

**SUN  
SHINE  
HOUSE**

2020-2021



Annual Report



# STAFF

<b>Executive Director</b>	Levi A. Foy
<b>Finance</b>	Carrie McCormack
<b>Street Feet</b>	Edith Allec
<b>Communications</b>	Jenny Henkelman
<b>Gizhiwenimin</b>	Monique LaPlante



# BOARD

<b>Drop-In</b>	Nuri Abhazim Nathan Akan (Feather) Vince Andrushko Val Ballantyne Isaac Cassels David Kirton (Vida Lamour) Monique LaPlante Rowan Moyes	<b>Chair</b>	Claudyne Chevrier
<b>Peer Support</b>	Quinnzarr Zwingerman	<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Kim Bailey
<b>Technical Project Assistant</b>	Jude Hayes	<b>Secretary</b>	Craig Ross
<b>Special Projects</b>	Quinton Delorme	<b>Treasurer</b>	Angeline Nelson
<b>Street Feet Nurses</b>	Martha Cinch Janet Hanley Michelle Watling Enid Lyons Walter Yamniuk	<b>Directors</b>	Andrew Friesen Janellyn Marcial Rob Marriott Rachelle Sorin
		<b>Staff Rep</b>	Nathan Akan (Feather)

# VOLUNTEERS

**Super Volunteers:** Paula Ducharme, Lisa Stepnuk, Bronson King  
**Street Feet reflexology:** Barry Spain

*Sunshine House is located on Treaty 1 Territory, in the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation. Sunshine House respects the complex histories and traditions of Indigenous Peoples and communities. We are committed to the philosophy of proactive decolonization in the programs we develop.*

**VISION:** To create a place where people can grow.

**VALUES:** Acceptance, Respect, Inclusion, Confidentiality

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# Message from the Board

Sunshine House is no stranger to rolling with the punches and making magic happen out of scarce resources, creativity, grit and maybe even spite. The past year tested those well-practiced skills in unprecedented ways. It is a testament to our fantastic staff, the stellar leadership of our executive director Levi Foy and the love and solidarity of our communities, that we emerged out of this year exhausted but strengthened and with a few things to celebrate. With the unique challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, programs had to pivot to serve the changing needs of our participants. All activities were affected by the commitment of Sunshine House to protect everyone's safety and respect public health orders. I cannot commend enough the tireless efforts, commitment and creativity that Sunshine House staff, volunteers, allies and partners poured into keeping Sunshine House safe and welcoming.

Our beloved drop-in saw an increase in demand and, thanks to the outpouring of support from our communities, was able to expand its hours of operations and change its activities to keep everyone safe. We have seen a monumental increase in foot traffic and Sunshine House staff, volunteers and participants worked together to keep the program in tune with everyone's needs. The Like That program staff curated online programming to cater to participants' needs to stay safe. While this wasn't without challenges, they managed to have regular activities, as well as special projects (with various amazing partners) such as the 2021 sexual health calendar, three virtual bingos and the now-legendary Telethon. The Peer Outreach Support Program was developed this year to provide individual support to drop-in and Like That participants in these uncertain times through check-ins, video calls, but also delivery of hampers and harm reduction supplies, provision of legal advocacy and transport when needed, and support to find emergency or permanent housing.

This year also saw the development of the Boxes of Sunshine initiative which put together

and delivered hampers to pre-pandemic Sunshine House participants, to the monumental rate of 100 per week at different moments. This wouldn't have been possible without the involvement of so many volunteers. Gizhiwenimin continued to support its participants when refugee claim hearings started again, and throughout the pandemic with social support through emails and virtual hangouts, support to fill out documents for various services and food hampers for 15 households.

Street Feet and its extraordinary nursing and other staff provided its essential services whenever the public health orders allowed it and their dedication had been impressive.

The Sunday Brunch program has grown this year to its biggest iteration yet, with 60+ participants weekly (in comparison to an average of 15 in recent years) and has been working smoothly under the expert leadership of Isaac Cassels.

Sunshine House Board of Directors members implemented some changes last year in the by-laws and we are continuing, in close partnership with the executive director and staff members, to think of ways to be better employers and to shake up the models of governance that we are working under.

Sunshine House is known for its unwavering commitment to bring safety, support and pleasure to the communities it serves and is part of, and this year has showed that the staff, volunteers, board members and everyone who shows up for Sunshine House that this commitment will be honored even in harder-than-usual circumstances.

Thank you to our program participants, our amazing volunteers, our passionate community allies, our dedicated staff and board members. We have so much to be proud of and I know I am not the only one to feel an endless amount of gratitude to be able to play a small role in the powerful, weird adventure that is Sunshine House.

**Claudyne Chevrier**  
Chair



# Drop-In

Before 2020, afternoon drop-in ran from 2:00-4:30 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Looking at those hours compared to the services and staff we have now is a bit of a shock! Due to a huge increase in demand and an outpouring of community support, we've been able to increase our open hours at Sunshine House to a busy and full five days a week. Drop-in now operates on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:00-4:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Saturdays from 12:00-5:00 p.m. We've seen an in-

crease in foot traffic and have worked as hard as we can to accommodate the shifting needs of our community throughout the pandemic.

We've had to implement lots of new things to keep everyone safe. It hasn't been easy. So much of the beauty in the afternoon drop-in comes from the close-knit community that thrives in our space, and the closeness of being able to sit with a friend and catch up over a cup of coffee. So enforcing social distancing, short stays, masks and staying vigilant with sanitizing every possible surface after it's been touched has been a big change. Overall, the participants have adapted really well and taken everything in stride, and we've been extremely grateful for their patience throughout the year. We've had to learn to have disposable masks on hand to provide to guests so that everyone can access our services, as well as upping our cleaning procedures to account for the increased traffic.

The programming that participants love the most (field trips, bingo, karaoke, etc.) has had to be cancelled during the pandemic. Through donations and community connections, we have continued to supply gently used clothes, shoes and harm reduction supplies to participants. We are also able to provide some limited laundry services, computer use and occasional rides during the cold winter months with Val or Levi behind the wheel of the Sunshine Van.

Some participants in the afternoon drop-in have really lent their hands and skills as we've undergone big cleaning projects, painting, sorting donations and packaging harm reduction supplies.

**Nathan Akan (Feather) and Jude Hayes**





Top row: Visiting the farm at St. Malo; Ricky enjoys a fancy doughnut.  
Middle: A birthday extravaganza at the House! Bottom row: Elaine says hey; Jimmy and Gilbert take the new foosball table for a spin

# Like That!



The Like That drop-in has changed quite a bit over the course of the year. Many of our regulars have had to isolate themselves for various health and safety reasons. The in-person portion of the Monday and Wednesday evening drop-in has shrunk quite a bit in size because of this, and folks have had to keep their visits shorter. This does make it all the more special to see a familiar face though, and we've been able to maintain some very strong relationships despite the lack of programming.

Over the winter, Quinzzarr (our "Lady Like That") and Feather both made efforts to curate digital programming to keep in touch with community members. These kinds of outreach came in the form of some Google Meet calls, long distance Netflix screenings of videos. This often bled into the Gizhiwenimin and other peer outreach facilitations that Monique and Quinton led. The evening drop-ins for the most part have been quiet,

still supplying folks with needed food, harm reduction supplies and information about our services for newcomers.

The foray into virtual programming did allow for some new and unique creative projects for some of the Sunshine Bunch and Like That participants. Many were involved with the 2021 sexual health calendar project, as well as three virtual bingo fundraisers we held. One was done as a partnership with Rising Youth on December 6, one all on our own on January 24 and one was presented through Synonym Art Consultation's GORGE festival on March 21. Performers often filmed and edited their own performance videos for the livestreams (often with assistance and direction from resident queen Feather Talia), with the exception of the GORGE festival, where the programming was filmed and edited by BNB Studios, and streamed by Artisan AV. The bingos featured plenty of local talent, including





hosts Prairie Sky and Vida Lamour, and performers Granny Gaga, Local Honey, Stara David, Purple Haze, Soleil Midowne, Izabell Silver, Rose Mortel, Contessa Lestrangle and Sandi Bay.

On February 20, the Sunshine Bunch partnered once again with the Winnipeg Public Library to present a virtual Read by Queens, which featured a wide array of children's books, and appearances from family favourites. Cake, Picky and Glory, Guncle Smokey, Olivia Limeheart-Sky, Lady Quinnzarr and Feather Talia all lent their voices and talents to the program.

Perhaps one of the biggest notable events from this past winter was our Telethon fundraiser on February 27. It was a huge collaboration from drop in participants, staff,

volunteers and community members alike. The idea came from Purple Haze as we all brainstormed a virtual format for our annual fundraiser, and the rest is history. Lots of Like That participants lent drag and make-up skills, comedy, photo and video editing, music, dance, and technical know-how to the event. It featured a set by JD and the Sunshine Band, two family bands, original sketch comedy with Hari Vijaijay and Grouchy Marx, lip sync battles, DJ sets from Kilusan and plenty of support from volunteers who answered phones to take donations. We ended up making a huge \$25,000 from our amazing community of supporters.

**Nathan Akan (Feather)  
and Jude Hayes**

*L-R: Grouchy Marx tells Grindr horror stories during the Telethon; Lady Quinnzarr and Feather Talia deliver Telethon meal kits to some young fans; Feather on the Telethon set; the day the calendars arrived; Prairie Sky, Purple Haze, Feather Talia, Miss Assuma Gender and Lady Quinnzarr close out the Telethon; Hari Vijaijay "takes" calls at the Telethon.*

# Gizhiwenimin

**G**izhiwenimin is an outreach program that seeks to provide support for newcomers that are in the process of claiming refugee protection. We support applicants through all stages of the settlement process. Programming over the past year included connecting participants to our food hamper system as a response to the pandemic. We regularly supported 15 households, some of which included children ranging in age from six months to teenage.

Refugee claim hearings were postponed until late spring 2021, at which point we were present for two of them. We helped participants fill out documents for a variety of services (health cards, vaccinations, housing, various support programs) and saw a great

er need for that kind of assistance throughout the pandemic.

Socially, we found new ways to stay connected and to foster positive community relations. We kept in touch over text and email, had some virtual hang-outs to watch Netflix and chat, and participants were invited to join in to play the virtual bingos. With social distancing and safety precautions in place, more folks have been able to come by the house for in person visits, and hopefully those will only continue to grow in number moving forward.

**Monique LaPlante**  
*Gizhiwenimin Coordinator*

## Peer Outreach

**T**he peer outreach support worker position is new to Sunshine House this year, and is funded by the University of Winnipeg's Women's and Gender Studies program. I feel very blessed to be working and supporting this community in an outreach capacity. We support afternoon drop-in clients and Like That members in many ways. We have been doing check-ins in person and over phone and video chat to keep everyone connected throughout the pandemic. While we have been trying to make visits to Sunshine House as safe and accessible as possible, we also deliver harm reduction supplies and food hampers to community members who are isolating, as well as providing legal advocacy and transportation to appointments for those who need it.

A large part of the work we have done includes finding emergency housing for folks (through hotels, Airbnb, etc.) and purchasing new beds, pillows,

and bedding for them once they have secured more permanent living situations. We are available to chat when Sunshine House is not open if needed, at times from midnight until 4:00 a.m.

As restrictions have lifted, we are now able to begin reverting from online video chat programming to community connecting activities such as the Community Garden, group walks, capoeira lessons, crafts and peer-support co-op meetings about safe consumption sites. This work is still finding the groove but it has already been extremely rewarding to our passion into connecting, and caring for this community that has given so much to us.

**Quinnzarr Zwingerman**  
*Peer Outreach Support Worker*  
(She/her)



# Boxes of Sunshine

Boxes of Sunshine were a huge part of Sunshine House's operations during the 2020-2021 year.

From March 2020 to March 2021 we made (and mostly delivered) hampers to those who were pre-pandemic Sunshine House participants. By 2021, we were making over 100 hampers a week! And let me tell you, that was a lot of work!

At this time we had so many amazing volunteers delivering these hampers. We had dedicated supporters who would respond to our regular "Most-Needed Items" calls for donations. We also developed some partnerships with Eadha being one of our major donors of bread. We also collaborated with Eadha on tote bags which we used for our hampers.

In March 2021, we scaled back Boxes of Sunshine to provide hampers on an emergency basis (usually once per month).

We received so much gratitude from the community for this program — Boxes of Sunshine was truly such a help in such a time of need.

**Nathan (Feather) Akan**  
*Internal Program Coordinator*  
*(He/She/They)*



Volunteers Uzoma (left) and Kat (right) out for delivery



# Brunch

Brunch is a program at Sunshine House that is known for its consistency. So, if you had told me two years ago that my average Sunday would one day include six staff members, seasoned scrambled eggs, or 60+ visitors on average, I probably would have passed out. Those and many other exciting changes are just some of the long list of things that came along with 2020 and 2021, the two neverending years where “whatever can happen, will happen.” A lot has changed since Brunch was just my mom, Laurel, our amazing volunteer Paula (who still brings us the joy of her presence every week), and me, serving a cool 15-or-so meals each Sunday. But the most important things, despite everything, remain constant: Rolled cutlery, endless coffee, classic tunes from the radio, delicious food and smiling faces greeting you at the door.

Since the pandemic started, we haven’t enforced the \$2.00 charge that used to come along with a plate of Brunch (a price that didn’t come close to covering the costs of the program regardless). We still accept it as a donation, however, and we have a few long-term Brunch loyalists who always have their toonie ready.

I can’t write a report about Sunday Brunch without including some praise for the wonderful staff that make it happen every weekend. Jude, our awesome tech support staff, has recently started cooking for Brunch with regularity ever since I rediscovered the

joy of being in the drop-in. He has brought a whole new world of breakfast foods to a program that had been built off of the exact same three components for many years running. Quinton, Val and the fantastic drop-in support staff are in bright and early (almost) every Sunday morning. They each bring

something to the table, and Brunch feels incomplete without when they aren’t present. Without their hard work, and sometimes frantic running around, it would be impossible to bring a good meal along with cleanliness, harm reduction services and good conversation to give-or-take 60 different participants every Sunday. Last but certainly not least, I can’t forget Paula, who has volunteered for Brunch (and some of our other programs) for more years than I can remember.

She never fails to bring

a witty comeback, cool socks and the best mopping the kitchen floor has seen all week.

Going on my fourth year of working at Brunch, a lot of things have changed, in some very unexpected ways, but thanks to the best staff a Brunch Bitch could ask for, it’s all even better than it was before. Come on down to Sunshine House on Sunday mornings between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for the best breakfast you’ve had all week and to enjoy the now slightly more chaotic energy we have to offer.

**Isaac Cassels**  
*Brunch Bitch*



Jude, Vida, Nuri, Isaac and Paula pose in their Sunshine Shop merch before Brunch in January!

# Street Feet

Due to COVID restrictions, most Street Feet clinics were cancelled over the 2020-2021 year. Some were cancelled, rebooked and then cancelled again in order to keep staff and clients safe! Thanks to both clients and nurses for their understanding. When restrictions were lowered, a few foot care clinics were held, mostly in July and September of 2020. COVID measures including temperature checks, screening questions and face masks were in place. We saw 27 clients in total; 21 were repeat clients and six were new to us.

For this period of time, clients were from the afternoon drop-in and Like That programs at Sunshine House, PACT, Madison House, K&D Transition, various Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Access sites, Salvation Army and Main Street Project.

Many thanks to Street Feet nurses extraordinaire Janet, Michelle and Enid for their dedication to our

peeps at Sunshine House.

In January of 2020, a grant from the Rising Youth Foundation to buy socks was applied for by staffer Isaac Cassels and gratefully accepted by Sunshine House. Throughout the year, new socks, gently used shoes and winter boots were donated by individuals and organizations or purchased at thrift stores for Sunshine House participants.

Thank you also to the Sunshine House staff and board for the freedom to continue having this program available!

We love the people who participate in the program! They are the best, bringing dignity, strength, humanity, laughter and determination (often against all odds) to the House.

**Edith Allec**

*Street Feet Coordinator*

# Sunshine Shop

Sunshine House has been selling merchandise at bingos and fundraising events for years, so the launch of an online shop during this past year really just made sense. The shop launched officially on December 10, 2020 and is still going strong now! Jenny and I have been able to collaborate on designing new wearable merchandise with the Like That and Sunshine House logos, designing pins and buttons, and selling the stickers, hats, and fanny packs that have become such staples of our merch.

We partnered with Eadha, an Ellice Ave. bakery with close ties to the community, to design a cotton tote bag in January 2021. The design was launched during our Telethon fundraiser (February 27th) to carry the meal kits, and for community members

to use during the winter months for food hampers. We have also been able to feature Orange Shirt Day t-shirts, the 2021 Calendar and bingo cards for our virtual bingos that we have held over the winter.

Graphic design and local commerce are two avenues I've come to embrace over the past year, and I love seeing folks out in public wearing the things we've made. It's been a really positive experience, and has also generated a fair amount of revenue for us that has gone back into materials for programming and paying the staff for their labour.

**Jude Hayes**

*Technical Project Assistant  
(he/him)*

# Sex Workers of Winnipeg Action Coalition

It has been a whole other year of SWWAC (Sex Workers of Winnipeg Action Coalition) keeping safe and having our meetings and most of our activities online! We're happy with this decision, although we miss coming together at Sunshine House and seeing each other.

Winnipeg's Bad Date List continued to grow in the last year, with more agencies working with us to get the word out for sex workers and everyone in the industry. Based on the precious feedback from our users and allies, we were able to budget for changes to be made regarding the screening process for members who request access to the system, some of the questions in our forms as well as the way we send reports to partner agencies. Additionally, SWWAC members presented three formal informational sessions to the West Central Women's Resource Centre, Our Place Safe Space at Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews Community Association (DMSMCA) and Sage

House. With everything moving online, we have had to develop a new presentation style that can better connect with agencies about what their needs are during the pandemic to connect with their participants to let them know about the Bad Date List system. We have received valuable feedback from agencies and have made changes when possible.

Despite the pandemic forcing everything to move online, SWWAC has given ALL of our regular presentations to students and professionals throughout the year! We have given talks to University of Manitoba Nursing students on six occasions, we gave a talk to University of Manitoba Medical students in November of 2020 and to University of Winnipeg Criminal Justice students and Social Work students. It was a great opportunity for all of us to get more comfortable presenting online and interacting with large groups of students on various platforms. We generally found that students seem to engage even more with us through the chat than they do in person. A presentation was also given to folks at Rainbow Resource Center in July of 2020.

SWWAC joined forces once again with our friends at Our Place Safe Space (OPSS) at DMSMCA to put together two new editions of the *Sex workers Claiming Agency, Resilience and Safety (SCARS)* zine to celebrate the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers on December 17 and International Sex Workers Rights Day on March 3. This allowed us to strengthen our relationship with OPSS and its wonderful participants, in addition

to celebrating important days for our movement through art!

Also for December 17, SWWAC members participated in an interview with Winnipeg Police Cause Harm (WPCH) to produce a Q&A blog post that discussed the intersections of policing and sex work, in an effort to understand why we must decriminalize sex work and push for safe working conditions for all selling and trading in sexual services. This interview can be found on the WPCH website:

[winnipegpolicecauseharm.org](http://winnipegpolicecauseharm.org).

Given the terrible consequences of the pandemic on local sex workers and their exclusion from government pandemic relief, SWWAC decided in the spring to fundraise to be able to provide emergency relief fund in the form of one-time cash micro-grants of \$100 to local sex workers. With the administrative help of Sunshine House collaboration with several other organizations, we were able to provide 96 grants in the spring and early summer. Thanks to a generous grant from the Canadian Women's Foundation, we were also able to provide an additional 200+ grants to local sex workers in the first 3 months of 2021.

In the last year, SWWAC has also been involved in a research project critically assessing the Prostitution Offender Program, facilitated by the Salvation Army and the Winnipeg Police Service Counter Exploitation Unit. This research project is the first of its kind, as there has never been an outside review done on this program since its inception in 1996. It allowed SWWAC members to learn and develop their research skills.





# Thunderbirdz

Thunderbirdz is a volunteer foot patrol group in Winnipeg that focuses on our relatives on the street or facing houselessness. Since April 2020, they have walked three times a week throughout Winnipeg's inner city, handing out sandwiches, snacks, water, and harm reduction supplies. Val Ballantyne, one of the founding members of Thunderbirdz, came on staff at Sunshine House in February 2021. We started doing van outreach shifts and together we realized that we'd be able to reach more folks by joining Thunderbirdz on their regular walks. This partnership is what led Thunderbirdz to

start handing out harm reduction supplies on their patrols.

Sunshine House has also occasionally provided space for warming for Thunderbirdz during the cold walks in the winter, as well as provisioning the patrollers with water and sandwiches, when available. The partnership between Sunshine House and Thunderbirdz has continued throughout the following fiscal year.

**Quinton Delorme**  
*Special Projects Coordinator*



In the summer of 2020, SWWAC members came together with friends and colleagues from Winnipeg Police Cause Harm and others from the local broader police abolition movement to put together a vibrant direct action encouraging a “do-it-yourself” approach to defunding the police by limiting their income from

traffic radars by reminders Winnipeg drivers to slow down and respect the speeding limits. In addition to raising awareness about what defunding the police means, this action allowed sex workers to take the lead in a safety initiative, proving our commitment to safety in every aspect of life.

We are hopeful to be able to contin-

ue our hard, largely volunteer work to make things safer for all sex workers in Winnipeg in the next year and can't wait to be able to come together at Sunshine House again!

**sexworkwinnipeg.com**  
**baddatewinnipeg.com**  
**swwac@sexworkwinnipeg.com**

# Special Projects

In the span of six months, I was able to participate in and help coordinate several special projects at Sunshine House. These projects varied in size and scale, and had different levels of importance and impact. The two biggest projects I had the opportunity of working on were our 2021 Calendar and the new mural in our drop-in space.

Originally we were supposed to start working on our calendar at the beginning of 2020, before I had even started working at Sunshine House. Then, the global pandemic hit and our plans were put on pause for a few months. Thankfully, our funds to produce the calendar were still available, and we started getting the ball rolling again in September 2020. When I was first assigned the project, I felt very strongly about hiring folks who I thought represented our organization and community. We were very privileged to work with two amazing photographers, Taryn Anderson and Robyn Adams. I had a lot of fun engaging with friends and family in our networks who were kind enough to spare their time to be photographed for our calendar. It was also a great opportunity for me to start building relationships with some folks I hadn't had the chance of getting to know yet. Once we had our final images from the photoshoots, I worked closely with Jess Koroscil from Housefires Design and Illustration to develop the calendar. They are super talented at what they do, and are very responsible for how beautiful the calendar turned out.

The planning for our new mural in the drop-in space began in February 2021. Prior to the mural, we had some wallpaper that was starting to peel off, and we wanted to replace it with something that would better reflect our space. I reached out to Marco Muller, an Indigenous artist who lives and works in our neighborhood of Centennial. Marco was very excited at the idea, and accepted our offer promptly. There was quite a bit of planning involved in the months following the inception of this project. Marco was



kind enough to visit Sunshine House a couple times, where I gave him a tour of our space and let him get a feel of the energy and vibe of our organization. After a few visits, I worked with Levi to draft up a contract and negotiated with Marco to best suit his needs. The project continued into the following fiscal year and was completed in June 2021.

I have been very honoured and privileged to have worked alongside our community on these projects. Thank you Sunshine House for giving me the space to collaborate with you all and for continuing to let me be your Special Projects Liaison! I am truly grateful.

**Quinton Delorme**  
Special Projects Liaison  
(he/they/she)



This year we were not able to hold the PowWow in person, but we adapted and found ways to learn and connect to culture and community online. We were able to make four videos for the virtual Winnipeg Pride in summer 2020. Two videos feature a Two-Spirit dancer who was involved with the community and the PowWow.

They spoke of their personal experiences and the importance of creating space for Two-Spirit identities in the circle. Another video announced the future of a Two-Spirit Sundance with one of our Two-Spirit Elders. The third video featured an Indigenous queer musical performer, and we worked with sākīhiwē festival and Nu Media to film and provide a drum group, DJ and musical performance during our videos. Our programming was shared widely during Pride's online festival and on our social media.

During the fall, we had a feast and shared plates of food with Two-Spirit community members. The food was made on site at Sunshine House and community volunteers delivered it to folks' homes. We also held an online gathering on January 15 so that everyone could meet one another, eat together, watch the videos from Pride again, hear about our upcoming events and to listen to music. Meals were delivered to community members' homes, and the programming included appearances from cherished friends and relations, as well as the musical stylings of DJ QD.

Through the fall and winter season, we had online programming. It was an opportunity for folks to learn and connect. We hosted and provided materials for a drum-making workshop, and a beading workshop, as well as inviting a guest to teach us a drum song.

This spring was Monique's last in the role of chair of the Two-Spirit PowWow, and Sunshine House staff members Quinton and Feather have stepped up as co-chairs moving forward.

**Monique LaPlante**  
*Chair, Two-Spirit PowWow*



Marco Muller's completed mural+  
at Sunshine House

# Two-Spirit PowWow



# Communications

Greetings from the Sunshine House communications desk! My job is communications coordinator, and that job description has included everything from posters and press releases to fundraising and social media.

Early in the pandemic, Levi asked me to create an online resource that would compile and list the supports available to folks, such as shelters, meals, clothing, hampers, harm reduction supplies and drop-ins. Levi was the first person I heard articulate that this pandemic would affect people very differently based on their situations in life. This prediction came true, and we saw a contraction of many of the services that are usually available. The Pandemic Resource Guide was available on the web and also in print form — folded zine-style to be perfectly pocket-sized (then periodically updated and reprinted).

When the Boxes of Sunshine program started up, I created a system where donors could schedule donation drop-offs and then regularly made the online calls for donations. Our community responded, bringing us fresh food, pantry staples, cleaning supplies and recreation items, too. It was pretty amazing to hit “post” on a “Most-Needed Items” update and then watch the notifications for online gifts and donation drop-off appointments roll in! We have some phenomenal supporters who really came through for the House in this time.

In the fall of 2020, I built an online shop into our website. Jude came on staff around this time and

dove right into running the day-to-day of the shop. It’s been so great to have him on staff!

In December, we put out a specific call for Christmas gifts for program participants. The idea was to have a Holiday Gift Registry where donors could “be Santa” by purchasing specific items as requested by folks. I set up an online registry and it went great!

Donors made their purchases and dropped them off by making appointments through our booking system. This reduced the workload on Edith, who normally does our gift shopping, and also gave our donors a more personal connection to the House.

Later in the winter, we were the beneficiaries of a beautiful example of community collaboration. The Sunshine Van was getting broken into, and Levi mentioned this to

1JustCity’s Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud. She suggested that if the van were identifiable as belonging to Sunshine House, the break-ins would stop. She referred us to her friends at Western Safety Sign, Co. I designed a decal and sent it over, where they printed and installed free of charge. Tessa was right — once the decals went on, the break-ins stopped!

This concludes the update from your cellar-dwelling comms gal. As uncertain as the future is, I’m looking forward to seeing how we’ll continue to meet it!

**Jenny Henkelman**  
Communications Coordinator  
(she/her)



*Quinnzarr, Levi, Isaac and Monique pose with the newly decaled Sunshine Van*

# Message from the Executive Director

We are still here. Welcome to the incomplete story of what happened in 2020-2021!

Let us begin on March 13, 2020. My cell rang and it was the Winnipeg Foundation. The caller said, "Levi, we have some discretionary money for community groups to address the impacts of COVID." I said, "We have no idea what we are going to do, but we will take the money! When do you want a plan?" The caller said, "OK! Figure it out and get back to me next week!"

So that Monday the four of us who consistently work drop-in talked with community members. They told us, "Well, we want to eat, we still want to come here, and you can't close!" That was the beginning of our journey. It was an extremely challenging and rewarding time. In March 2020, having 30 people in our drop-in was considered a busy day. By the end of March 2021, we consistently see double or triple that number in a day.

The immediate thing we did with that \$10,000 from Winnipeg Foundation was figure out how to get food! The strain on resources through those first weeks and months were challenging but we pulled together and hit the ground stumbling.

An average week was total chaos around here. By the winter through support from End Homelessness Winnipeg, the United Way and Winnipeg Foundation we were open five days a week, up from three days a week pre-pandemic. We continued to provide hot meals, telephone service, laundry service, access to washrooms and harm reduction supply provision. Twice a

week, participants could choose their groceries from the Boxes of Sunshine hamper program. By October, we had doubled our staff. Monique and Feather worked extremely hard coordinating volunteers, training staff and keeping their cool in the chaos. Vida was managing the clothing donations and being our friendly face in the house, and Isaac was preparing several large meals a day with whatever we had on hand. We tried our best to maintain the things that make us "the House" but it was a challenge responding to the additional challenges.

During the fall and winter, people who had been loosely connected with Sunshine House in casual, temporary, or contract roles were brought into the fold to get us through this time. Quinton took on some special projects and was a point of calm in the storm. Quinton never knew what they were doing or how they got hired but that never stopped them from doing work carefully and intentionally. Rowan was always around doing the most, they were supporting young folks with an "atrocious amount" of micro-grants through the Rising Youth project. Vince came in when he could to fix what we broke, joke with the guys, and provide some comic relief. In the winter we hired Val and Nuri as drop-in support workers. They provided a lot of support, arriving just as the rest of us were burning out. They brought humor and patience and infused the house with their energies and gifts. You remember the Lady Quinzarr experience from Drag Bingos? *[cont'd]*

Well, she was hired on as a peer support worker, funded by the Margaret Laurence Fund at the University of Winnipeg. She brought that same chaos and hilarity to each and every shift. It was a giant step for this quaint little House.

There were all sorts of other folks milling around during this time! Carrie was upstairs sorting receipts, filing reports and keeping us honest. Jenny ensured that we had the best social media content, kept us on top of things, edited, and really just jumped head first into everything! Over the year, did you buy anything from our shop, or watch an episode of COVID Convos? Well, those things exist the way they do because of the hard work and energy that Jude brought to the Sunshine House. His attention to detail was welcomed and at times fastidious it is what we needed to make these what they are. We are all better for that. Even though we were not operating Street Feet all the time, Edith did an exceptional job of communicating with the nursing team and community members. Every couple of weeks Edith would go and buy out the thrift stores' stocks of shoes, clothing and boots! It was really quite incredible to see the way that all of these folks kept the heart beating in this organization and kept that spirit alive through so many dark and uncertain days.

Ready for more stories? Well, let me tell you the story of Marcia and Maggie.\* On the final days before the first lockdown we met for lunch. Doing our best impressions of fortune tellers we were looking to the future to see what people will want? Maggie suggested COVID Convos, which would be a time for us to discuss how we are coping. Every couple of weeks, or week, depending on the mood, we would get together virtually or in person and chat about COVID impacts. Marcia would provide detailed insight into public health orders, and answer queries from us and the audience. The circle grew and we were so fortunate to have Uzoma Asagwara, Karen Sharma, Adrienne Dudek, Jarita Greyeyes

*\*Also known as Marcia Anderson, MD and Margaret Bryans, RN — Ed.*

and, of course, Myla, Makena and Georgia! It was very Sunshine House and we could not have done it without the tremendous support of these exceptional humans!

In a similar vein, we heard from so many people in and out of the house that they still wanted to do things, but didn't know how to do it! So, we tossed around some ideas, held a few bingos, did some virtual things, but eventually we landed on a telethon! We hosted a mother-tucking telethon, featuring parts of JD & the Sunshine Band, numerous local drag performers, and all sorts of programming bits! We had actual telephone operators! And, we raised \$25,000! Can you believe it? If Purple Haze wasn't so damn determined it probably wouldn't have happened.

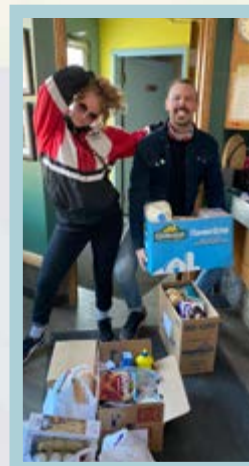
Throughout the year we took pause and tried to indulge in positivity while dealing with a pandemic and multiple challenges it imposed on people who use drugs. It was tough. The people we see every day are tough. They are smart. They know what they want. We tried to just make sure the fire was going at Sunshine House.

Our ability to do all this was not without the numerous people who signed up to volunteer to drive hampers, drop off supplies, hold fundraisers, and check in on us. We were also in the weird position where people with the chequebook provided us with some resources! This includes the continued support of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, the Alfred Deacon Research Foundation, Harvest Manitoba, the Province of Manitoba Health Seniors and Active Living, the University of Winnipeg Foundation, the Province of Manitoba Safe at Home project, the Canadian Women's Foundation, and the Province of Manitoba Jobs and Skills Development. All of you who donate large and small — you are the ones that give us the freedom to be.

Well, that is enough stories for me. Chi-miigwech for listening and tune in next year!

**Levi A. Foy**  
Executive Director





Top row L-R: Nuri; Levi, Margaret, Marcia and Karen in a scene from COVID Convo; Volunteers Chloe and Daniel strike a pose. Middle: Feather sorts a delivery of donated greens; Bottom: Val celebrates a newly arrived donation.



During the 2020 Wall-To-Wall Mural Festival, Sunshine House's Sherbrook-Street-facing wall became home to a new work by Elijah Forbes, entitled "Two-Spirit People are Sacred." Staff and volunteers posed below it, wearing Sunshine House's "Every Child Matters" shirts.

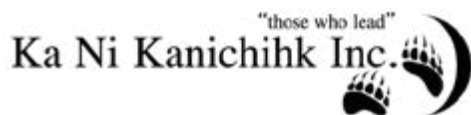
# Our Partners



Jon Sigurdsson  
Chapter







Jobs and Skills Development  
Health Seniors and Active Living





THE —  
GOOD  
WILL —



Two-Spirited People  
of Manitoba



SEX WORKERS of WINNIPEG  
ACTION COALITION



United Way

 Tides Canada

*the tallest*  
**POPPY**



University  
of Manitoba  
**STUDENTS'  
UNION**

**Upside  
Down** 



**UWSA**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

**THE  
WINNIPEG  
FOUNDATION** 



**University  
of Manitoba**

Community Health  
Sciences



**THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WINNIPEG**

Master's of Development Practice  
Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre



West Central  
Women's  
Resource  
Centre



Winnipeg Regional  
Health Authority  
*Caring for Health*



**Art Squad  
Alfred Deacon Research  
Foundation**

**Kittson Investment LTD  
Pilgrim Baptist Church  
Zita and Mark Bernstein Family Foundation**

**SUNSHINE HOUSE INC.**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**MARCH 31, 2021**





CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

September 7, 2021

## INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER'S REVIEW ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the members of Sunshine House Inc.:

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Sunshine House Inc. that comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2021 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Practitioner's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements, which require us to comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review of financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted standards for review engagements is a limited assurance engagement. The practitioner performs procedures, primarily consisting of making inquiries of management and others within the entity, as appropriate, and applying analytical procedures, and evaluates the evidence obtained.

The procedures performed in a review are substantially less in extent than, and vary in nature from, those performed in an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

### *Conclusion*

Based on our review, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Sunshine House Inc. as at March 31, 2021, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

### *Other Matter – Budget Information*

We draw attention to the fact that the budget information included in the statement of operations and changes in net assets does not form part of the financial statements. We have not audited or reviewed this budget information and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a review conclusion or any other form of assurance on this supplementary information.

**Scarrow & Donald LLP**

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Winnipeg, Canada

For this communication, together with the work done to prepare this communication and for opinions we have formed, if any, we accept and assume responsibility only to the addressee of this communication, as specified in our letter of engagement.

SCARROW & DONALD, CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS, LLP

100 – Five Donald Street • Winnipeg, Manitoba • R3L 2T4 • Business: (204) 982-9800 • Fax: (204) 474-2886 • [www.scarrowdonald.mb.ca](http://www.scarrowdonald.mb.ca)  
Scarrow & Donald, Chartered Professional Accountants, LLP is a Canadian owned Limited Liability Partnership established under the laws of Manitoba.

SUNSHINE HOUSE INC.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	As at March 31,	
	2021	2020
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets:</b>		
Cash	\$ 75,477	\$ 97,294
Accounts receivable	14,016	2,224
Prepaid expenses	1,256	1,101
	90,749	100,619
<b>Fixed assets (Note 3)</b>	70,857	80,743
	<u>\$ 161,606</u>	<u>\$ 181,362</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current liabilities:</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 6,926	\$ 10,643
Government remittances payable	6,501	2,551
Deferred contributions (Note 4)	16,618	95,507
	30,045	108,701
<b>Deferred contributions - fixed assets (Note 5)</b>	60,867	68,256
	90,912	176,957
<b>Net assets:</b>		
Unrestricted net assets	70,694	4,405
	<u>\$ 161,606</u>	<u>\$ 181,362</u>

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

 Director

 Director

**SUNSHINE HOUSE INC.**

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS**

	<b>March 31, 2021 Budget</b>	<b>For the year ended March 31, 2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>			
Amortization of deferred contributions - fixed assets	\$ -	\$ 12,373	\$ 11,376
Donations and fundraising	48,462	137,399	44,407
Grants and other sponsorships	427,999	423,721	160,266
Government assistance (Note 8)	11,900	15,408	-
Interest	50	246	73
JD & Sunshine Band income	-	-	1,200
Like That program revenue	21,200	32,230	31,787
	<u>509,611</u>	<u>621,377</u>	<u>249,109</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Administration	30,550	39,565	15,851
Amortization expense	-	14,870	13,873
JD & Sunshine Band expenses	-	-	749
Like That program expenses	32,900	47,419	21,259
Occupancy costs	21,450	23,895	18,018
Programing costs	424,711	429,339	184,348
	<u>509,611</u>	<u>555,088</u>	<u>254,098</u>
<b>Difference between revenues and expenses</b>	-	66,289	(4,989)
<b>Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,405</u>	<u>9,394</u>
<b>Unrestricted net assets, end of year</b>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 70,694</u>	<u>\$ 4,405</u>



**SUNSHINE HOUSE INC.**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

	<b>For the year ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>		
Cash received from operating activities	\$ 523,307	\$ 278,378
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(540,140)	(246,872)
	(16,833)	31,506
<b>Cash flow from investing activities:</b>		
Purchase of fixed assets	(4,984)	-
<b>Change in cash</b>	(21,817)	31,506
<b>Cash, beginning of year</b>	97,294	65,788
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 75,477</u>	<u>\$ 97,294</u>

**SUNSHINE HOUSE INC.**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

	<b>For the year ended March 31,</b>	
	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>Cash flow from operating activities:</b>		
Cash received from operating activities	\$ 523,307	\$ 278,378
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(540,140)	(246,872)
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<b>Cash flow from investing activities:</b>		
Purchase of fixed assets	(4,984)	-
<b>Change in cash</b>	(21,817)	31,506
<b>Cash, beginning of year</b>	97,294	65,788
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<u>\$ 75,477</u>	<u>\$ 97,294</u>

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021**

**1. Purpose of the Organization:**

Sunshine House Inc. (the "Organization"), is incorporated under the laws of the Province of Manitoba as a not-for-profit organization and is a registered charity under the Income Tax Act of Canada. The Organization is a community drop-in and resource centre focusing on harm reduction, population health promotion, and social inclusion. The Organization is a gap-filling organization that works with individuals in under-served populations, providing programming that fulfills people's social, community, and recreational needs.

**2. Significant accounting policies:**

The financial statements have been compiled in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. An assumption underlying the preparations of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations is that the Organization will continue for the foreseeable future and will be able to realize its assets and discharge liabilities in the normal course of operations.

The financial statements include the following significant accounting policies:

**a) Revenue recognition and deferred revenues-**

The Organization follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions.

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses occur.

Unrestricted contributions, grants and sponsorships are recognized as revenue in the operating fund when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Programing costs, JD & Sunshine Band income and Like That program revenue is recognized as revenue as services are delivered and the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Interest is recognized on a time proportioned basis.

**b) Accounting estimates-**

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reported period.

Accounting estimates are included in financial statements to approximate the effect of past transactions or events, or to approximate the present status of an asset or liability. It is possible that changes in future economic conditions could require changes in the recognized amounts for accounting estimates. These estimates are reviewed periodically, and, as adjustments become necessary, they are reported in the period in which they became known. Significant areas of estimation by management include the impairment of non-financial assets, the useful lives of capital assets and the fair value of financial instruments. Management bases their judgments, estimates and assumptions on factors they believe to be reasonable in the circumstances, but which may be inherently uncertain and unpredictable.



**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021**

**2. Significant accounting policies (continued):**

**c) Financial instruments-**

Except for certain related party transactions financial instruments are measured at fair value on initial recognition adjusted by, in the case of a financial instrument that will not be measured subsequently at fair value, financing fees and transaction costs that are directly attributable to its origination, acquisition, issuance or assumption. Transactions costs related to financial instruments that will be measured subsequently at fair value are recognized in net income for the period incurred.

In subsequent periods investments in equity instruments that are quoted in an active market and certain derivative contracts are measured at fair value without any adjustment for transaction costs that may incur on sale or other disposal. The Organization may elect to measure any financial instrument at fair value when the asset or liability is first recognized or for equity instruments previously measured at fair value when the equity instrument ceases to be quoted in an active market. Other investments in equity instruments are measured at cost less any reduction for impairments. All other financial instruments are measured at amortized cost. Amortized cost is the amount at which the financial instrument is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative of any difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount, and minus any reduction for impairment.

The Organization measures its financial instruments at amortized cost.

The Organization assesses impairment of all its financial assets, except those measured at fair value. Management considers whether there has been a breach in contract, such as a default or delinquency in interest or principal payments in determining whether objective evidence of impairment exists. Impairment is included in current earnings.

**d) Fixed assets-**

Fixed assets are recorded at cost and amortized over their estimated useful lives, except for contributed assets which are recorded at fair market value at the time of the contribution plus all costs directly attributable to the acquisition. This requires estimation of the useful life of the asset and its salvage and residual value. When a fixed asset is impaired, the excess of its net carrying amount over the asset's fair value or replacement cost is recognized as an expense. As is true for all accounting estimates, it is possible that changes in future conditions could require changes in the recognized amounts for accounting estimates. Amortization is recognized on a straight-line basis as follows:

Building	20 years
Vehicle	8 years
Furniture and equipment	5 years

**e) Contributed services-**

Volunteers contribute many hours per year to assist the Organization in carrying out its service delivery activities. Due to the difficulty in determining the fair value, contributed services are not recognized in the financial statements.

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021**

**3. Fixed assets:**

	March 31,			
	2021		2020	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Cost	Accumulated Amortization
Building	\$ 227,520	\$ 170,640	\$ 227,520	\$ 159,264
Vehicle	19,978	9,988	19,978	7,491
Furniture and equipment	7,836	3,849	2,852	2,852
	<u>255,334</u>	<u>184,477</u>	<u>250,350</u>	<u>169,607</u>
Net book value	<u>\$ 70,857</u>		<u>\$ 80,743</u>	

**4. Deferred contributions:**

	March 31,	
	2021	2020
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 95,507	\$ 54,599
Amounts recognized as revenue	(89,190)	(35,380)
Deferred amounts received	10,301	76,288
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 16,618</u>	<u>\$ 95,507</u>

The Organization has received various grants and contributions for specific operational expenses and events for which the amount received has not been fully spent. These amounts are expected to be realized in the coming year.

**5. Deferred contributions - fixed assets:**

	March 31,	
	2021	2020
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 68,256	\$ 79,632
Amounts received	4,984	-
Amounts amortized to revenue	(12,373)	(11,376)
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 60,867</u>	<u>\$ 68,256</u>

**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021**

**6. Operating line:**

The Organization has available to it an unsecured operating line for \$22,500 (2020 - \$22,500). The line bears interest at prime plus 3.0% (2020 - prime plus 3.0%) is unsecured and due on demand. The line is renewed annually by the bank.

**7. Risk management and fair values:**

Management's risk management policies are typically performed as a part of the overall management of the Organization's operations. Management is aware of risks related to these objectives through direct personal involvement with employees and outside parties. In the normal course of its operations, the Organization is exposed to a number of risks that can affect its operating performance. Management's close involvement in operations helps identify risks and variations from expectations. As a part of the overall operation of the Organization, management considers the avoidance of undue concentrations of risk. These risks and the actions taken to manage them include the following:

**Liquidity risk-**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Organization cannot meet its financial obligations associated with financial liabilities in full. The Organization's main sources of liquidity are its operations and funding from organizations and other sponsors. The funds are primarily used to finance working capital and fixed asset expenditure requirements and are adequate to meet the Organization's financial obligations associated with financial liabilities.

**Credit risk-**

Credit risk arises from the possibility that debtors may be unable to fulfill their commitments. For a financial asset, this is typically the gross carrying amount, net of any amounts offset and any impairment losses. The Organization has credit policies to address credit risk on accounts receivable, which may include the analysis of the financial position of the debtor and review of credit limits. The Organization also may review credit history before establishing credit and review credit performance. An allowance for doubtful accounts or other impairment provisions are established based upon factors surrounding credit risk, historical trends and other information. No allowance for doubtful accounts has been recorded for accounts receivable. No bad debt expense has been recorded.

**8. Government assistance:**

The Organization has applied for and received \$4,902 (2020 - \$nil) from the federal government for the Temporary Wage Subsidy. The Organization has also applied for and received \$10,506 (2020 - \$nil) from the provincial government for subsidies related to wages paid. These amounts are included as revenue in government assistance.

**9. COVID-19:**

The outbreak of COVID-19, has resulted in governments enacting emergency measures to combat the spread of the virus. These measures, which include the implementation of travel bans, quarantine periods and social distancing, have caused an economic slowdown and material disruption to business. Subsequent to March 31, 2021, government has continued to react with interventions intended to stabilize economic conditions. The duration and impact of the COVID-19 outbreak is unknown at the time. It is not possible to reliably estimate the length and severity of these developments and the impact on the financial performance and financial position of the Organization in future periods.







## ***SUNSHINE HOUSE***

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