



Mikinakoos Children's Fund

2025 — 2026

ANNUAL REPORT

Letter From the Executive Director

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I thank each of our supporters from this past year. Whether you made a donation, shared a social media post or volunteered your time to this wonderful organization, your support has made a difference in the success of Mikinakoos Children's Fund, and the children we serve throughout the north.



This past year we saw an impressive uptick in both our donation revenue and the scale of programming and supply shipments we delivered to the diverse and beautiful communities we serve. I am so very proud of our team of staff and volunteers, and what they have accomplished.

Some of our most impactful projects over the past year included our bi-weekly food shipments to schools in Sachigo Lake First Nation and Keewaywin First Nation; our annual winter coat drive, which sent more than 1,300 winter coats to seven communities throughout the north; and the launch of our Infant Supply Fund that raised over \$26,000 from a \$10,000 goal to send brand-new baby supplies to families in need across Northern Ontario.

With the rising challenges communities face in bringing supplies to the north – lack of road access, environmental disasters such as forest fires, and the rising gas prices – we are truly grateful for the support of our community partners and donors. North Star Air has been an instrumental partner for many years, and continue to support us through in-kind shipping, volunteer activities, and employee-driven fundraising initiatives such as the North Star Air Charity Golf Classic. Likewise, we are incredibly grateful for the support of partners such as Sprucegrove Foundation and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. As with North Star Air, both organizations supported Mikinakoos not only financially but with year-round employee-driven fundraising activities that truly show how Philanthropic Reconciliation is impacting children in the north.

In 2025/2026 Mikinakoos achieved our highest number of kids fed, clothed and supported in over 2 years. We are optimistic that this growth will continue, with our ultimate goal being an end to child poverty in Northern First Nations communities. This is not possible without you, our incredible donors. We have lots of exciting events and new programming planned for the year ahead, and we hope you will continue to join us on this journey as we bring nutritious food, warm clothing, and healthy recreation to children residing in First Nations communities in northern Ontario.

Kitchi Meegwetch!

Stephanie Paxton
Executive Director, Mikinakoos Children's Fund

Our Mission

To improve the quality of life for First Nations Children in remote northwestern Ontario, while meeting their immediate physical needs for food, clothing and basic amenities

Our Vision

A world where every First Nations child is lifted from poverty and lives the good life as described by First Nations teachings.

Message from the Board Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am proud of the impact achieved this year through the generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our staff and partners.

Thank you to everyone who helps make this work possible. We remain committed to ending child poverty in Northern Ontario and maintaining a strong support network through our board.

Together, we look forward to creating even greater impact in the year ahead.

Colleen Martin
Board Chair for Mikinakoos Children's Fund



Year at a Glance

Our Impact



Over 4,000 Youth Supported



Fifteen Communities Served



44 Shipments of Supplies Distributed

“This hockey tournament brought so much joy to the Bearskin Lake community. It would not have been possible without the support of Mikinakoos.”

- **Terry Mckinley**

Approaches to Community Wellbeing Nurse



Key Milestones

Spring

North Star Air golf tournament raised **over \$31,000** for Mikinakoos

Summer

150 school backpacks provided by the Sprucegrove Foundation

\$6,141 raised for land-based learning

Fall

1200+ winter coats supplied to youths

\$110,000 donated by Beutel Goodman Charitable Foundation, CPSO, Windigo Community Development Corporation and the J.P. Bickell Foundation

Over \$26,000 raised for newborns in need through Giving Tuesday fundraiser

Winter

\$10,000+ of tech and toys provided by CPSO and Sprucegrove Foundation

West Jet donates **over 1,300 pounds** of hockey gear to Bearskin Lake First Nation



Warm Clothing Program Highlight

1,200+ Winter Coats Funded by Mikinakoos and the Thunder Bay Knights of Columbus

2025 marked another successful year of one of Mikinakoos' favourite traditions: the annual winter coat drive. This year we continued the trend of success by once again providing over **1,200 winter coats, valued at roughly \$40,000**, to Indigenous youths in need across Northern Ontario.

For the third year in a row, Mikinakoos teamed up with the Knights of Columbus Thunder Bay chapter, who matched the number of winter coats purchased for First Nations children in remote communities through their Coats for Kids Program, **doubling the initiative's impact from 600 to over 1,200 coats.**

We would also like to thank Apple Self Storage for donating supplies and manpower to help store the coats, North Star Air for transporting the coats up North, and the generosity of donors who believe every child deserves to feel warm and cared for.

Miigwetch to everyone that made this fundraiser a success!





Backpack Program Highlight

Northern School Lunch Shipments

“Thank you so much for your support, all the shipments have arrived safely and the kids are enjoying the fresh food.”

- **Community Education Partners in Sachigo Lake First Nation**

Thanks to the generous support of our monthly donors and the J.P. Bickell Foundation, Mikinakoos was able to deliver **20 pallets of fresh produce, healthy snacks and non-perishables** to our partners in Sachigo Lake and Keewaywin First Nations, **feeding thousands of Indigenous youths.**

Infant and New Mother Campaign

Together, supporters across Thunder Bay and throughout Ontario **raised over \$26,000 this Giving Tuesday to support over 100 Indigenous newborns** and new moms in remote, fly-in First Nations communities.

These funds have already been put to use, funding nine shipments of diapers, breast pumps, teething toys and more, providing critical support for parents and newborns in need.



Healthy Living Program Highlights

WestJet Hockey Equipment

We are pleased to announce that, **for the fifth consecutive year**, WestJet and their community partners have donated a shipment of hockey equipment to support Indigenous children in remote Northern Ontario communities.

This year, **over 1,300 pounds of hockey gear has been delivered to Bearskin Lake First Nation**, helping ensure young athletes have access to safe and reliable equipment. The gear includes 13 brand new sets of hockey equipment and a skate sharpener, along with lots of lightly used equipment.

Sandy Lake Softball Gear

Thanks to the support of loyal monthly donors, Mikinakoos was able to once again support passionate youth in Sandy Lake First Nation by providing a shipment of **brand new softball gear** for a Summer softball camp! **The equipment included gloves, bats, balls and more**, and the energy and participation from the local kids was incredible,



"We're happy to play a part in keeping the game accessible and thriving in Canada's northern communities."

- **Clifford Comber**

Manager, Materials Eastern Canada, WestJet

Supporter Spotlights

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (CPSO) hit the ground running in year one of a three year commitment, **donating over \$30,000 in support of our Healthy Living and Backpack programs.**



“After a staff-wide vote to select a new partnership organization, it was clear that Mikanikoos' mission struck a chord with our team. Over the past year, it's been inspiring to see staff donate generously to Mikanikoos through the employee-led Staff Cares Committee's initiatives.

From basic essentials to “fun” supplies like sporting equipment and toys, our team has been eager to provide direct support for Mikanikoos' efforts to address cost-of-living challenges and promote health equity in Northwestern Ontario communities. We're honoured to support Mikanikoos' vital work and contribute to a tangible impact in the lives of children and families.”

- Nathalie Novak
Chief Operating Officer, CPSO



Employee-Led Donation Drives

CPSO lived up to the title of a true partner, and hosted a number of employee-led donation drives that truly went above-and-beyond to support Indigenous youths.

This support included **employee donations for broomball, the holiday toy drive, and a generous donation of 50 pieces of lightly used technology** by the CPSO IT department.



Supporter Spotlights

North Star Air – Partner and Donor

In 2025/2026, North Star Air was a valued shipping partner, with hundreds of pounds of urgent supplies flown north under their care.

In May, the fourth annual NSA Charity Golf Tournament was held, **raising over \$32,000 for Mikinakoos, nearly doubling 2024's total.**

The funds raised supported our Backpack, Healthy Living and Warm Clothing programs.



Sprucegrove Foundation - New Computers and Backpack Build Days

The Sprucegrove Foundation continued its impactful support of critically undersupplied Indigenous youths and **provided \$40,000 in support of Mikinakoos programming throughout 2025/2026.**

For the second year in a row, Sprucegrove employees collaboratively donated **100+ backpacks filled with school supplies** to Keewaywin First Nation. Sprucegrove also donated **80 sets of brand new laptops, computer mice and headsets to school children in Cat Lake and Keewaywin First Nation.** For many of these children, owning their own laptop would have been impossible without Sprucegrove's support. Miigwetch Sprucegrove Foundation!



We are very grateful for the donation of computers. It has been a great support to our students' learning. Many thanks for supporting our youth with their academics.

- **Katarina,**
Grade 6 teacher in Cat Lake First Nation

Voices of Mikinakoos Monthly Donors

Our monthly donors provide support kids can depend on. Each has their own reason for donating, but all of them contribute to a world free from child poverty.

“ I donate because of Truth and Reconciliation. It brings joy to know that sports equipment and backpacks will be given to First Nations children in fly-in and remote communities. ”

GEORGINA H. — Monthly donor since 2022

“ It started by supporting Mikinakoos on Orange Shirt Day but (since then) I have come to understand more of the hardships faced by northern communities. ”

SUSAN G. — Monthly donor since 2023

“ All children deserve the same treatment, for them to grow healthy and happy. ”

DOROTHY H. — Monthly donor since 2023

Thank you to our amazing donors! For a full list of supporters, visit our website.

Become a Monthly Donor Today!

Monthly donors are the most reliable support for children in need. They help ensure children receive consistent, year-round care and are crucial for emergency support

Just \$25 a month for one year can provide a child:

- A brand new winter coat, boots, hat and mittens
- Healthy lunches one week out of each month
- Brand new hockey skates
- A full year of creative art supplies
- 10 packs of diapers

SCAN TO JOIN

Scan to become a monthly donor and support kids in need TODAY!



Financial Overview

Total Revenue \$349,337.30	Total Expenses \$286,334.04	Net Surplus \$63,043.27
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Funding Sources	
Non-profit Donations	\$316,088.30
Government Funding	\$33,289.00
In-Kind Donations	\$106,150.00
Total Value	\$455,487.30

Expenses By Program	
Backpack Program	14%
Warm Clothing Program	38%
Healthy Living Program	21%
Shipping and Misc.	27%

In Summary

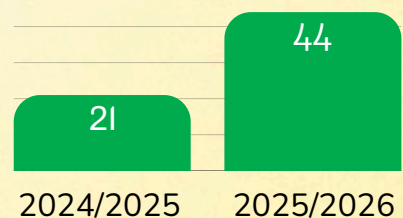
2025/2026 was an incredibly successful year for Mikinakoos. We increased overall programming by 64% and shipments by 110% when compared to last fiscal year, and established new, impactful corporate partnerships.

Audit Challenges

A key priority for Mikinakoos in 2026/2027 is completing financial audits for the past three fiscal years. In the spirit of transparency, we want to share that we faced challenges securing an auditor for the 2023/2024, 2024/2025, and 2025/2026 audits. We have now engaged LCPS Chartered Accountants and the audit process is underway. Once complete, the audited financial statements will be posted on our website.



Total Shipments



Thank You So Much!

We are so proud of what we accomplished this year, and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of our donors.

Thank you to all our donors and volunteers! For a full list of supporters, visit our website.



**SUPPORTER
SURVEY**



Questions? Contact Us

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