

Voices OF HOPE

Kenora Fellowship Centre

The Anamiewigummig Kenora Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ontario, has been a cornerstone for Indigenous community members since the 1960s. In 2023, it was one of several organizations to receive a \$15,000 PWRDF Indigenous Responsive Grant, allowing it to enhance its crucial programs. The Centre addresses impacts of colonization, such as poor mental health, high suicide rates, and substance abuse. Serving a community that is 85% Indigenous, the Centre ran programs promoting positive mental health through arts and crafts, cultural support via urban land-based gatherings, and a mentorship program providing on-the-job training. Efforts to tackle food insecurity and build relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities were also prioritized.

A standout initiative is the urban land-based gatherings centered around the teachings of the sacred fire, known as Ishkode. These gatherings have provided comfort, cultural reconnection, and community support. Executive Director Yvonne Bearbull shared a moving story of a young woman finding solace at the sacred fire, highlighting the profound impact of these programs on individuals in the community.



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