



## MA MAWI WI CHI ITATA CENTRE

*We all work together to help one another.*



## **ASTUM API NIIKINAAHK**

***COME SIT AT OUR HOME***

*Indigenous-Led, minimal barrier, tiny-home  
supportive transitional housing*



# ASTUM API NIIKINAAHK

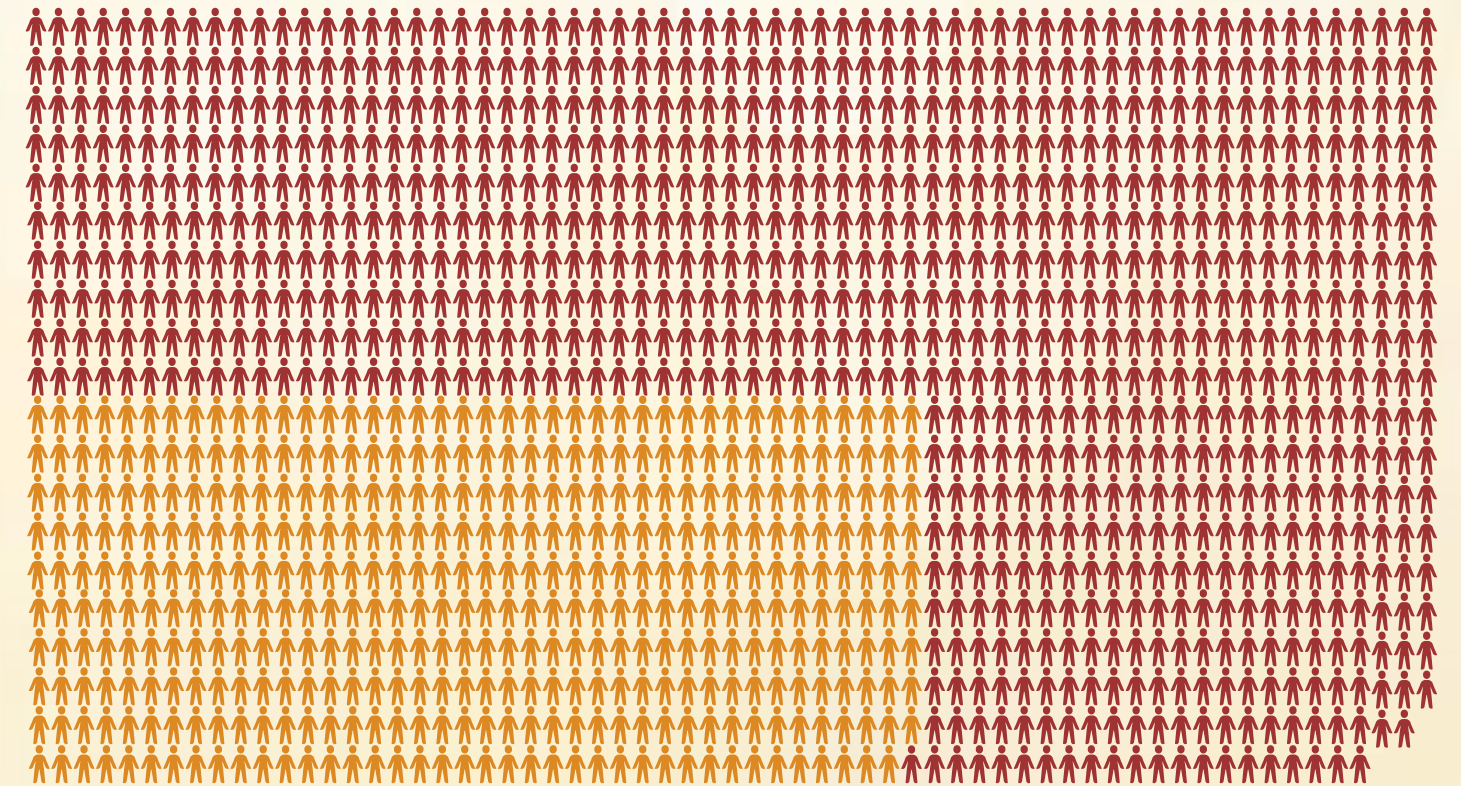
*is Ojibway for Come Sit at our Home.*

## WHY DID THIS PROGRAM START

- Under-housing issues have had a long history in Winnipeg
- In 2019 there were camps torn down in Winnipeg Centre
  - This launched a comprehensive community consultation that included community members, architects, and Indigenous Community Organizations to develop a strategy to address the under-housing crisis in the city.

## INDIGENOUS PROGRAMMING

- Fishing, harvesting, hunting, gardening
- 1:1 harm reduction support
- Comprehensive self-care supports with staff or individually
- Mental and physical healthcare and wellness advocacy



2022 Statistics from: [homelesshub.ca](https://homelesshub.ca)

### In 2022,

- **1,256** people surveyed were living under-housed.
- **68.2%** of people surveyed identify as Indigenous
- 35.7% of people interviewed are **under 30**







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This Indigenous-led tiny-home transitional housing operates with some innovative models focused on:

- **Indigenous-led and culturally empowered programs**
- **Harm-reduction**
- **Minimal-barrier to access**
- **The Clan System**
- **Lived experience peer-support**
- **Community building and support**





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## IMPORTANCE OF THE MODELS WE USE

INDIGENOUS-  
LED  
PROGRAMS

HARM  
REDUCTION

STRENGTH  
BASED

PEER-  
SUPPORT

LOW  
BARRIER  
TO ACCESS

### **Creating a sense of belonging**

is essential because the effects of Colonization has had a significant effect on Indigenous peoples in various ways. By improving social determinants of health by creating a sense of community, of independence, and inter-dependence is so valuable to increasing capacity (re)connection to Self and culture.

### **Creating space for residents' self-expression and independence over their environment**

is crucial in encouraging their independent mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual wellness journey.





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## WHAT WE OFFER

- **22 affordable tiny homes)**
  - 4 fully accessible (400sq.ft)
  - 18 standard (142 sq.ft.)
- **Independent home includes**
  - a single bed
  - a TV
  - a bathroom with a shower
  - a kitchenette with a microwave, minifridge, 2 cook-tops, and a sink
- **Common areas indoors and outdoors**
  - Shared community kitchen
  - Communal room
  - Medicine room
  - Laundry facilities
  - Outdoor Sacred Fire pit and seating area
- **Medical care clinic - COMING SOON**







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## Program Goals:

To provide safe housing, community, and a sense of belonging for our under-housed relatives.

We also recognize the importance and value of creating space for our relatives to have access to culturally significant Ceremonies, supports and programs. This helps to empower individuals to find their inherent strengths, identity.





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**INDIGENOUS GOVERNANCE MODEL**



All My Relations: Aboriginal IDU Harm Reduction Training Peer Educators Manual, 2001





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## ***WELLNESS SUPPORTS***

### **Lived Experience Circle**

- Provided architectural design
- programming ideas
- Specialized consultation

### **Gegiikwewaad Council**

- Elders and Knowledge Keepers group

### **Dr. Barry Lavallee (KIM)**

- Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin Inc. - Northern Peoples' Wellness

### **Staff-led peer-support**

- Mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual support
- Self-compassion and self-care encouragement
- Advocacy







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## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**THE VILLAGE** is owned and operated by  
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc.,  
with a collective of partners, including:

- Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg
- Aboriginal Health & Wellness Centre
- Circle of Life Thunderbird House
- End Homelessness Winnipeg
- Dr. Barry Lavallee





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*Miigwech • Ekosani • Wopida • Marsi*

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