

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS



MESSAGE FROM THE TRACKS TEAM



ABOUT TRACKS



STEERING TEAM & ADVISORY CIRCLE



TRACKS EDUCATION



TRACKS OSHKWAZIN



TRACKS STAFF TEAM



FUNDERS & SUPPORTERS



Pictured: The TRACKS Staff team at a natural dying workshop this past summer

MESSAGE FROM THE TRACKS TEAM

2022 was an exciting time for TRACKS as we moved back to in person events and programs. We also hosted our biggest staff team yet in the summer! Our successes are once again a tribute to the strong relationships TRACKS continues to have with communities, teachers, parents, youth and other partners. We're excited to share that in the spring, we engaged in a Strategic Planning process which allowed us to take time to reflect on where we've come from and where we want TRACKS to go. It was a very valuable experience for everyone involved and allowed us to celebrate many of our successes over the years. We're excited to see what these reflections bring in the years to come. We hosted multiple Mentoring Circles with our Advisory Circle members and they helped us think through what our programming would look like throughout 2022.

Through this report, we're excited to share some of our program highlights from multiple initiatives in 2022. From enlivening Advisory Circle conversations, to witnessing connections youth made on the land, 2022 was yet another inspiring year at TRACKS.

One of our highlights of the year was the opportunity to invite local First Nations to join us at Kinomagawapkong (the Petroglyphs) for a day of learning and connection. We hosted multiple plant medicine walks and the park staff graciously offered us time on the rocks and shared their valuable knowledge about this very special place. The image of Indigenous youth stepping foot on the rocks to offer their seema (sacred tobacco) to the spirits of that place will be something we all carry for a long time to come. We are so grateful to all of our partners and community connections that make opportunities like this possible.

Looking ahead to 2023, we're thrilled to share that TRACKS will be seeking a new Executive Director. They will continue to build on TRACKS' capacity, to better understand our role in the community, and to thoughtfully prepare for our future. We hope you'll keep in touch and come along for the ride!



**MIIGWECH. NIA:WEN.
THANK YOU!**



Here we are
at our end of
summer staff
celebration!

ABOUT TRACKS

TRACKS (**T**Rent **A**boriginal **C**ultural **K**nowledge **a**nd **S**cience) is an experiential program hosted by Trent University within the **Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences Program (IESS)**, and operates in collaboration with founding partner organization **Kawartha World Issues Centre (KWIC)** and the **First Peoples House of Learning (FPHL)**.



TRACKS PURPOSE STATEMENT

TRACKS facilitates dynamic, land-based youth programming that braids multiple scientific approaches by centering Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

PROGRAM INTENTIONS

-  To offer youth opportunities to actively engage with a multitude of worldviews to further understand and develop their personal skills, gifts, and tools.
-  To contribute to hands-on InSTEAM (Indigenous Science Technology Engineering Art and Math) learning opportunities from the elementary to post-secondary level.
-  To facilitate spaces where intergenerational knowledge can be shared and mentoring relationships can be nurtured.
-  To provide spaces where youth can be empowered to build relationships, learn together, and grow as leaders while honouring their diverse identities and backgrounds.
-  To encourage youth to deepen reciprocal relationships within their environments and embody understandings of their responsibilities to the land.
-  To collaborate with Indigenous Peoples, school boards and community organizations to strengthen relationships and activate culturally responsive learning opportunities.
-  To foster meaningful employment and volunteer experiences for young people interested in land-centric and InSTEAM work



STEERING TEAM & ADVISORY CIRCLE

In 2022, we have been very thankful for the direction and guidance provided by:

TRACKS STEERING TEAM

The Steering Team provides advice and direction to the Directors of TRACKS Youth Program to support the delivery and development of TRACKS Education and TRACKS Oshkwazin programming, as well as to ensure long-term trust and continuity in the leadership of the program.

Julie Cosgrove (Kawartha World Issues Centre) - We wish to share a special note of congratulations to Julie on her retirement as the Executive Director of KWIC and from the TRACKS Steering Team. The impact of Julie's guidance on TRACKS has been tremendous and she will be missed!

Chris Furgal (Co-Director, Indigenous Environmental Studies and Sciences Program)

Sam Rockbrune (Executive Director, Kawartha World Issues Centre)

James Miller (Indigenous Enrolment Advisor, First Peoples House of Learning)

TRACKS ADVISORY CIRCLE

The TRACKS Advisory Circle is a group of community members who bring unique perspectives, skills and knowledges to advise and inform the direction of TRACKS programs. Over the last 12 years, TRACKS has grown larger in impact and reach than was ever imagined, but the program has never swayed from its original vision and practice, to offer culturally-relevant, land-based programming to youth interested in the braiding of multiple sciences and worldviews. The Advisory Circle represents the incredibly supportive and knowledgeable community which has surrounded the program for the last decade. We extend our deepest thanks to them for their continued involvement.



This picture was taken at our Skyworld Family Event which we delivered in partnership with Kawartha Land Trust in July!

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

2,495	Total # of youth engaged
1,865	# of youth in camps & workshops
101	# of workshops for youth
196	# of Indigenous youth engaged



EDUCATOR & PARENT ENGAGEMENT

597	Total # of educators & parents engaged
339	# of educators in workshops
6	# of workshops for educators
228	# of parents engaged

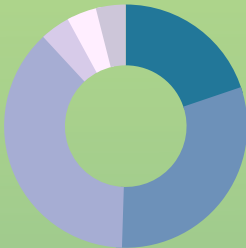
EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

19	Total # of staff employed
11	# of Indigenous staff employed
7	# of University students employed (undergraduate & graduate level)



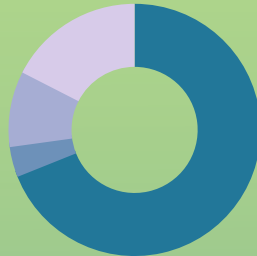
Our largest staff team to-date!

REVENUE



Federal Grants	20%	\$81,225
Provincial Grants	31%	\$125,073
Other Grants	38%	\$154,888
Donations & Sponsorships	4%	\$15,965
Workshop and Camp Fees	4%	\$17,135
Miscellaneous Income	4%	\$15,595
TOTAL		\$409,881

EXPENSES



Staff	71%	\$244,344
Financial Administration	4%	\$12,176
Education Program Expenses	10%	\$34,536
Oshkwasin Program Expenses	16%	\$55,509
TOTAL		\$305,882

TRACKS EDUCATION

TRACKS Education runs a wide variety of in-school programs throughout the calendar year for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. TRACKS Education also develops curriculum to share with other organizations, offering take-home resources and training opportunities for teachers and educators. Throughout the summer, TRACKS Education continues with activities and workshops by providing week-long summer day camps. All of our programming is fun, hands-on, experiential, and braids multiple worldviews and scientific principles.

2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

What a year! Finally being able to deliver programming in person again, we kicked off the camp season with a hybrid March Break Camp for youth ages 6-12. We enjoyed 3 full days on the land and then we took our learning home and switched to virtual for the end of the week. Science Odyssey week in May was full of plant knowledge and seed sharing when we delivered kits to classrooms for them to get hands-on with planting their own native species!

We hired 6 instructors and they got to work in June on developing some exciting new camp programs for the summer. We ran two TRACKS camps at the Environment Centre as well as camp programs in Curve Lake First Nation and Alderville First Nation. We had many amazing visitors, including researchers from Collective Environmental who brought an underwater drone for us to test drive in Buckhorn Lake!

A highlight of the year was working with Kawartha Land Trust to develop an evening Skyworld event for families. The TRACKS team expertly developed evening activities such as our bat echolocation game and crafts about Anishinaabe constellations and night vision flashlights!

We also developed a new game called River Race where youth have the opportunity to see what it's like to be salmon, eels and sturgeon during spawning season in the Lake Ontario tributaries. We delivered this workshop in schools throughout the fall and look forward to reaching more students with this opportunity in 2023. Our staff team knocked it out of the park this year and we're so grateful for all of the gifts that they shared.



BY THE NUMBERS

EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

- 84** # of workshops delivered
- 113** # of youth attending camps
- 47** # of elementary schools visited
- 16** # of new programs developed

OSHKWAZIN PROGRAMMING

- 103** # self-identified Indigenous youth reached
- 11** # of workshops delivered
- 4** # of youth-led land camps

WHAT DID PARENTS & TEACHERS THINK OF EDUCATION PROGRAMMING THIS YEAR?



The camp was active, engaging and enriching for my children. It also simulated their interest in nature and Indigenous studies. This has been their favourite camp!!"

- Parent (*March Break Camp*)



The workshop was so engaging and informative on a variety of levels -- relationships and connection to the land and water, local Indigenous knowledge, teachings and language and western science understandings. Students were riveted by the personal stories and experience. I would love to have TRACKS present in all of my classes!"

- Sherry Telford - Teacher (*Virtual Wetlands Workshop*)

WHAT DID YOUTH THINK OF OSHKWAZIN PROGRAMMING THIS YEAR?



"I am excited for the opportunity to work with the Tracks Program because I enjoy learning about Indigenous culture and nature. Working within this field will help to make me feel more connected to nature and my roots.

- Oshkwazin Trailblazer



"I am definitely excited to be here during the summer. There are so many things I have already learned toward working here which is truly amazing. There are so many people that don't have very much experience in learning about the indigenous culture and those people can learn from other people that took part in learning more."

-Oshkwazin Trailblazer

TRACKS OSHKWAZIN

Indigenous Youth Leadership

TRACKS Oshkwazin is a leadership program for Indigenous youth ages 14-18, providing them with valuable training and leadership development opportunities. The name Oshkwazin was gifted to the program and is an Anishinaabemowin word meaning “to light your internal fire”. The Oshkwazin program aims to help Indigenous youth connect to and deepen their relationship to their own fire.

2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2022 was a blast! Oshkwazin was able to offer in-person and virtual workshops and an employment program. The virtual workshop offerings covered topics such as: activism, youth-led movements, leadership, food sovereignty, and beading projects. In Mnokimi, Spring, we hosted an Orange Shirt workshop with youth in collaboration with Heads Up for Inclusion. For our March Break Camp and we offered youth the opportunity to learn and participate in Fish Processing and Descaling, Shaker Making, Beading, and Mini Tipi building. During Niibin, Summer, we were also able to hire 6 local youth who had the responsibility of hosting land camps throughout August which focused on Medicine Wheel Teachings, Water Teachings, and Basket Weaving. We offered many fun training opportunities as well during the Niibin for our Trailblazers and did Nonviolent Communication Training, Natural Dye Workshop, Axe Training and more. It was incredible to see the land camps come to life and the youth

stand in their gifts! Dagwaagin, fall, came – Youth Council for Mother Earth held our annual Youth Summit, where Oshkwazin offered a Mind, Body, Heart, and Spirit workshop as well as BurBerry Processing Workshop with Knowledge Holder Matt Levac. During this season, we were able to provide Mind, Body, Heart, Spirit, Holistic Art activity kits for all youth who attended in our In-Person Virtual Hybric Workshop. Biboon, winter, has been filled with reflection, rejigging, and future thinking for the program. We were able to host a Food Sovereignty virtual workshop with a class.



TRACKS STAFF TEAM

A big part of our attention every year goes towards our staff experience. TRACKS continually strives to foster meaningful employment and volunteer experiences for young people interested in land-centric and InSTEAM work.

Once again this year we had the privilege of employing an amazing group of staff who brought their passions, skills and experience to their work each and every day. Every member of our team contributed to the success of our programs immensely and by the end of our summer we were all grateful to say that these friendships will last long beyond time at TRACKS.

2022 TRACKS CO-DIRECTORS

KELLY KING

Education Director



MAGGIE CUMMINGS

Oshkwasin Director



BETH MCLELLAND

Partnership & Resource Development
Director



2022 YEAR ROUND STAFF

JAIDA PONCE

Oshkwasin Program Assistant



MATT LEVAC

Education Program Assistant



GENEVA WALKER

Social Media & Communications Lead



WHAT DID STAFF SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH TRACKS THIS YEAR?



"I love the work we do, the people are great and the impact is awesome. Small but mighty, TRACKS transforms lives. As cliché as that is, it does. I don't think I could have worked as well through the pandemic with another organization. Creating growth opportunities, and sharing our learning is what TRACKS does best."



"This is one of the most wonderful and supportive experiences I've had. Yes, being an educational instructor at TRACKS is a job but it is so much more than a place to grow through your career path. This experience has truly been the best I could ask for, for so many reasons- from forming wonderful relationships and connections to learning in Indigenous centered ways. This has helped me grow in ways far beyond academics and vocations. I'm so grateful to have met and become friends with all the marvelous people here, learn with the youth, be a part of so much important and cool opportunities and I'm grateful for all the little and big moments this summer."

2022 SEASONAL STAFF

JESSICA COOK

Summer Camp Instructor



KEELEY FRIAR

Summer Camp Instructor



ZIGWAN LAPOINTE

Summer Camp Instructor



KELSEY ROOTE

Summer Camp Instructor



CHEYENNE JACOBS-CULKEEN

Summer Camp Instructor



2022 OSHKWAZIN TRAILBLAZERS



From left to right:

Presley Crowe, Josh Knott, Migizi Webb, Daisy Heard, Nikkita Wynne and Laila MacKenzie

WHAT DID STAFF SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH TRACKS THIS YEAR?



"I am excited for the opportunity to work with the Tracks Program because I enjoy learning about Indigenous culture and nature. Working within this field will help to make me feel more connected to nature and my roots.

- Oshkwazin Trailblazer

2022 SUPPORTERS AND FUNDERS

CHI MIIGWECH FOR A GREAT YEAR!

A network member of **actua**

Actua provides training, resources and support to its national network of members located at universities and colleges across Canada in the delivery of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education outreach programming. Each year, these members engage over 350,000 youth in 500 communities nationwide. Please visit Actua at www.actua.ca.

2022-23 Actua National Funders



United Way
Peterborough & District
uwpeterborough.ca



Community
Foundation
of Greater Peterborough



NSERC
CRSNG



Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario

THE COMMONWELL



INITIATIVE | Learning & Engagement Accelerator Fund

the **CIC** / Chemical Education Fund

TRACKS YOUTH PROGRAM

1600 West Bank Drive
Peterborough, ON K9L 0G2
705-748-1011 (ext. 6381)
www.tracksprogram.ca
info@tracksprogram.ca



INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES &
SCIENCES PROGRAM



FIRST PEOPLES HOUSE
OF LEARNING



kwiic
Kawartha World Issues Centre
Connecting for Change