture and region of the Arctic where their family comes from. In the process, participants opened about how residential schools have impacted their lives, support one another in their healing, and explore and express their Inuit identity.

Due to the pandemic, we held the first two classes on zoom, then switched to in-person gatherings. Unlike our "Kativiiik" and "Red Amautiit" Healing Circles, which have focused on a single type of female parka, the parkas created through "Threads of Reclamation" included designs for all genders and many regional styles as options for participants to choose from. Participants had the opportunity to choose what kind of Atiigi (parka) they wanted to make, and make decisions about length, style (e.g. Mother Hubbard, pullover), what types of materials/fur they wanted to use, and which embellishments they wanted to add. They learned and practiced proper fur preparation, how to work with fur to ensure it lasts longer, pattern making

and custom fitting. In order to demonstrate techniques, instructor Gayle Gruben used spare materials to create parkas for youth in the community. These will be given as gifts for children of low-income families next winter.

At the end of the project, each participant had a parka that they created for themselves or a loved one, and the knowledge to continue sharing that cultural tradition in their family and community. Whereas the “Kativiik” and “Red Amautiit” parkas are designed for commemorative exhibition and meant to represent specific people who have been lost, the garments created in “Threads of Reclamation” are intended to be worn by participants or their loved ones and enjoyed as a living expression of the continuing survival, strength, and power of Inuit people and culture in our community.

2021 AGM

Every year the Manitoba Inuit Association Board of Directors hosts its Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the membership, community partners and stakeholders. As we were still working/living with provincial public health restrictions we held our 2021AGM virtually online. At the AGM, members heard the interim President’s report of all activities and accomplishments from the previous year approved the audited financial statements and held its elections of their board of directors.



Funders

- Government of Canada - Department of Justice
- Government of Canada – Indigenous Services Canada
- Government of Canada – Canadian Heritage
- Province of Manitoba - Indigenous Reconciliation & Northern Relations
- University of Manitoba
- Oceans North
- Unity Health Toronto
- University of Winnipeg
- Pauktutiit Inuit Women Canada

Board of Directors 2021-2022

MIA is governed by an Inuit Board of Directors who are Inuit beneficiaries of Inuit Land Claim Settlement regions and who reside in Manitoba.

- Fred Ford, President and Board Chair
- Grace Clark, Treasurer
- Erica Sammurtok, Director
- Aleatra Sammurtok, Youth Director
- Michael Kusugak, Director
- Wayne Clark, Director
- Peter Clark, Director
- Grace Tookoome, Director

Staff & Associates 2021-2022

- Rachel Dutton, Acting Executive Director
- Janet Kanayok, Director of Programs and Services
- Gayle Gruben, Red Amautiit Project Officer
- Karen Joy, Facility Manager
- Sandy Klassen, Human Resources
- Allyson Watts, Certified Professional Accountant
- Judy Clark, Inuit Family Support Worker
- Jenelle Sammurtok, Coordinator, Covid-19 Food Hamper Program
- Jessica Jayko, Covid-19 Food Hamper Program
- Matt Kanayok, COVID-19 Food Hamper Program
- Jessica Beaudin, COVID-19 Food Hamper Program
- Kaydon Laurin, COVID-19 Food Hamper Program
- Andrea Popoff, Inuit Student Support Worker
- Victoria Nirlungayuk, Inuit Student Support Worker
- Zeann Manernaluk, Inuit Support Worker
- Christina Ekidlak Receptionist
- Jeneen Dederick, Inuit Health Researcher



**Ryan Merner
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To the Directors of Manitoba Inuit Association Inc.:

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of Manitoba Inuit Association Inc. (the “Organization”), which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2022, and the statement of operations, statement of operations by funding source, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Manitoba Inuit Association Inc. as at March 31, 2022, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the basis of presentation described in Note 2 to the financial statements.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of the Organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Canada, and I have fulfilled my ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the annual report, but does not include the financial statements and my auditor’s report thereon. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the basis of presentation described in Note 2 to the financial statements, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Organization’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Organization’s financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Organization's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organization's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



Ryan Merner Chartered Professional Accountant Ltd.
901 Fleet Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 1K4

July 29, 2022

**Manitoba Inuit Association Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
March 31, 2022**

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 241,616	\$ 231,698
Accounts receivable	28,148	231,726
GST receivable	11,086	7,664
Prepaid expenses	9,001	13,900
	\$ 289,851	\$ 484,988
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 67,851	\$ 45,691
Vacation payable	2,364	-
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	93,539	337,924
	163,754	383,615
Net assets	126,097	101,373
	\$ 289,851	\$ 484,988

On behalf of the board



Manitoba Inuit Association (July 28, 2022 18:33 CDT)

Director

On behalf of the board

Kaydon Laurin

Director

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

This page is taken from the full version of the audited financial statements which is available on request.

Manitoba Inuit Association Inc.
Statement of Operations
Year Ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
Revenue		
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada Inuit Counselling in the South	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,000
Urban Programming for Indigenous Peoples (UPIP) Education Connections	157,560	100,157
Indigenous Community Support Fund COVID-19	525,850	394,306
Department of Justice Canada	100,000	100,000
Department of Heritage Canada	11,506	-
Oceans North	10,000	-
Pauktuutit Inuit Women Canada	55,800	-
Province of Manitoba	34,644	-
University of Winnipeg	50,270	14,995
Fees and other revenue	78,362	57,895
Fundraising and donations	200	-
Province of Manitoba Bridge Grant Program	5,000	15,000
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated	-	30,000
United Way	-	3,120
	1,109,192	795,473
Expenditures		
Accounting	34,390	25,733
Administration and office	95,020	14,604
Audit	7,000	7,532
Communications	11,266	18,436
Consulting	71,040	53,338
Leasehold improvements	31,361	11,185
Program expenditures	328,139	273,633
Rent	54,486	52,808
Salaries and wages	446,550	319,778
Travel and meetings	5,216	1,589
	1,084,468	778,636
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 24,724	\$ 16,837

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

This page is taken from the full version of the audited financial statements which is available on request.



*“Thank you
for
taking care of
me and
my family.”*

– Ezura (Logan) Kablalik (Family
Hamper recipient, Winnipeg MB)



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