

# **SOCIAL INNOVATION IN ACTION:**

*Community-Based*



## **HOUSING SOLUTIONS**

**for Indigenous Youth  
Aging Out Of Care In Winnipeg**

Webinar: Reflections on the NHS Solutions Lab process



# PROJECT PARTNERS:



HTFC  
PLANNING & DESIGN

Rady Faculty of  
Health Sciences



University  
of Manitoba



# FUNDERS:





# HOUSING SOLUTIONS

## For Indigenous Youth Aging Out of Care in Winnipeg

Address the issues of housing insecurity & homelessness Indigenous youth in Winnipeg face when they age out of the child welfare system at age 18

### WHAT IS A SOLUTIONS LAB?

process that provides funding and expert consultants to help solve complex housing problems using innovation methods and tools.

SPRING 2019 - SUMMER 2020



DEFINITION



DISCOVERY



DEVELOPMENT



TEST & PROTOTYPE



ROAD MAP



### OUR PROJECT

explore needs of Indigenous youth in Winnipeg who have grown up in the care of Manitoba's child welfare system and who are at the point where their institutional supports are removed & they face a high probability of entering into a cycle of poverty and housing insecurity or homelessness.

### GET INVOLVED IF YOU...



ARE OR WERE IN THE SYSTEM



ARE WORKING IN THE SYSTEM



ARE "AROUND THE SYSTEM"

# \$122,666



1 OF 12 PROJECTS FUNDED

FROM THE NATIONAL HOUSING STRATEGY



### ACTIVITIES



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



TARGETED WORKSHOPS



1-ON-1 INTERVIEWS



BI-MONTHLY COMMUNITY REPORT BACKS



SYMPOSIUMS

### OUR HOPE

solutions that are co-developed in this process will be taken up by decision makers to close the gaps and further reduce the number of young people facing homelessness year over year.



WE ARE HAPPY TO DO THIS WORK WITH THE SUPPORT OF MANY PARTNERS. EXTRA LOVE TO:

*Fearless R2W*  
WWW.FEARLESSR2W.CA/HOUSING

@housingolutionswpg  
@housingwpg



### CONTACT US!

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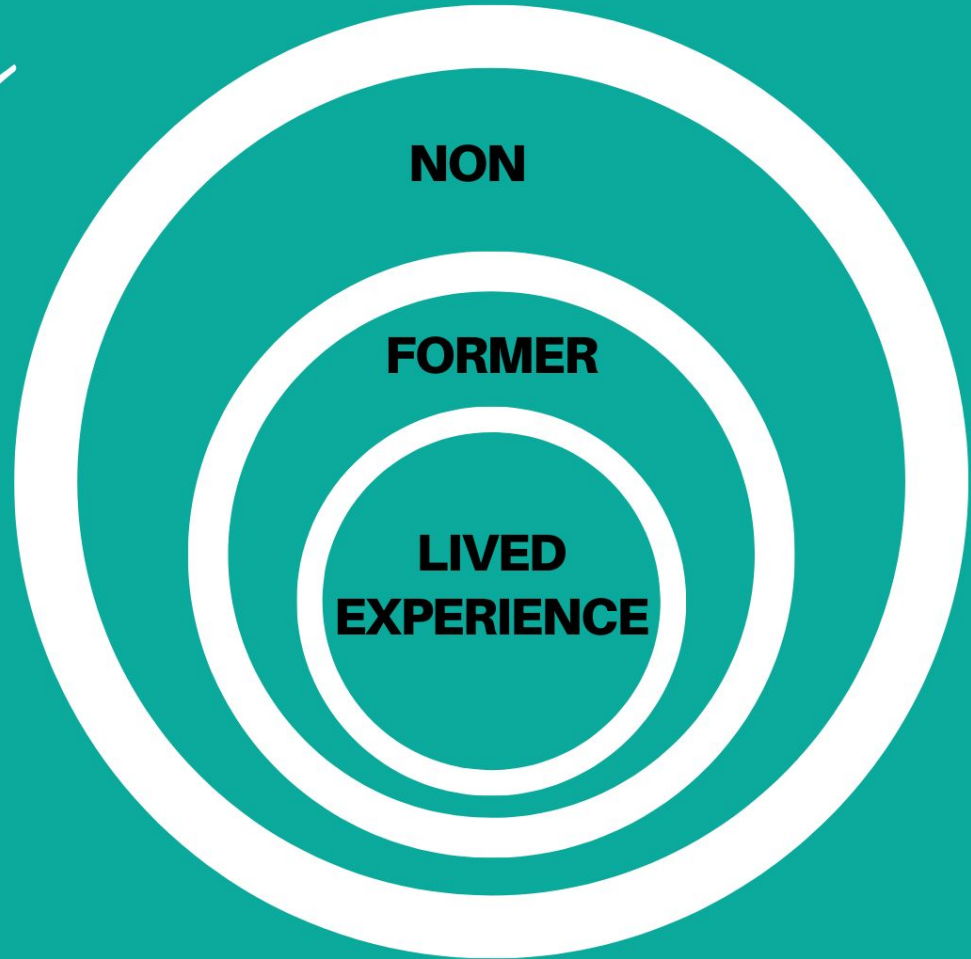
# CHILD WELFARE IN MANITOBA

- **10,258 children and youth in care (excl. voluntary placements/kinship care), approximately 90% are Indigenous.**
- Between 2017-2018, 244 youth aged out of care, and 116 were permanent wards
- **Transition planning is legally supposed to begin at the age of 15, but does not frequently occur in practice until the age of 17.**
- 51.5% of youth experiencing homelessness have been in care, with 62.4% experiencing homelessness within 1 year of leaving care.
- **Child welfare and social work profession an extension of colonial policies and legacies that created Residential Schools & 60s scoop**
- Youth aging out of care has only become a distinct public and policy priority in recent years despite much grassroots/political attention on child apprehension
- **Incremental shift over time of child welfare governance, administration and community participation**



# *Experts*

**THE CLOSER TO  
THE CENTRE, THE  
MORE POWER  
AND INFLUENCE  
THAT GROUP  
SHOULD HAVE**





# *Containers*

**HOUSING SOLUTIONS**

**FEARLESS R2W & NWMO**

**HTFC & AYO**

**INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE**

## Team Meeting #1

...unities, HTFC Planning and Design  
ak Ogichidaa (Leading White Turtle  
Manitoba, and Shift Collaborative  
the structures, questions, and  
ming the Housing Solutions project.  
ions we wanted to explore with our  
an we come together as a village to  
youth aging out of care have  
and a place for healing? Second how  
il, long-term systems change when  
need for immediate action?



## Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement Begins - April 19 ongoing

The project began engaging a wide network across Winnipeg of youth, families, community advocates, housing professionals, governments, organizations, and funding agencies to build and nurture relationships to support solutions for Indigenous youth aging out of care.



## Storycatcher Sweatlodge Ceremony - June 8

We invited our friend, knowledge keeper and fellow storycatcher from Saskatoon, Kelley Bird-Naytowhow, to teach Nigaanii Wabiski Mikanak Ogichidaa (Leading White Turtle Warriors) and youth aging out of care about storycatching. We learned about storycatching by building and participating in a sweat lodge ceremony in Libau with lodge carriers Shannon and Stan.



## Community Meeting

We joined AY Family Centre challenges, st Indigenous y

# Lab Process

## Project Launch & Consultation @ Meet Me at the Bell Tower - April 12

To launch the Housing Solutions project and begin hearing the voices of youth aging out of care and families, we hosted an event at Meet Me at the Bell Tower in the North End of Winnipeg.



## Community Consultation @ Fearless R2W - May 8


We hosted our second community consultation with Fearless R2W: Circle of Support. They invited us to hear the voices of community members as well as share how they support youth and families through child welfare education and advocacy.



## Body Mapping Training - June 9

Kelley stayed with us over the weekend to teach Nigaar Wabiski Mikanak Ogichidaa about the arts-based method body-mapping, which allows youth a creative way to share, explore, and reflect on one's sacred story.





### LAB PHASE 5: ROADMAP

Share back and engage in "sense-making" of prototype experiments, and harvest key learnings and insights. Create Solutions Uptake Roadmaps for the most promising solutions/ prototypes with implementation plans and identified opportunities for future funding.



### LAB PHASE 1: DEFINITION

Establish scope and reframe the issue. Confirm commitment, funding, accountability, and project understanding by project sponsors (CMHC), Lab Participants, and Lab Consultants .

### LAB PHASE 4: PROTOTYPE & TEST

Test and refine shared ideas and proposals in iterative and adaptive ways. Rapidly develop solutions based on previously identified leverage/opportunity areas. Take forward the best solutions for further development.



### LAB PHASE 2: DISCOVERY

Generate insight through data and lived experience insight. Understand the current state of the issue based on a range of research methodologies.



### LAB PHASE 3: DEVELOPMENT

Ideation - explore new ideas and co-develop potential solutions (practices, policies, technologies, or processes) to accelerate improvements. Establish strategic direction for future solutions and opportunities for immediate improvement .

LIVING THAT  
LAB LIFE



## WHAT PRINCIPLES DO WE FOLLOW?

In 2019 we have been able to identify the ways we want to work with one another and the community as we co-create housing solutions!

**WAHKOTOWIN**

**CAPACITY  
BUILDING &  
MENTORSHIP**

**HONOURING &  
CELEBRATING**

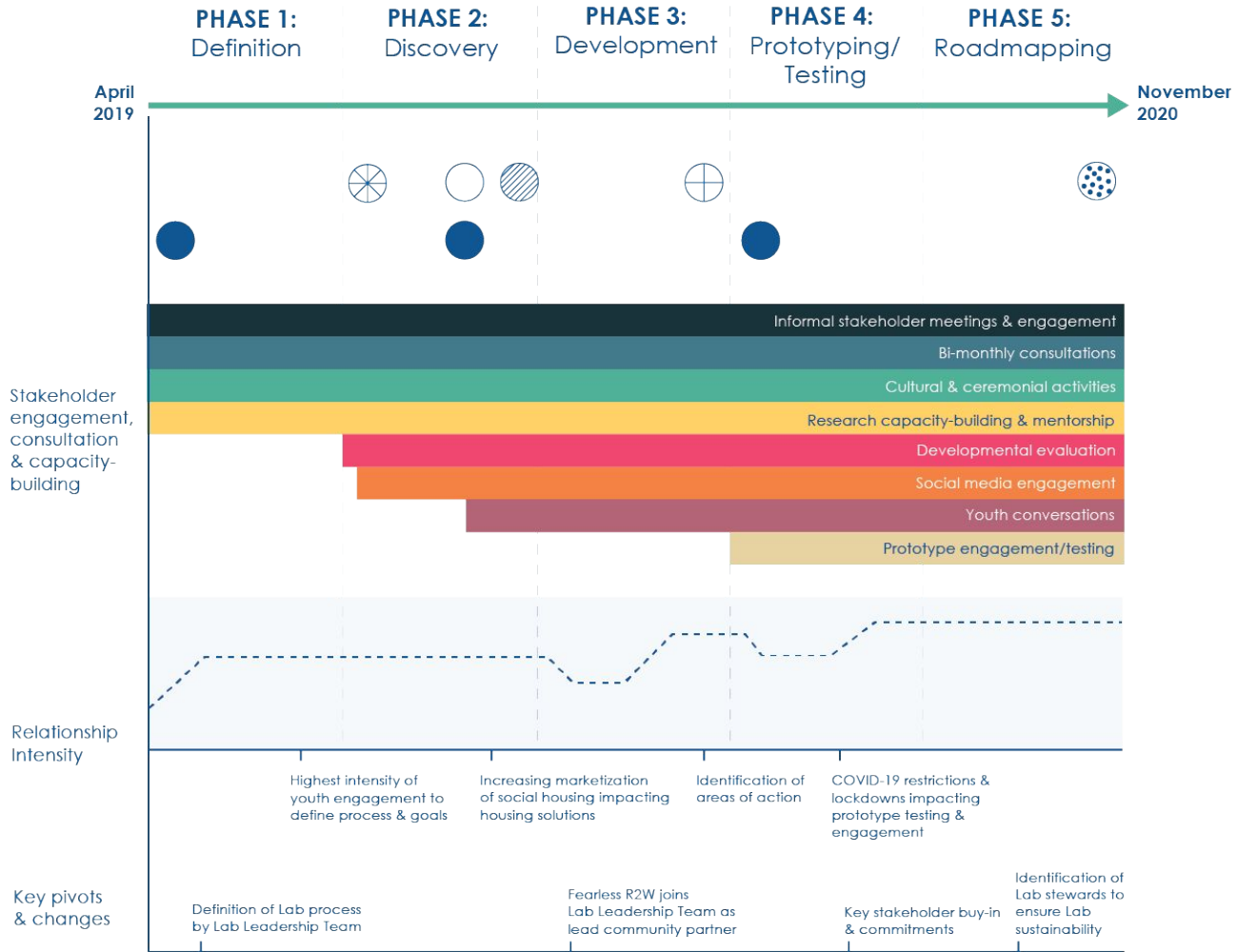
**INDIGENOUS  
SELF  
DETERMINATION  
& SOVEREIGNTY**

**RELATIONAL  
ACCOUNTABILITY**

**CULTURAL  
SAFETY &  
RECLAMATION**

**WHOLISTIC  
SYSTEMS THINKING,  
KNOWLEDGE SHARING  
& COLLECTIVE ACTION**

# METHODOLOGY



- Key**
- Lab leadership meetings
  - Systems mapping workshop
  - ⊕ Ideas-to-action workshop
  - ⊗ Roadmapping workshop & celebration
  - ⊘ Youth talking circle
  - ⊙ Communities of Practice meeting

# LAB HIGHLIGHTS

APR 2019 - NOV 2020

CHECK OUT HIGHLIGHTS OF WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE VILLAGE

**4** Indigenous youth formally employed

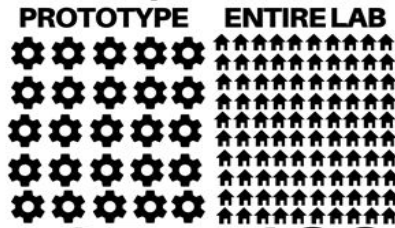
major knowledge exchange & action events



**7** prototypes formally tested

knowledge products created (so far) **12+**

agencies, organizations & champions



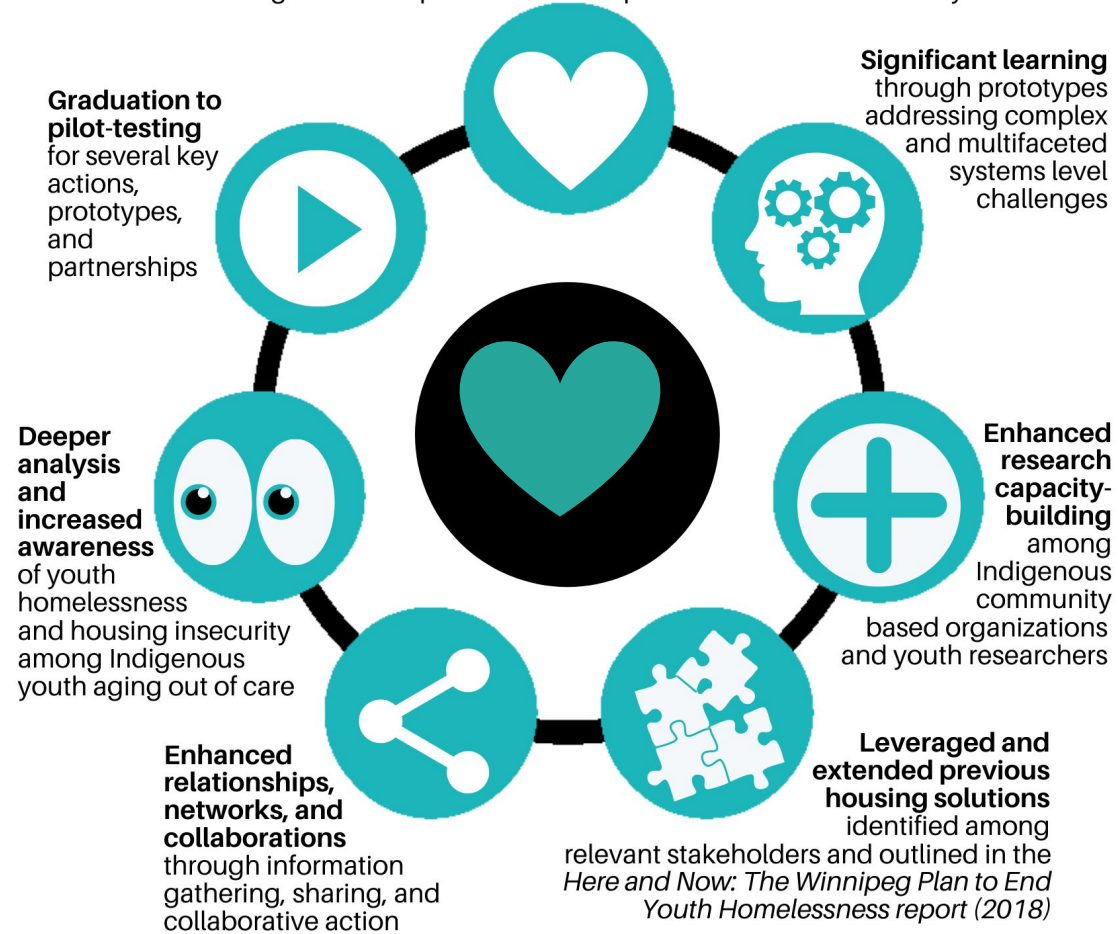
**25** **100**

youth engaged (aging out or aged out) **60**

story catching events (youth interviews) **18+**

# KEY LAB OUTCOMES

**Enhanced community leadership through Fearless R2W**  
by developing organizational capacity, centring and increasing supports and advocacy resources for youth aging out of care, and informing the development of a kinship-based 'Wākóhtowin Policy'



# Lessons Learned

## RELATIONSHIPS

- Work to build strong, trusting, reciprocal, and flexible relationships
- Be responsive to stakeholder needs, which are key to progress overall lab activities and goals
- Grounded in ceremony, followed through with moral integrity
- Guided by a responsibility-based approach that asks us to do more than we anticipated in light of uncertainty and shifting contexts

## MAKING TIME

- Adequate time is a necessity:
  - to work across different perspectives, actions and uncertain lab environments
  - to better understand and genuinely respect urban Indigenous self-determination (autonomy) and sovereignty (non-interference)
  - to support aspirations to build capacity and set a shared course of action



## ROTATIONAL LEADERSHIP & COLLECTIVE ACTION

- Share power and responsibility
- Ensure that roles and responsibilities are **well-defined** (based on strengths and gifts), **adaptive**, **rotate** leadership, and **redistribute** labour (e.g. resources, availability, energy, expertise, etc.)
- Consider unique goals BUT cultivate collective commitment and action with diverse stakeholders involved

## YOUTH VOICE

- Centering youth voices during lab processes means:
  - Listening to and witnessing youth perspectives and lived experience but also
  - Accepting that youth may not always want to speak up, share stories, or find value in certain goals, styles, and approaches



## ONGOING KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

- Carry out information gathering, prototyping and action at the same time
- Prioritize methodological integrity (draw on methods that are culturally adequate to the context) and ethical relevance (accepted by people with lived experience).
- Should not simply prioritize methodological innovation and finding something “new”

## CENTERING AGENCY & RESISTANCE

- Incorporate a systems approach
- Focus on challenges of structural disadvantage and harm that systems perpetuate
- Recognize the strengths and agency of individuals and families to resist and transform systems



## ADVOCACY & SYSTEM LITERACY

- Advocacy and systems literacy help to:
  - enhance community leadership
  - move solutions into action
  - actively put unwanted pressure on systems to change
- Be willing to talk back to systems through instigation, disruption, allyship
- Radical and non-judgmental acceptance of the stories and experiences of individuals and communities being served

## BUILDING KINSHIP NETWORKS

- Kinship-based approach
- Relate to one another as relatives and family
- Key to addressing Indigenous youth homelessness and housing insecurity as a matter of strategy and action.



# LAUGHTER IS MEDICINE

- Address difficult and personal social challenges through 'hard-work' and 'heart-work'
- Approach this work from a position that focuses on strengths and inspiration
- Prioritize self-care and use laughter as a form of spiritual medicine

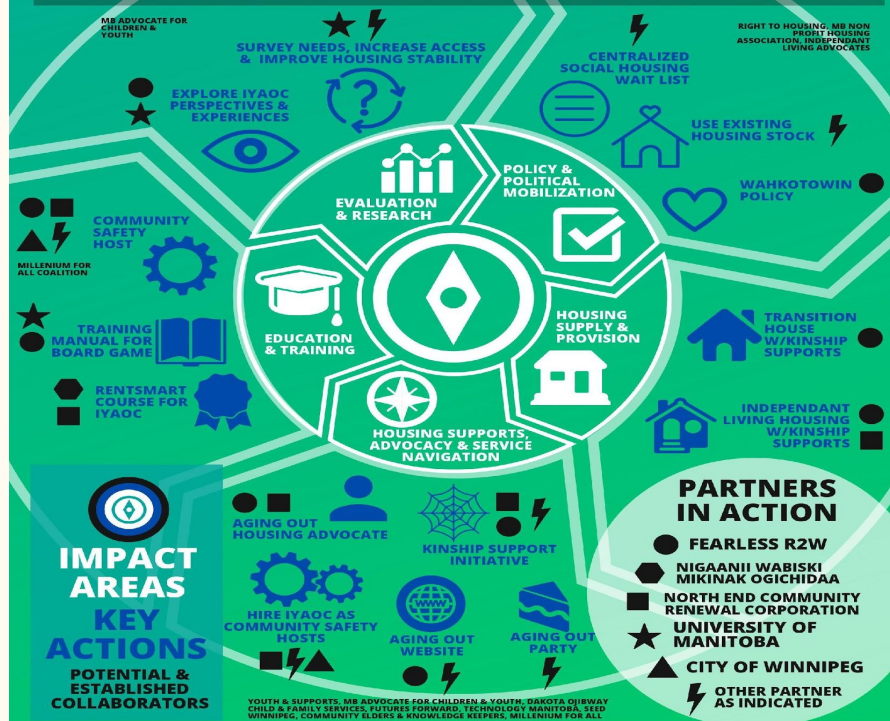


# SOLUTIONS ROAD MAP

HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR INDIGENOUS YOUTH  
AGING OUT OF CARE IN WINNIPEG

# ROAD MAP

OUR ROAD MAP ENGAGED YOUTH, COMMUNITY & SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT THE VISIONING & CREATION OF HOUSING SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING INSECURITY AND HOMELESSNESS AMONG INDIGENOUS YOUTH IN FOSTER CARE WHEN THEY AGE OUT OF THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AT AGE 18 IN WINNIPEG.



FULL REPORT AT [FEARLESSR2W.CA/HOUSING-SOLUTIONS](https://fearlessr2w.ca/housing-solutions)

POTENTIAL &  
ESTABLISHED  
COLLABORATORS



IMPACT  
AREAS



# How the Work Continues

HOUSING  
SUPPLY &  
PROVISION



POLICY &  
POLITICAL  
MOBILIZATION



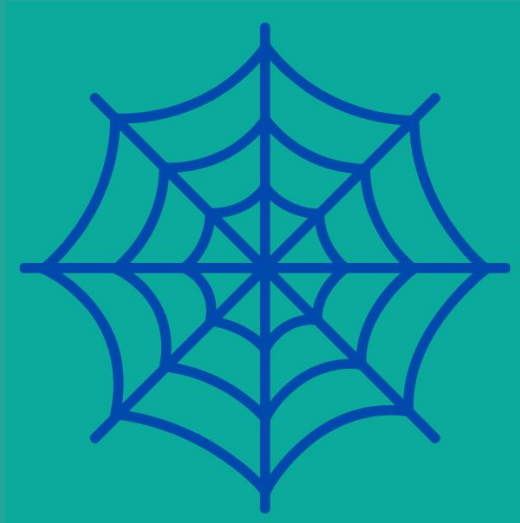
EVALUATION  
& RESEARCH



HOUSING SUPPORTS,  
ADVOCACY & SERVICE  
NAVIGATION

## KEY ACTION

# Wahkotowin Kinship Policy

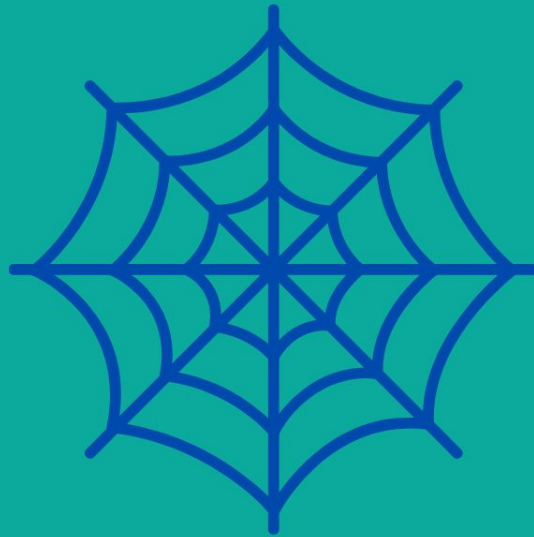


- **Understanding the importance of cultural identity and decolonization**
- **Working on strategic planning and making it part of organizational policy and staff, volunteers & board of directors**
- **Will be able to share with others**

## KEY ACTION

# Wahkotowin Kinship Policy

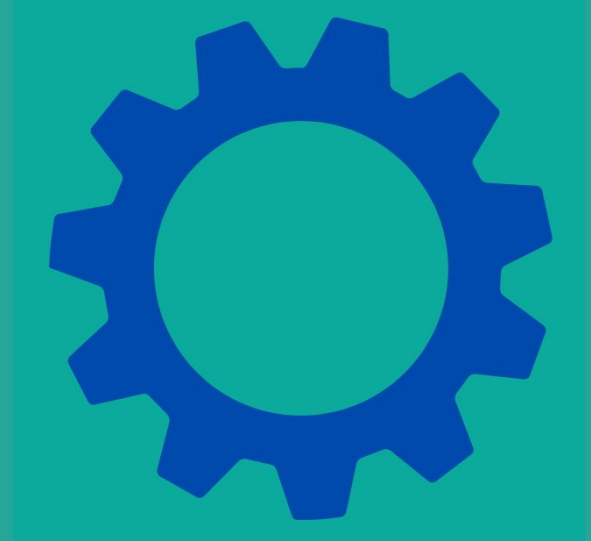
- Cree word for kinship & describes interconnectedness of all things
- Regarding each other as relatives
- Referrals to people & places we have a relationship with
- Trying to understand how different systems affect families



## KEY ACTION

# Community Safety Host

- First pilot began October 2021
- 4 individuals
- Partnership with City of Winnipeg Public Libraries
- Funders: Winnipeg Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada
- Conversations ongoing with other levels



## KEY ACTION

# Transition House with Kinship Supports

- **Project Reside – Mountain Ave**
- **First RTR House outside of Ontario**
- **3 Units – Accessible Main Floor**
- **2 – Families Reunifying (3 & 4 Bedroom)**
- **1- Bachelor Unit for youth aging out of care**
- **Fearless R2W to provide kinship supports to residents**



# Thank you!

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