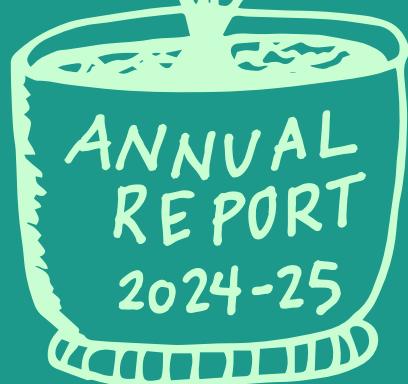
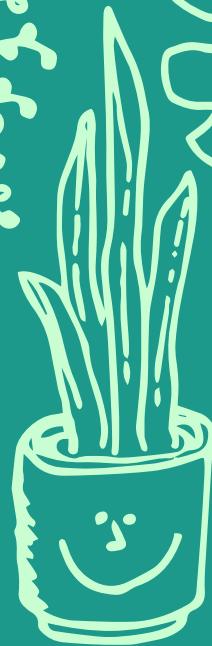


A PLACE WHERE

SUNSHINE  
SHOUSES



PEOPLE CAN GROW



**VISION:**

To create a place where  
people can grow.

**VALUES:**

Acceptance, Respect,  
Inclusion, Confidentiality



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## STAFF

Executive Director	<b>Levi Foy</b>
Director of Finance	<b>Carrie McCormack</b>
Director of Communications	<b>Jenny Henkelman</b>
Director of Cultural Initiatives & Program Support	<b>Heather Courchene</b>
Director of Drop-in Programs	<b>Feather Wolfe</b>
Director of Food Services	<b>Brett (Izabell) Burling</b>
Director of Gizhiwenimin Initiatives	<b>Helina Zegeye</b>
Director of Housing Support Services	<b>Davey Cole</b>
Director of Mobile Overdose Prevention Services	<b>Mel Crait</b>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair	<b>Janellyn Marcial</b>
Vice-Chair	<b>Sage Broomfield</b>
Treasurer	<b>Angeline Nelson</b>
Secretary	<b>Rachelle Sorin</b>
	<b>Kris Beaune</b>
	<b>Adrienne Dudek</b>
	<b>YahInaaw K'uuna</b>
	<b>Jack Kozak</b>
	<b>Tamara Dionne Stout</b>

# GREETINGS FROM 646 LOGAN AVENUE

As I often do when sitting down to write my yearly remarks, I turned to the Sunshine House archives for inspiration. It was in the 2015 annual report that I found a quotation where our late founding mother Margaret Ormond provided the modus vivendi of Sunshine House:

*"We find a gap. We think it should be filled. We want to do it. And everyone rises to the occasion. It seems that the well of creativity is bottomless. In the day to day bumping around Sunshine House, the Staff is the fuel and fire for everything that happens. That people occasionally get cranky is the small price that is paid for their consistent generosity, patience and good humour."*

This year was exceptional on both the gap-filling front and the staff front. Everyone involved should be proud of the work they did this year. There are always a few things that we should highlight and this is a challenge, because my idea of time is muddy and my memory shoddy. For me, this year's pivotal moment came over a cup of coffee and a brief moment of stillness between Feather, Sage Broomfield, and myself. Feather and Sage both said, in their own ways, that we should slow down and solidify what we have.

So, of course, we didn't do that.

Instead, we bought a building in January and opened Kelly's Corner: the first 2SLGBTQIA+ specific transitional housing space in Winnipeg. This was thanks to the support of the Your Way Home strategy and the partners who continually make space for Sunshine House. (Shout out to Della, Jamil, Lorie, and Tessa for all your support.)

The reality is that the ambitious notion that we could open up a transitional housing facility came from the stabilization that happened throughout the year. Our core departments of Drop-In, Gizhiwenimin (Health & Wellness),

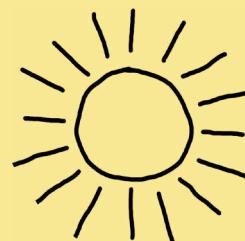
MOPS and Zaagi-Too-Wad (Housing) spent the year strengthening for the future. If the staff are the fuel, the participants are the fire for Sunshine House, and ultimately Kelly's Corner.

The fearlessness, commitment to care, and loyalty that we learned from Margaret and everyone else who came before are transformative in our work. We used these principles to reevaluate our relationship with the people we work with, as well. In the last days of spring, where hope and rejuvenation collide with reality, we saw burnout, decreased morale, and departures. We used this opportunity to re-evaluate what working at Sunshine House can mean. This has meant changing the way full-time staff can show-up, providing opportunities to engage in new subjects materials, and realizing that our employees need time and space to grow themselves. These innovative approaches to work had some pretty positive results (even if it has been a bit of a headache to schedule).

The cantankerousness, humour, love and determination that we all share set a strong foundation for the year. I continue to remain entirely enthralled and only occasionally frustrated to come to work everyday. I am so goddamn lucky.

Miigwech for reading,

— LEVI FOY  
Executive Director



# KELLY'S CORNER

For this report, let's put the end at the beginning, because it represents the most seismic change to Sunshine House as an organization. In March 2025, we bought a whole other building and then opened a transitional residence! This took a lot of work in a short amount of time: hiring a whole whack of new staff, getting permits, making repairs and updates, creating new policies and procedures, and a new coat of paint for good measure!

Kelly's Corner is a transitional residence for 2SLGBTQIA+ folks who are exiting encampment living or are otherwise absolutely unsheltered (a.k.a. sleeping rough). Queer people are more likely to be houseless and they can face barriers accessing services such as shelters. Thanks to the provincial Your Way Home strategy, there is now a dedicated place for queer folks experiencing houselessness to not only get a place to stay, but make the transition into stable housing.

Kelly's Corner is a testament to community-driven collaboration. It got off the ground very quickly because of the lived-experienced experts on our Community Advisory Circle, the ever diligent work of Sunshine House staff, and the strong support of the Province. Provincial leadership have put their confidence in Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ people to take the lead when it comes to creating services for themselves, and that's what has allowed Kelly's Corner to become the joy- and hope-filled place it is.

KELLY'S CORNER IS NAMED FOR OUR LATE ELDER "GRANNY" KELLY HOULE, WHO PASSED IN FEBRUARY 2024. SHE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE EARLY DAYS OF LIKE THAT, AND WAS ONE OF THE LEADERS WHO ORGANIZED THE FIRST TWO-SPIRIT POW WOW. SHE WAS SHARP AND FUNNY AND TAUGHT US ALL SO MUCH, SHOWING US WHAT CARE CAN REALLY LOOK LIKE.



# DROP-IN

Drop-In is the core of everything we do at Sunshine House, and all of our programming flows out of it! Sunday through Thursday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., we open our doors to the community. People can come as they are, however they are, with no judgment awaiting them. Through Drop-In, participants can access all the services that Sunshine House offers — from housing help to sexual health supports; from computer and phone use to baths and laundry.

This year was all about Drop-In returning to its roots, and focusing on recreation and social inclusion. This means that now Drop-In begins with scheduled activities from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Whether it's watercolour painting or screen-printing, playing bingo, making beaded earrings, doing daily word puzzles, watching movies and going on field trips to places like the Human Rights Museum or the beach, everyone got into the swing of it and had a great time!

After activities, we have a meal together, and Food Security team led by Izabell works hard to provide food that people will enjoy, with the incorporation of Indigenous foods like wild rice, corn and bison as well as the classic soup and bannock. And, of course, cake for birthdays!

## DROP-IN BY THE NUMBERS

Participant Visits: 20,305

Meals Served: 19,365

HR Supplies: 4,736

Info and Advocacy: 365

Clothing Closet: 912

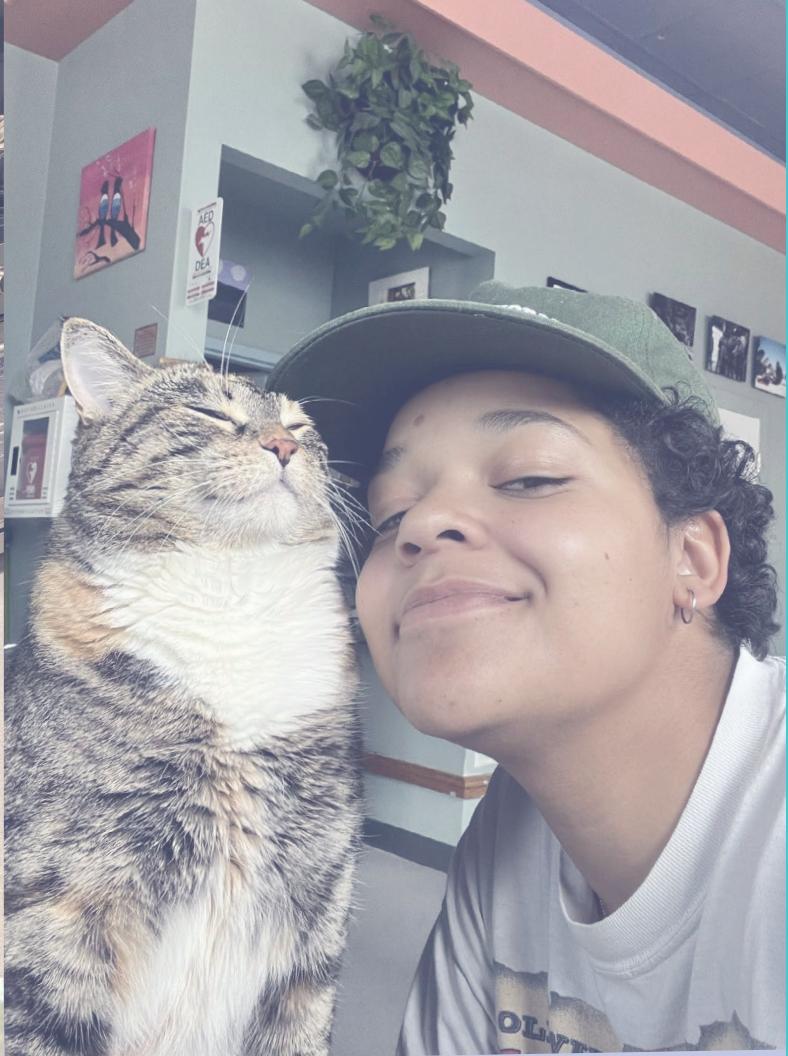


## LIKE THAT

The Like That Drop-In turned ten years old in December 2024! As with all Sunshine House programs, it was created to fill a need and has shifted and adapted over those years. After a pandemic-induced contraction in attendance, the twice-weekly attendance numbers have risen to a consistent and robust number — up to 50 people at a time. In this iteration, it's folks who are newcomers to Canada bolstering those numbers, and bringing new energy to Like That!

As with daytime Drop-In, we put a renewed focus on social-recreational activities at Like That. The current crowd isn't as into having a meal when they come, so we switched that up and started serving snacks instead. We've also had Like That participants take over the kitchen and share make some of their own cultural dishes to share.

Queer Bingo is always a great space where people can come as they are, enjoy performances by novice and established drag artists, and with a little luck, win! Following the closure of the Good Will, we've moved venues to the West End Cultural Centre. We've felt very welcome bringing our show to the legendary (and climate-controlled) Ellice Ave. space. It's been a hit with audiences, too — our March Bingo was so well attended we had to go into overflow seating, in the balcony and the lobby! Queer Bingo is always a great space where people can come as they are, enjoy performances by novice and established drag artists (and with a little luck, win).



# GIZHIWENIMIN

*Gizhiwenimin is an Ojibwe word that translates into English as “I see you, I hear you, I love you.”*

**G**izhiwenimin is a flexible department that responds to community wellness needs and provides advocacy for and training on the issues affecting Sunshine House participants. The Gizhiwenimin team is present at all of our drop-in and outreach services to provide educational programming and help with accessing health care.

Some of the things the Gizhiwenimin team gets up to: ride-alongs with MOPS on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, providing guidance on STBBI testing and vaccines, monthly STBBI testing and vaccine clinics at 646 Logan, and facilitating religious cultural celebrations for queer community members seeking space to observe their traditions.

Gizhiwenimin was developed out of the work that was done organically at Sunshine House in the 2010s. Queer refugee claimants in Winnipeg had nowhere to get assistance navigating the bureaucracy involved in the process. Staff at Like That, as well as volunteers from the Winnipeg queer community, began doing this work with no funding to speak of at first. We still do this work, though our capacity is to do so is generally quite limited. In January 2025 we, along with Rainbow Resource Centre and Two-Spirit Manitoba, publicly stated our commitment to continue to work with 2SLGBTQIA+ people seeking safety here in Manitoba during a global rise in fascist movements. This facet of our work is here to stay.



**S**treet Feet is the long-running foot care program that runs weekly during Drop-In. Specially trained nurse Walter provides basic foot care and assessment for people who access our spaces. This was the first year of having the new main-floor treatment room, something that markedly increases accessibility for participants with mobility limitations.

Foot care is important as foot health issues can quickly and easily escalate into more serious concerns, especially for people who are on their feet a lot, don't always have access to proper footwear and socks, and who may have complicating conditions like diabetes.

# ZAA GI-TOO-WAD

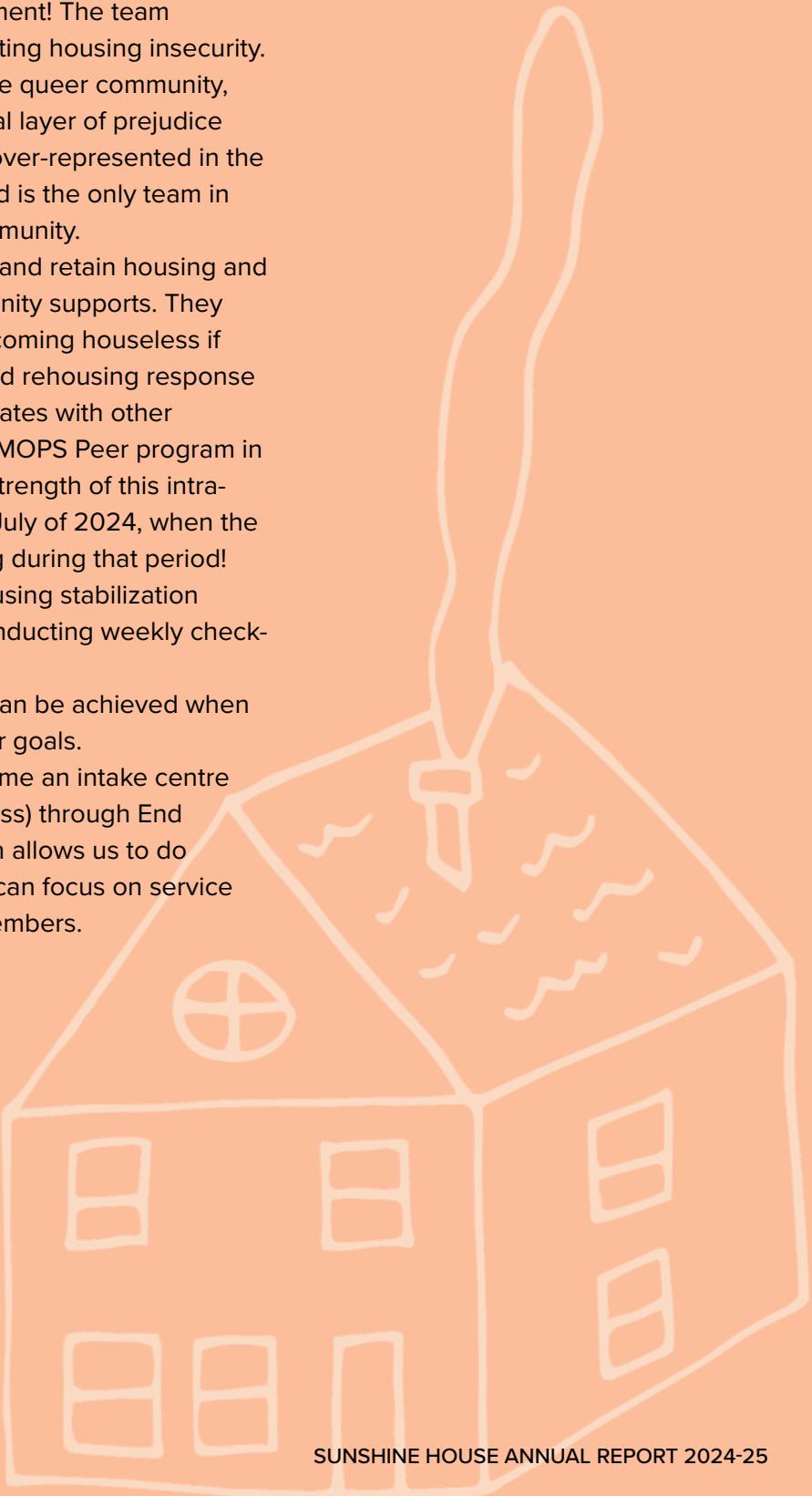
*Zaagi-Too-Wad is an Ojibwe phrase that translates into English as “If they like it.”*

**Z**aagi-Too-Wad is our Housing Department! The team supports 2SLGBTQIA+ people navigating housing insecurity. Houselessness often looks different in the queer community, and queer people often face an additional layer of prejudice and discrimination. Queer people are over-represented in the houseless population, and Zaagi-Too-Wad is the only team in Winnipeg that focuses solely on this community.

The team works with individuals to get and retain housing and provide access to other available community supports. They also work to prevent individuals from becoming houseless if emergencies arise, and can initiate a rapid rehousing response when necessary. Zaagi-Too-Wad collaborates with other programs such as Gizhiwenimin and the MOPS Peer program in supporting people getting housed. The strength of this intra-agency work really showed in June and July of 2024, when the team got over 30 individuals into housing during that period! This process included the creation of housing stabilization plans, furnishing the new homes, and conducting weekly check-ins with each individual.

Zaagi-Too-Wad is an example of what can be achieved when we work with participants to achieve their goals.

In 2025, the Zaagi-Too-Wad team became an intake centre for Natamaskakoowin (Coordinated Access) through End Homelessness Winnipeg. This integration allows us to do case swaps with other teams so that we can focus on service provision for 2SLGBTQIA+ community members.





EVERYONE CELEBRATES MOPS'S SECOND BIRTHDAY

# MOBILE OVERDOSE PREVENTION SERVICES

The Mobile Overdose Prevention Site (MOPS) is a place where people can access information on harm reduction, get referrals and can use drugs in a safe, warm space where they are supervised by staff who are trained in overdose response.

For 2024-25, MOPS remained Manitoba's first and only supervised drug consumption site (SCS) as it celebrated its second birthday in October! We have learned so much in the years that MOPS has been up and running. We've been reminded again and again that SCS have broad support in our communities and that the majority of people accept that there are four decades of evidence that backs up this harm reduction approach to chronic drug use. And as always, it was clear that Peers — people with lived or living experience of using drugs — are essential to creating an environment where people feel safe, connections can be made, and people's lives can be improved.

## MOPS BY THE NUMBERS:

*Visits:* 70,363

*Drug Uses:* 10,657

*Drug Checks:* 306

*Naloxone*

*distributed:* 4,569



**TOP ROW:** MOPS PEERS NILLUS AND DAVE; HANNA WAITS FOR THE RV AT THE AUTO SHOP; MUYI AND JINKX STRIKE A POSE; THE DROP-IN CREW PARTICIPATES IN SKIRT DAY (AN EVENT OF THEIR OWN CREATION); HELINA AND THEIR NEW KITTEN EAZY. **MIDDLE ROW:** BEACH DAY!; SARA FROM SEED TEACHES FINANCIAL SKILLS; DORA; HAPPY DINERS AT THE FALL FEAST; MOHAMMED "DRIVES" THE MOPS RV. **BOTTOM ROW:** A SELL-OUT CROWD AT QUEER BINGO; MISS ASSUMA GENDER, MOXIE COTTON & JAYDEN; A BUSY FALL FEAST DAY!





# NEW PROGRAMS!

*In addition to Kelly's Corner, the two other programs were added to the Sunshine House slate this year:*

## BIMOSEDAA

*Bimosedaa is an Ojibwe word that translates into English as “Let’s walk together”*

**B**imosedaa works with members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community in navigating addictions recovery, withdrawal management services, and detox and stabilization services.

This program was created because there are different systemic and structural barriers the queer community faces when it comes to accessing addictions and withdrawal management services. Bimosedaa provides the designated support for 2SLGBTQIA+ people, something that’s been missing in Manitoba until now.

If you ask them, our Bimosedaa Navigators will tell you that their purpose is to “walk behind” an individual who is seeking treatment. Not leading the way, but providing support while letting the individual decide what steps to take. We accompany folks, rather than determining what they should do and when.

# CULTURAL INITIATIVES <sup>A</sup> <sub>ND</sub> PROGRAMMING

The Cultural Initiatives team works in collaboration with other Sunshine House departments to bring Indigenous knowledge and teachings to participants.

As a new department, Cultural Initiatives began this year with the “Islands of Stability” project, designed bring culture to 2SLGBTQIA+ people and people who use drugs. All our relations deserve to have access to traditional medicines, ceremonies and teachings without fear of judgement.

Thanks to a GLOWS Indigenous Health Camp, the cultural team put on the first Sunshine House Culture Camp — an opportunity for folks who don’t have much access to land-based activities to get out of the city. This first Camp was a trip out to Sioux Narrows to learn about ice fishing! The retreat also allowed participants to create their own medicine bundles and learn Two-Spirit teachings. It was only the beginning — look for the cultural team doing great things going forward!





# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

I remember the first board meeting I attended in May of 2019. We had a difficult discussion about possible layoffs because our funding wasn't enough to carry us through the year. It's hard to believe how far we've come since then.

When I say I've seen the organization grow, I mean it — I HAVE SEEN THE ORGANIZATION GROW. That growth is most powerfully reflected in projects like Kelly's Corner. What came together in such a short amount of time has now become a 24/7 space for 2SLGBTQIA+ community members exiting encampments and houselessness. It's a testament to what's possible when community, compassion, and urgency come together.

Yet, with growth comes new challenges — especially in the non-profit world, where burnout is all too common. Sunshine House's greatest strength has always been its people. In response, the leadership team launched a pilot project in September: a modified work week for employees who chose to opt in.

One thing is for sure: between hiring more staff and finding new ways to prioritize wellness, Sunshine House is building a stronger team, ready to take on whatever comes next. And as we look ahead, there are some incredibly exciting projects to look forward to.

Sunshine House is part of a team working to launch the province's first brick-and-mortar supervised consumption site — a vital step in

harm reduction and community care. At the same time, our commitment to housing justice continues to take shape through the development of Minwaase-Biindigewigamig, an Indigenous and queer-led housing project to be built on Notre Dame Avenue. The project will include shelter beds, transitional units, and long-term social housing with shared communal spaces — all supported by onsite, wraparound services designed to meet the needs of Two-Spirit community members experiencing housing instability and breakdown.

Together, these projects reflect a future where community-led solutions are at the heart of everything we do. That future is only possible because of the people who show up every day — from staff and volunteers, donors and supporters, to community members who trust us to walk alongside them.

This annual report is a tribute to the hard work and passion that fuel our community, and I'm incredibly grateful to be part of this ongoing journey. I am also extremely thankful to our outgoing board members, Angeline and Ariane. Thank you for your time, your energy, and your care. The work you do in community is seen and deeply appreciated. I have no doubt our paths will cross again.

To truly understand the magic of Sunshine House, you have to experience it for yourself. Come by for a tour. You won't regret it!

— JANELLYN MARCIAL  
Chair, Board of Directors



# OUR FUNDERS



United Way  
Winnipeg



Winnipeg Regional  
Health Authority



# OUR PARTNERS

Two Spirit Manitoba

Aboriginal Health and Wellness  
Centre

The Boldness Project

Brook McIlroy

Canadian Mental Health  
Association

Club 200

Dr. Peter Centre

First Mennonite Church

First Nations Health & Social  
Secretariat of Manitoba

Fort Whyte Alive

Winnipeg Goldeyes

Valour FC

Harvest Manitoba

IN Magazine

Ka Ni Kanichihk

The Leftovers Foundation

Main Street Project

Manitoba Harm Reduction  
Network

Manitoba Health Coalition

Manitoba Underground Opera

Mount Carmel Clinic

North End Women's Centre

1 Just City

Peguis First Nation

Pride Winnipeg

Purpose Construction

Rainbow Resource Cnetre

Roughage Eatery

Sexuality Education Resource  
Centre

Siloam Mission

Spence Neighbourhood  
Association/WE24

Snowy Owl Monarchist Society

St Paul's Collegiate - Youth in  
Philanthropy

West Central Women's  
Resource Centre

Women's Health Clinic

WSP Consulting

# SUNSHINE HOUSE INC.

## Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31	2025	2024
<b>Revenues</b>		
Amortization of deferred contributions - fixed assets	\$ 46,601	\$ 25,726
Donations	199,173	192,984
Federal government grants	760,139	753,707
Foundations and other grants	810,628	868,695
Fundraising income	80,401	\$ 119,919
Gain on sale of fixed assets	2,341	-
Interest and other	4,104	10,768
Provincial government grants	<u>1,858,776</u>	<u>149,407</u>
	<b>3,762,163</b>	2,121,206
<b>Expenses</b>		
Amortization	146,527	68,567
Building occupancy	59,909	32,963
General and administrative	357,799	327,341
Personnel	2,354,924	1,308,065
Programs	<u>847,363</u>	<u>409,782</u>
	<b>3,766,522</b>	2,146,718
Difference between revenues and expenses	(4,359)	(25,512)
Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year	156,304	181,816
Contributions related to the purchase of land	<u>522,200</u>	-
Unrestricted net assets, end of year	<b>\$ 674,145</b>	<b>\$ 156,304</b>



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