

# PARTNERS & ALLIES

KA NI KANICHIHK INC. HONOURS AND VALUES THE COLLABORATIVE WORK WITH THE MANY PARTNERS AND ALLIES THAT HAVE JOINED OUR CIRCLE AND COMMUNITY OVER THE LAST DECADE. OVER THE 2011-2012 FISCAL YEAR SOME OF OUR PARTNERS INCLUDED:

Aboriginal Health and Wellness  
AMIK  
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs  
Central Neighbourhood Development Corporation  
Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development  
Childfind Manitoba  
Eagle Urban Transition Centre  
595 Prevention Team  
Gang Action Interagency Network  
Gookomisag Odanokiitaanaawa Mino Bimaadiziwin  
Métis Child, Family and Community Services  
National Anti Racism Coalition of Canada  
Neeginan Institute of Technology  
Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence  
RCMP — "D" Division  
Red River College  
Sexually Exploited Youth Community Coalition  
University of Manitoba: Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice  
University of Winnipeg: Global Collage, Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, MDP Indigenous Advisory Circle  
West Central Women's Resource Centre: Child Minding Program  
Winnipeg Police Services — Missing Persons Unit

# 20 JUNE 2013 12TH ANNUAL KEEPING THE FIRES BURNING

WINNIPEG CONVENTION CENTRE  
375 YORK AVE. • WINNIPEG, MB  
GRAND ENTRY: 5:30PM

—HOSTS—

PAULINE DAY:  
WORKFORCE CULTURE CONSULTANT WITH  
MANITOBA LIQUOR AND LOTTERIES AND  
NIIGANWEWIDAM

JAMES SINCLAIR:  
AWARD WINNING AUTHOR AND NATIVE STUDIES  
INSTRUCTOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA



KANI  
KANICHIHK INC.  
10<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2011/2012

# STANDING OUR GROUND

A DECADE OF SELF-DETERMINATION &  
SERVICE EXCELLENCE

[www.kanikanichihk.ca](http://www.kanikanichihk.ca)

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AARON PIERRE, PHOTOGRAPHER.



# CO-CHAIR REPORT: 10 YEARS IN REVIEW

“If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”  
— Lilla Watson, Australian Aboriginal Activist

In our celebratory tenth year, as we look back on the journey of our past and walk toward the future, we stand in pride together with what has been done and the road that lays ahead. Our liberation is truly bound together.

Ten years ago, Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc. was an organization with only one program — Iskwewak Leadership Development — but now hosts and operates over 20 programs, projects and services. We have grown from two staff members to over 30 full, part-time staff and contractors. Our space has expanded from one building to include two other locations (Pacific and Provencher) with the intention of adding on to our home base on McDermot. This growth is indicative of increasing need, indicative of continued work to be done, and indicative of progress. We are ready to move forward and meet the challenge for many more years to come.

“The honour of one is the honour of all.” — Passed down from White Buffalo Calf Woman

Our annual Keeping the Fires Burning fundraising dinner, which honours the women in our community that have contributed endlessly and so meaningfully, remains Ka Ni Kanichihk’s signature celebration. It aligns beautifully with our namesake, “those who lead,” and it epitomizes the spirit of our organization through our vision and values. This celebration continues to grow and transform, just like the rest of our organization. Indeed, our tenth year honouring event was comprised of more than 850 guests, and we look forward to seeing you next year!

It’s with great honour and appreciation of our many partners that we have realized such achievements over the last decade. Our participants, community members, community partners, funders, and our incredibly dedicated and passionate staff and Council members are the roots of our success. We say, Ekosani, Meegwetch, Marcee, Merci and Thank You.

— KIMBERLEY PUHACH AND DAVID MILWARD  
CO-CHAIRPERSONS, KA NI KANICHIHK COUNCIL

Butterfly Club participants Rayne and Ariel and project coordinator Tasha Spillett.



# 2011/2012 COUNCIL:

Jessie Howell, Elder  
Kimberley Puhach, Co-Chair  
David Milward, Co-Chair  
Jennifer Rattray, Treasurer  
Cecil Sveinson, Secretary  
Gwen Cook  
Coleen Rajotte  
Audrey Richard  
Helen Robinson-Settee  
Rob Ballantyne (resigned, April 2012)



# 2011/12 REVENUE:

Federal	39%
Provincial	37%
Municipal	6%
Foundation	9%
Other	9%

# 2011/12 EXPENSES:

Personnel	63%
Program	26%
Operating	11%

# OUR FUNDERS:

**GOVERNMENT OF CANADA**  
Canadian Heritage – Aboriginal Women’s Program,  
Aboriginal Languages Initiative, Cultural Connections for  
Aboriginal Youth  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
Health Canada  
Status of Women  
Department of Justice — National Crime Prevention Centre  
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada —  
Urban Aboriginal Strategy  
Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development (ASSETS)  
**PROVINCE OF MANITOBA**  
Family Services and Labour  
Neighbourhoods Alive!  
Lighthouses  
Aboriginal and Northern Affairs  
Urban Green Team  
Department of Justice  
**MUNICIPAL**  
The City of Winnipeg  
**FOUNDATIONS/OTHER**  
The Winnipeg Foundation  
Canadian Women’s Foundation  
Moving Forward Together  
Women’s Congress (Women’s World 2011)  
Truth and Reconciliation Commission  
Manitoba Arts Council





# SHORT-TERM PROJECTS

APRIL 1, 2011 – MARCH 31, 2012

## ANISHIINABWEMON PIMADISIMIGHOUT: LIVING OUR CULTURAL LANGUAGES

A seven day intensive Anishinaabe language immersion camp.

## REDress PROJECT

An arts/activism special project in partnership with artist Jaime Black and the Aboriginal Women Reclaiming Our Power Project.

# PROJECT FUNDING COMPLETIONS

AS OF MARCH 31, 2012

## ABORIGINAL WOMEN RECLAIMING OUR POWER PROJECT (MOON VOICES)

A three-year project focused on Leadership Development in response to violence against Aboriginal women. Upon completion of the funding, the group has been working on the development of a non-profit incorporation called “Manitoba Moon Voices Inc.”

CONTACT: [moonvoices@gmail.com](mailto:moonvoices@gmail.com)

## OUR YOUTH COMING HOME

A comprehensive, youth-based project focused on building community capacity, strengthening cultural identity and enhancing skill development for positive life choices.

# NEW PROJECTS FOR 2012-2013

## LANGUAGE NEST

A Cree Language Immersion project for parents with pre-school children.

CONTACT: [llspillett@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:llspillett@kanikanichihk.ca)

## OSHKABAYWIS (MY HELPER)

Mentorship (wraparound) project to support female youth, 12 to 20, who are in conflict with the criminal justice system.

CONTACT: [smcilraith@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:smcilraith@kanikanichihk.ca)

## INDIGENOUS WAYS OF BEING ON TURTLE ISLAND

Short-term project to assist Indigenous and newcomer youth between 18-30 to build positive relationships and bridges between their neighborhoods and communities.

CONTACT: [llspillett@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:llspillett@kanikanichihk.ca)

# RESOURCE/PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT: 2011-2012

- A Toolkit to Assist Families of Missing Persons and Persons at Risk
- Aboriginal Women Reclaiming Our Power “Re-membering Together” Presentation DVDs (2) and Training
- Aboriginal Women Responding to the HIV/AIDS Crisis Safer Sex Kits and Community Forum Workshop
- Addressing the Issue of Education from Indigenous women’s perspectives (Dialogue Forum recorded by Shaw Community TV)
- Butterfly Club DVD
- Database of Trainers, Speakers, and Facilitators
- Gathering of the Grandmothers: “Exploring the Good Life Summit” Report
- Moon Voices Quilt Story Book
- Moon Voices REDress Special Project DVD
- Nitapwewininan Ongoing Effects of Residential School on First Nations Women: Towards Intergenerational Reconciliation Videos (with Prairie Women’s Health Centre of Excellence/Truth and Reconciliation Commission)
- Reclaiming Sacredness Curriculum (Train the Trainer Workshops)
- Stories of Reclaiming Power CD (recorded by CKUW 95.5 FM Radio)

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

## 2012 MARKS 10TH “BIRTHDAY” OF KA NI KANICHIHK INC.



*Peter Parisian sings an honour song at the 11th Annual Keeping the Fires Burning.*

When Ka Ni Kanichihk first started in 2002, we made offerings in a sacred way to ask our ancestors to guide us on our journey. Our founders recognized the urgent need to create a safe “space” to gather, to pray, to learn, to share, to grow, to heal, to laugh and to cry while reconnecting with culture, tradition, and spirit — to make our own “home fire” in the city. Our sense of purpose was rooted in the belief that “real solutions to issues related to Indigenous peoples had to come from within our collective experience, knowledge and ways of being.” Since those early days, Ka Ni Kanichihk’s **VISION has been to honour the spirit of our ancestors and seek their wisdom to guide our peoples back to balance and wellness. Our people have come home. We are self–determining, healthy, happy and respected for our cultural and spiritual strengths and ways of being.** Indeed, our VISION has both guided and inspired us throughout our 10 year journey, and will continue to do so into the future.

At Ka Ni Kanichihk’s 2011 Annual Meeting, our keynote speaker, Justice Murray Sinclair, commented that organizations providing services to youth need to support them to find the answers to four questions: Who am I? Where did I come from? What is my purpose? Where am I going?

Once these questions are answered, our youth will live good lives.

Our tenth anniversary gives us a unique opportunity to look back and ask ourselves the question: How did we measure-up as an organization or as individuals in achieving this great responsibility?

As we reflect on the journey traveled over the last decade, we can say, with a good heart, that we have created and implemented innovative and significant programs, services and events that have reached well-over 20,000 individuals. We have built honourable partnerships with many organizations, governments, key stakeholders and allies to most effectively address a wide variety of concerns. We have shared resources, knowledge, project models, cultural approaches and traditions across the continent. And we have remained true to our teachings by embedding our rich cultural inheritance into everything that we do.

And, like all humans, we have made our share of mistakes; that’s how we learn.

This anniversary also gives us the opportunity to renew our commitment to the community and to continue to defend and practice our inherent right to self-determination so that we too can leave something good for our children and grandchildren and those still waiting to come. We will continue to Stand Our Ground.

As Ka Ni Kanichihk’s founding Director, I continue to be inspired and humbled by the success and challenges we have faced while building a sustainable and vibrant organization that fully lives up to its Ininew name: “THE ONES WHO LEAD.”

Ekosani to all who have walked with us on this journey.

Blessings on your home fires!

— LESLIE SPILLETT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



# PROGRAMS/PROJECTS:

Over the last 10 years, Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc. has been guided by a vision that speaks to a way of being that was once known by Indigenous people; a time when our nations fully practiced self-determination and cultural integrity. A time when living a good life was the goal and lived reality of most. With over 500 years of inter-generational impacts in respect of colonization and acts of genocide, this way of being has been severely disrupted — but not forgotten. Indeed, for the last 10 years, Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc. has been dedicated to “Standing Our Ground” — rooting all that we do in the ways of being practiced by our ancestors, the Laws of Creator, and responsibility to the children for the next seven generations. Culturally appropriate programming is not just something “we do” at Ka Ni Kanichihk, nor is it something that’s just “simply added.” It is, rather, an expression of who we are as Aboriginal people and an expression of reclaiming power and self-determination.



## EDUCATION & TRAINING:

### INFORMATION & OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

A 52 week, community-based Red River College accredited training program for Aboriginal women 18+: Enrollment runs from April to March each year.

CONTACT: [smcilraith@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:smcilraith@kanikanichihk.ca)

### HONOURING GIFTS

A career and employment training program for Aboriginal mothers 18 to 30.

CONTACT: [smcilraith@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:smcilraith@kanikanichihk.ca)

### BUTTERFLY CLUB

An afterschool program for girls, 9 to 13, that focuses on building cultural identity, personal confidence and self esteem.

CONTACT: [smcilraith@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:smcilraith@kanikanichihk.ca)

### EMPOWERING OUR LITTLE SISTERS

Group mentorship that connects girls, 10 to 14, their caregivers and volunteers to their cultural identity, self esteem and empowerment through traditional teachings and practice related to the Pow Wow Circle.

CONTACT: [smcilraith@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:smcilraith@kanikanichihk.ca)

### ABORIGINAL WOMEN RESPONDING TO THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS

A short-term project focused on increasing public, community, and organizational knowledge and capacity to better respond to the HIV/AIDS crisis with relevant strategies and approaches inclusive of Aboriginal perspectives and voice.

CONTACT: [scormier@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:scormier@kanikanichihk.ca)

### MEDICINE CHILDREN'S LODGE DAYCARE

A registered on-site daycare for 16: 4 infants and 12 preschool children.

CONTACT: [daycare@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:daycare@kanikanichihk.ca)

### MEDICINE BEAR (PHASE 2): A TOOLKIT TO ASSIST FAMILIES OF MISSING PERSONS & PERSONS AT RISK

A short-term project focused on the printing and distribution of the Toolkits across Manitoba.

CONTACT: [scormier@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:scormier@kanikanichihk.ca)

## EDUCATION/ COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

### MEDICINE BEAR COUNSELLING, SUPPORT & ELDER SERVICES

A blend of traditional and western knowledge and approaches to support families of Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women.

CONTACT: [crobinson@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:crobinson@kanikanichihk.ca)



## YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

### RESTORING THE SACRED

A culturally-based after school peer mentoring program supporting Aboriginal youth, 14 to 21, who have relocated to Winnipeg to attend high school and live with a host family or independently.

CONTACT: [jharper@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:jharper@kanikanichihk.ca)

### TURNABOUT

Connects youth (under 12), in contact with the law, with community-based mentors to provide positive alternatives to help prevent future police contact.

CONTACT: [tyoung@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:tyoung@kanikanichihk.ca)

### CIRCLE OF COURAGE

A prevention and intervention program for Aboriginal male youth between the ages of 12 and 17.

CONTACT: [llspillett@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:llspillett@kanikanichihk.ca)



## TRANSITION COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

### AT OUR RELATIVES' PLACE

Provides specialized community care for children and youth who have been, or who are at risk of being, sexually exploited.

CONTACT: [mrichardson@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:mrichardson@kanikanichihk.ca)

### KI MA MINA

\*OPENING MARCH 2013

A three-bed, transition home to assist female sexually exploited youth and young adults to develop independent living and life skills to enable them to be successful in living on their own.

CONTACT: [mrichardson@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:mrichardson@kanikanichihk.ca)

### MANITOBA YOUTH TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE MENTORSHIP (MYTEAM: PILOT PROJECT)

Wraparound mentorship program to enhance education, employment and housing outcomes for youth, 16 to 21, transitioning out of child welfare.

CONTACT: [cbeattie@kanikanichihk.ca](mailto:cbeattie@kanikanichihk.ca)

