

TAWÂW

An Indigenous-led and owned permanent supportive housing project in Fort McMurray



Presented by



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Niginan Housing Ventures
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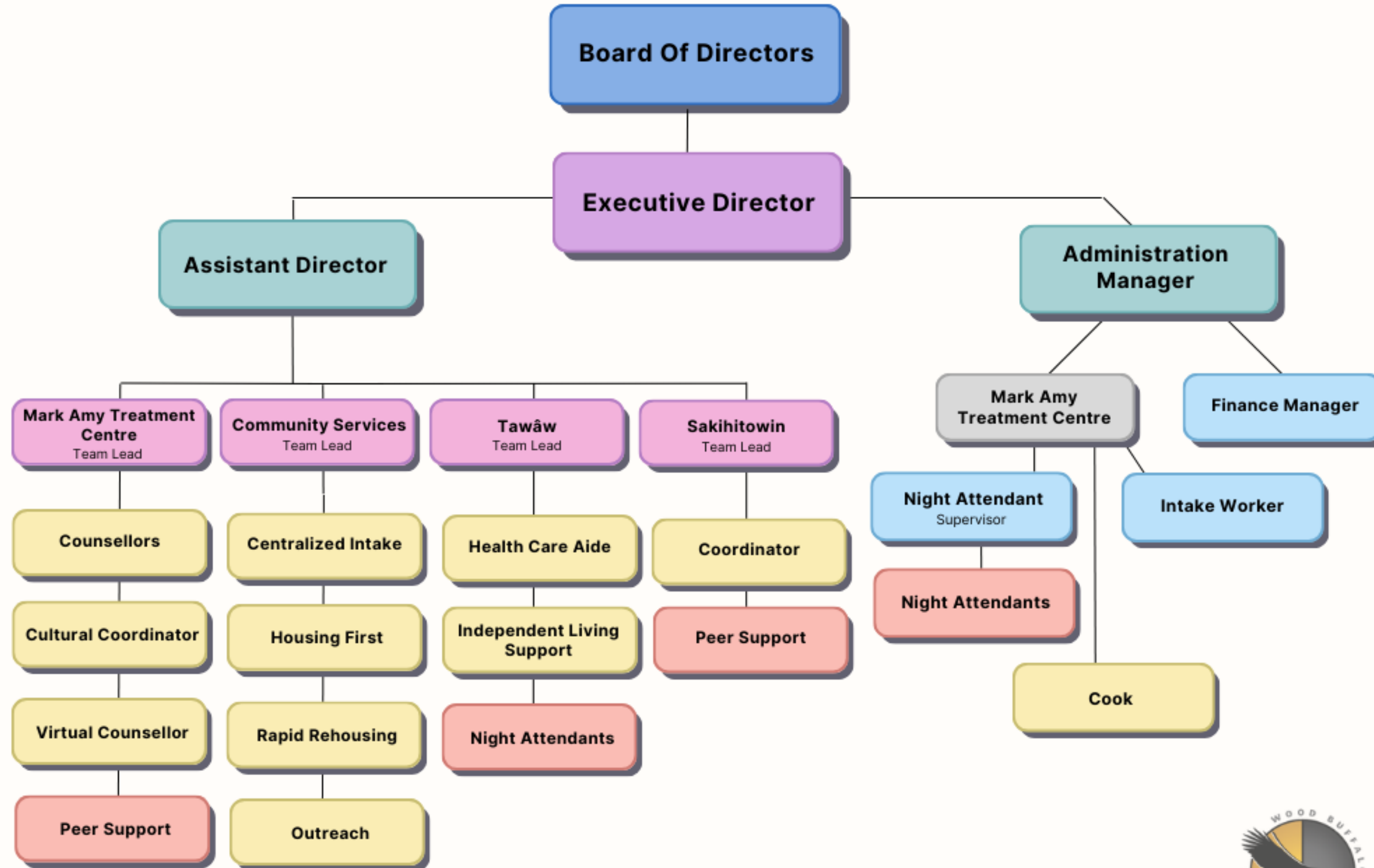
Jo-Anne Packham
Wood Buffalo Wellness Society
Executive Director



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Wood Buffalo Wellness Society
Addictions Counsellor &
Community Researcher

Our Organization

WOOD BUFFALO WELLNESS SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Timeline

Wood Buffalo Wellness Society

- Fort McMurray - Moccasin Flats
- Started in 2006 in the RMWB with a primary mandate of operating the Mark Amy Treatment Centre
- 2012-2013 Sat on the HISC
- In 2013 Red Road Home Program
- Expanded Programming:
- 2014-2015 Centralized Intake to Present
- 2014-2015 Life Skills
- 2015-2016 Hospital/ Justice Liaison
- 2015-2016 Red Road Home cut- Indigenous Case Managers
- 2016-2017 RRH and Outreach to Present
 - Housing First 2020



Collaborations with Niginan Housing Ventures



- The First thought of this came from a CAEH Conference in Vancouver
- Ambrose Place started 8 years ago
- 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire -referrals to Ambrose
- 7 years ago shared articles on Ambrose place on Social media
- 4 years ago I met Kookum Carola- Elder work
- Natural partnership
- Started in ceremony
- Mentorship
- Friendship/ Generosity/ Old ways/ Natural Law
- Niginan has invested in us

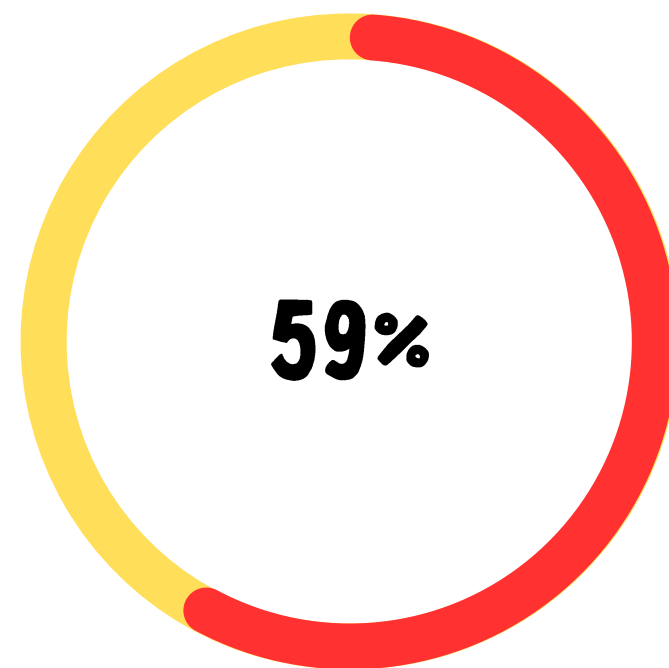
Identified Needs

- Inspiration- CAEH conference Presentations
- Program in our Province that were successful-(Ambrose)
- Innovations -Tiny House Projects for Veterans, MAP programs

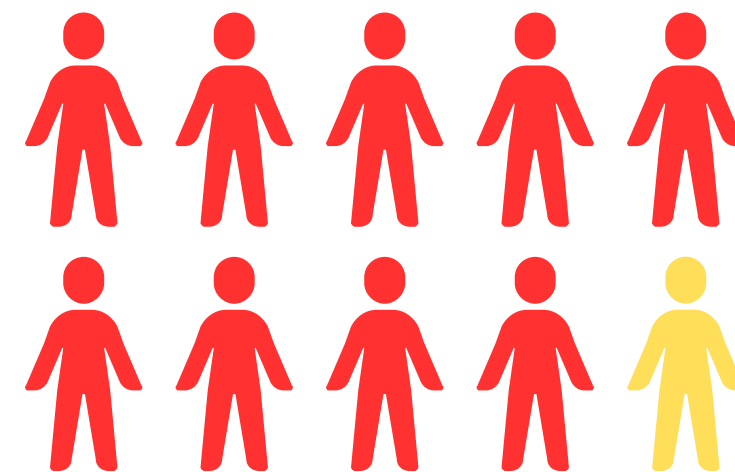
7%

Indigenous constitutes 7% of our total population (2018 RMWB Census)

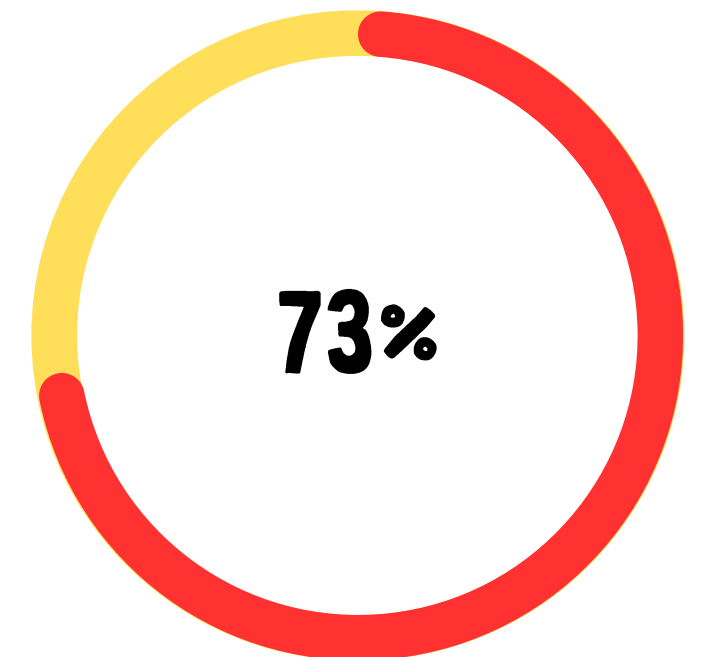
We estimate that between 75-80% of our Chronically homeless population are Indigenous



of all clients presenting to Centralized Intake in 2019-2020 were Indigenous



91% of clients currently housed in the RMWB's Permanent Housing model are of Indigenous ancestry



of all clients transferred into Housing First Programs in 2019/2020 in the RMWB were indigenous

Vision and Meaning



1

Tawâw Cree translation

Come in. You are Welcome. There is Room.

2

Core beliefs: Omanitew Teachings and 7 Traditional Teachings. Utilize medicine wheel in case management.

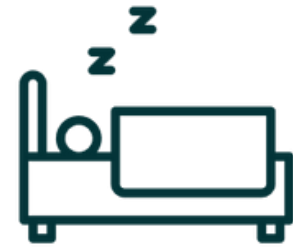
3

What are key aspects of our community?

- Culturally-based
- Abstinence-based vs Harm Reduction
- Family

Tawâw

Partnership with Niginan
Housing Ventures and Alberta
Health Services



29 Room Facility - can expand up to
45-48 beds



Permanent Supportive housing, nurses
on site, MAP program, CAP, High level
clients, high level care



On-site Elders and Knowledge Keepers



4 sections- Youth, Co-ed, Women's, 2
Emergency family suites or multi
generation, 2 observation rooms



Service Delivery Model



Wrap Around
Services



24 hour Staffing
(Not Secured)



WBWS Operations
move on site



Existing Client
Programs



Employment and
Training



Addictions/ Health
Services



Cultural Connection



Collaboration

Where are we at now?

- Purchased Building
- Community Engagement last spring
- Temporary Bridge Program
- Permits
- Occupancy
- Funding
- Program Development - PPM



Major Lessons Learned



- Arm yourself with data- Research your community, region, history
- Surround yourself with Mentors and Elders
- Do your Due Diligence- Investigate
- Involve Planning and Development/ Safety right away

- Get ahead of NIMBY with Help
- Community Engagement-You can't hide from NIMBY
- Build Allies
- Brace yourself for discrimination
- Don't Give up

Research Goals

- Document the experiences of Indigenous clients and staff in Indigenous-based PSH via one-on-one interviews and sharing circles
- Provide a replicable model for Indigenous PSH and wraparound communities
- Validate Indigenous-based social services as necessary and effective for Indigenous populations



QUESTIONS

AND

COMMENTS

