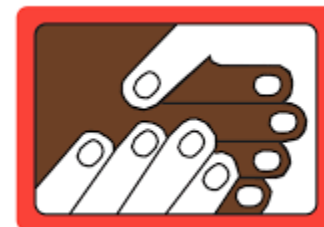


# SUSWIN

Mary Pearce BSW- North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre  
Suswin Housing



**NORTH  
BAY  
INDIGENOUS  
FRIENDSHIP  
CENTRE**

# SUSWIN...

- In June of 2017 NBIFC with funding from the Ontario Trillium Fund began to offer members and community members at large a housing first program.
- With consultation from an Elder the program was appropriately names Suswin.

*“Suswin, means nest in the ojibwe language.  
A place where we can feel comfortable, loved and safe.  
A nest is a place to call home  
Suswin Navigators or nest seekers.  
Seek a place to build nests and then find a way to make it home.  
Making it suit their client’s needs.  
They teach others how to survive somewhere safe and protected.”  
Adapted from Richard Assinewai*



Suswin was developed because of the lack of help for the North Bay Homeless, underhoused and near homeless population. The NBIFC board seen a lack of indigenous based housing programs with in the North Bay area.

- At, Suswin we strive to bring back a sense of home to our clients.
- By allowing the clients the to choose if they would like to have programing in culturally relevant way to help them feel safe and secure in their search for home.



# WHAT IS SUSWIN ...

- helps under housed, and homeless urban Indigenous people in the Nipissing area.
- Suswin is based on the Housing First Model, Suswin has adapted it to fit the needs of our clients and what the city of North Bay can support.
- Suswin is just a little over 17 months old
- Making a big mark on the homelessness and under housed population in North Bay.
- Through assisting clients
  - \*finding housing which is affordable
  - \* culturally safe
  - \* Developing supports the client needs.

# SUSWIN DATA

- 360 clients (adult and children)
  - 205 active client files
  - 175 Outreach files
- 51 % Male clients – 49 % Female clients
- 116 children under the age of 18 – 26 of which involved with CAS
- 6% non-status clients
- 73 % of clients on Ontario Works
- 29 % of clients on ODSP



# NORTH BAY

Numbers according to the last census ...(2016)

- Population 52000

\* 1 in 10 identify as being Indigenous

# NORTH BAY RENTAL MARKET

- 2017 – Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corp. Vacancy Rate 2.7%
- Cost for a One bedroom (2017) \$700.00 to \$850.00
- Current estimated Vacancy rate according to service providers .9%
- Current going rent for a one bedroom \$900.00 -\$1000.00
- 3 or more bedrooms \$3000.00 to \$4500.00



# NORTH BAY "EVERYONE COUNTS"

- 2018 – Enumeration of the Nipissing Homeless
  - The Stats.. (Combination PPC and PIT count)

2018

## Everyone Counts- Nipissing District



**4**  
Days

80+ volunteers

30 locations



**68**



absolute  
homelessness

**104**



provisionally  
accommodated

**10**



transitionally  
housed


From **Monday April 30th**  
to **Thursday May 3rd**, a  
Count and Survey of  
homelessness was  
conducted in:  
**North Bay,**  
**Mattawa,** and  
**West Nipissing.**

**182**

Counted

**147**

Surveys Completed

- 
- Current trends in North Bay
    - North Bay Crisis centre at max capacity and in over flow
      - 19 in house beds with over flow for 20
    - Transitional Women's shelters (3 in the Area) at Max capacity
      - Total beds 30
    - Hope Awaits Men's Shelter - 9 Beds

# SUSWIN

- helps clients find suitable housing within the city of North Bay and area.
- provide supports to client who are transitioning from homelessness to housed.
- Intake - gathering information date of birth, name, income, family size, agencies the client may also be working with, medical issues, and what the client is looking for in housing.
- We do this through a conversational method, we let the client tell their story with little interruption or guiding. We have found that through this method most clients, open up and begin to feel more at ease with our program.
- Once an intake is completed, the client and worker begin to work on the barriers the client may have to secure a rental unit. Suswin clients tend to have barriers which range from no current income, to not being able to communicate with new or potential landlords due to language barriers.
- We have established a program that always client to feel accepted and that is based on the seven grandfather teachings. We also look for housing where clients will be able to have extended family visit on a regular basis, snug and feel safe.

# SUSWIN SUPPORTS

- Housing bank – List of current local rentals
- Food pantry – donations from Food Rescue
- Gift cards (food)
- Connecting clients with CHPI, and LIPIS ( for first and last months rent)
- Housing content start up for those who have nothing
- Kitchen Start-Up
- Food Bank and Meal program Lists
- Clothing – winter jackets etc.
- Referrals to programs and agencies

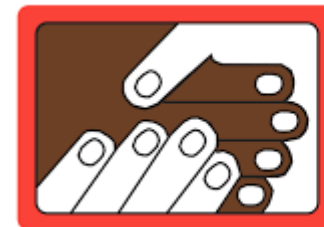
# BARRIERS TO HOUSING FIRST

- Lack of culturally appropriate housing
  - Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of supports and services for clients  
(long waiting lists)
- Lack of local Shelters for those with Criminal Records
  - Landlords

# SUSWIN SUCCESS

- 80 % of clients are housed
  - 15 % are provisionally housed – Rooming houses/ Hotels
- 
- Majority of clients still come for check ins
  - Clients stay with suswin till supports are put into place.
  - Strong relationship with local community partners and agencies.  
( LIPIS, OW, ODSP, Community Counseling, Crisis centres etc..)

THANK YOU



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BAY  
INDIGENOUS  
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