

OAHAS

ONTARIO ABORIGINAL HIV/AIDS STRATEGY



Oahas

2016 - 2017 Annual Report

Our Mission

OAHAS Mission:

Oahas's mission is to provide culturally respectful and sensitive programs and strategies to respond to the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic among Aboriginal people in Ontario through promotion, prevention, long-term care, treatment and support initiatives consistent with harm reduction.

Oahas will continue to operate distinctly and in parallel with the vision, goals and objectives of the Federal Initiative to Address HIV/AIDS and the Ontario HIV/AIDS Strategy.

(p. 5, Board of Directors Policy Manual, July 2012)

The Objects for which the Corporation is Incorporated are:

1. To educate the aboriginal public about the causes and effects of, and treatments for, HIV/AIDS by offering workshops, seminars, conferences and meetings and by collecting and disseminating information on that topic.
2. To offer counselling and referrals to aboriginal persons in coping with the effects of HIV/AIDS.

(p. 2, Letters Patent, March 2005)

OAHAS Staff

2016-2017

Tony Nobis
Carol Buenafe
Denise Baldwin
Melissa Maracle
Collin Graham
Wanda Whitebird
Virginia Forsythe
Aaron Bowerman
Julia Kimmaliardjuk
Heather MacDonald
Julie Paradis
Lana Parenteau
Shelly Vanderhoef
Laura Williams
Sara George
Rosan Wesley
Denise Kimewon (Miziwe Biik)

Board of Directors

2016-2017

President: Tyler Pennock
Vice-President: Denise Toulouse
Secretary: Cheyenne Squires
Board Member: Agnes Bachmann
Board Member: William Reynolds
Board Member: Meghan Young
Board Member: Duane Morrissette-Beck
Board Member: Jasmine Cotnam
Board Member: Theodore Syrette
Elder/Knowledge Keeper: Ma'nee Chacaby





Message from the Board President and Chair

Duane Morrisseau-Beck

The Ontario Aboriginal HIV/AIDS Strategy (Oahas) is many things to our clients and community. It's a place where they can face adversity while being supported by compassionate and culturally-informed staff. It can also be a place where they find hope, healing and optimism. In the work that Oahas does, each day brings something new. Day after day, we are inspired by the compassion, ingenuity and hard work by our Oahas team.

Since the untimely death of the Executive Director, Mr. Tony Nobis, a pillar in the HIV/AIDS movement, the Board has moved on a number of strategic initiatives that aims to position Oahas to meet current and future needs. In its first action, the Board appointed me as interim President and Board Chair, which became permanent this summer. Following that decision, the Board appointed an interim Executive Director to manage the affairs of Oahas and carry out a hiring process for a permanent Executive Director. As a result of those efforts Lindsay Kretchmer was successfully hired as Executive Director. Lindsay is Mohawk, from Six Nations. All operational, partnership and board liaison responsibilities are led by Lindsay.

A pillar of our vision is leadership. We are a provincially-recognized Indigenous service organization that reflects Indigenous values and beliefs in the HIV/AIDS fight. Continuing on the work from 2016, the Oahas Board held a visioning retreat. The goal of the retreat was to determine the future direction of Oahas to meet the changing needs of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted and blood-borne infections. Over the course of two days, the Board engaged in strategic discussions on ways to advance the goals and principles of Oahas, strengthen or form new partnerships and continue to deliver services to our clients in a systematic and cost-effective way that brings real change for Indigenous Peoples Living with HIV/AIDS (IPHA) and the broader Indigenous community. The Board also had a substantial discussion on the Greater Involvement of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GIPA). By working from this perspective, focusing on the current needs of our clients and on the province of Ontario's HIV/AIDS Strategy, Focusing Our Efforts, Changing the Course of the HIV Prevention, Engagement and Care Cascade in Ontario, this groundbreaking work has led Oahas into an organizational review. To become a world-class organization that works closely with our community and partners we need to fully realize a cascade of care and programs worthy of our clients for the 21st century.

This year, the Board is excited to report the upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM), the involvement of twelve (12) Ontario IPHA's who will be attending a half-day forum and AGM. This forum will provide an opportunity for Oahas to hear directly from IPHA's as we continue to fine-tune our operations. This is a shining example of how to implement GIPA, something that Oahas will continue to do more of in the future.

On December 1st the Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network's Aboriginal Awareness Week Campaign will host a series of events across Canada. This year's theme, Indigenous Right to Equitable Health Without Discrimination or Stigma, let us return to our core Indigenous teachings, and end discrimination and stigma IPHA's face in their daily lives. Let Oahas be the leader in the pursuit of equitable treatment for all IPHA's.

To our staff members, thank you for everything you do. To our community, thank you for your support. To our partners, thank you for your encouragement and dedication to our cause. This is an exciting time for our organization, for our clients, and for our community.

Marsee.

- Duane Morriseau-Beck



Message from the Executive Director

Lindsay (Swooping Hawk) Kretschmer

I would like to open by acknowledging and paying respect to my predecessor Tony Nobis. I wish to extend my deepest sympathies and gratitude to the Board, staff, funders, partners and communities of Oahas who have all worked to support the continuity of this important work we do and to ensure services are delivered to urban Indigenous people and Indigenous People with HIV, AIDS and/or Hepatitis C. The 2016-17 fiscal year was one of challenges and loss for Oahas as an organization. The Board, staff and communities continue to mourn the loss of their leader and the Board has worked tirelessly to support transitions and organizational stability to ensure operations and program and service delivery.

I was hired in July 2017, after the fiscal end for the cycle of this report. I am honored to write this report as the new Executive Director of Oahas. I come with nearly 15 years experience in senior management with over a decade in the Indigenous sector in Toronto and Ontario. I am Mohawk, Wolf Clan and my family comes from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. I am deeply committed to supporting the continued growth evolution of Oahas and in exploring new and innovative ways for which we can innovate to meet the program and service needs of urban Indigenous people at-risk and Indigenous People with HIV, AIDS and/or Hepatitis C.

The last few months of the new fiscal have been rewarding and exciting and I look forward to continuing to serve Oahas as we look toward the east for vision to help us to see all that is possible and in the spirit of the original intent and ever-evolving needs of our communities.

Nia:Wen.

- Lindsay (Swooping Hawk) Kretschmer

Honouring Tony Nobis



Tony Nobis, September 1966 – 5 January 2017

Former Executive Director Tony Nobis' letters and documents always ended with the line "Towards a Vision of Unity" above his signature. All through out his short life in the physical world, Tony dedicated his life to this vision and sought unity – in the AIDS movement, in the Indigenous 2-Spirit community and within the Oahas family.

Although Tony was a founding member of Oahas in 1995, along with LaVerne Monette and the original "stratcats," Tony left for a period on his own journey, living openly as a two-Spirited, HIV+ and proud Anishinabae from Rocky Bay. He returned as Executive Director of Oahas in January 2014 until his passing. At that time, Oahas was in turmoil, reeling from the death of founder Laverne and successive turnover in leadership. In his three years as ED, Tony pursued his vision of uniting the Oahas team and moving the agency towards greater accountability and efficiency.

Graced by his unremitting patience, other-wordly quiet and stillness, Tony weaved life and inspiration back into the Oahas team, mentoring some and to others, being the astute listener that he was. As many people know, Tony worked as hard as he played hard. There were many moments of light in otherwise difficult situations throughout his time as ED.

Moving on to the spirit world; Tony left the Oahas team bereft of his everyday presence but with a cache-full of memories and teachings. And as he walked towards the light, so shall we, guided by his ever-present inspiration leading the way forward.



OAHAS Central Office Neha | Bundle



IDU PROGRAM

Safe inhalation kits distributed:	1181
Safe injection kits distributed:	444
Needle exchange- Out:	2975
Number of people served:	965
Alcohol swabs	9448
Glass pipes /stems	2362
Lip balm/chapstick	1181
Matches	2362
Mouthpieces	2362
Screens	3543
Wooden push sticks	2362
Condoms	7086
Lubes	2362
Cookers	2220
Filters	2220
Needles	5195
Swabs	13000
Ties/ tourniquets	2220
Vitamin C/ Acidifiers	2220
Water for injection	2220
Matches	3250
Condoms	9750
Lubes	3250
Insert	1625
Sharps Container	46
Workshops delivered	12

The IDU program has consistently delivered high volume statistics for the past 8 years with respect to harm reduction supply distribution. The number of needles kits distributed combined with individual needles given out has reached over 5000 in this fiscal. This is the largest distribution to date. The peers encourage service users to get a naloxone kit from the Works, South Riverdale, Regent Park, Sherbourne Health Centre or Parkdale. The IDU program also donates harm reduction kits to the Overdose Prevention Site at Moss Park.

In December of 2017 we will wish Denise Baldwin well as she journeys in her new and exciting role with South Riverdale Community Health Centre. Denise began her work with Oahas in 2009 and took the initiative to develop and implement the entire IDU Outreach Program. Today the IDU program is one of Oahas's most popular programs and we are very sad to see Denise go. Oahas wishes Denise the very best in her new position.

Naloxone and Overdose Training Policy Changes

ASO's will be able to distribute Naloxone to community members. This will be something that will be coming down the line by the end of the 2017/2018 year. Oahas will be developing an overdose policy to respond to the community need across our Ontario regions.

Chasing the Dragon Party Kits

The IDU program anticipates rolling out new kits before the end of 2017. The *Chasing the Dragon Kits* are foil kits specifically created for crystal meth use. It is another form of a safe inhalation kit. These kits are encouraged for folks who may prefer to inject, but need to rest their veins, and reduces the harm from injection. The party kits are made for any powder use. Straws, pipes and condoms will be available in these kits as well.

COCHRANE

Participants 1200

Events held 29

Events included:

- Elders' Monthly Luncheon (held during the summer months)
- NEON LIGHTS 2 day Conference – in partnership with CATIE
- Scarf Project – December 2016
- Four Sweats held during the year
- Aboriginal Day Celebration
- Childrens' New Years Eve PowWow
- Memorial Round Dance

of Workshops 21

Participants 360

Condoms 730



Participant Feedback

“How much I didn’t know and how easily it is to not have symptoms. When I am done my treatment, I’m getting tested for everything”

- Resident at treatment centre

“That there are female condoms?? Hmmm. The teacher made it fun and the presentation was not boring. THANK YOU!”

- Resident at treatment centre

“How long HIV and HEP C can live outside the body. Effective presentation. Light and friendly atmosphere”

- Resident at North Cochrane Addictions

SUDBURY

Sudbury Women's Drum Group

Oahas Staff, Crystal Kimewon:

I'm very proud to share that we had two of our sisters return after a long time being lost in addiction - whom I saw weekly during my outreach distributing injection supplies - while inviting them to come and drum with me. By making our circle open and non-judgmental inviting women struggling with only mere hours of sobriety - our women on methadone - our circles are more welcoming! the energy is powerful/beautiful. Mommas are bringing their babies it's healing!



CHATHAM-KENT

Events to People living with HIV:	5 Events:	91 contacts
Workshops Delivered:	6 workshops:	304 people
APHA's served:	7 Female, 4 Male	
Brief contacts:	90	
Significant contacts:	338	
Outreach contacts made:	338	
Condoms, Traditional (male):	664	
Dental Dams:	29	
Lube:	232	
Insertive condoms female:	14	
New Partnerships:	4	

Regional Trends as Reported by Oahas Staff, Lana Parenteau:

Lots of people in London area are homeless and a state of emergency was called in June 2016 for people who use drugs with the rise of HIV and HEP C. I hear more about the Overdosing with the Fentanyl. We are working on the adherence to the ART drugs as I am having more contact with APHA's. working with other London agencies to have a Community Huddle Teleconference is a way for us to connect and not to have a client slip through the cracks. It allows us to communicate and ask if another agency if they have seen a person that is homeless and then we can say yes and contact them to engage in care or treatment.

Regional Successes as Reported by Oahas Staff, Lana Parenteau:

Long-time APHA's were included in the Pow Wow Social to network with the newer APHAs. It shows them how the Indigenous community works to support each other and helps each other with the learning of our culture as this is what APHA's are asking for. It helps keep them on their own journey and with the adherence to their medication.

- Working together with CAAN (Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network) a provincial worker came to a talk with APHA's about services that can support them as Indigenous people
- An OHTN representative came in to talk about peer research and the services offered to APHA's
- HIV/HEP C/STI workshops were provided to Indigenous youth, Indigenous seniors and Indigenous general population.
- Provided Bendigen Kitchen to Indigenous family services who serve the homeless, APHA's and youth, by providing food and education on HIV/AIDS/HEPC/STIs

Oahas Staff Milestone: *I supported HIV service providers, who really need Indigenous Safety training to work with our people. Clients are uncomfortable with the way they are talked to, a worker telling them that their 'Spirit was Stuck'. this made the APHA individual cry. As Indigenous people, they want to talk with an Indigenous worker as we understand where they are coming from. I have had to talk with our clients & worker that is not our way and we don't talk about someone's spirit.*

Participant Success Story

Jm lived under the bridge for 2 years. He was accepted into John Gordon Home for a year and Feb 2017 has moved into his own apartment. He keeps his apartment very clean. Since then he has a giant poodle who has been registered as a service dog with the help of RHAC. Billy Boy has done wonders for Jm's mental health. He has pawned his TV to get his boy a haircut. He now has someone to love and take care of. He is happy to come to SW Oahas Pow Wow Circle events & be able to socialize with other APHA's. He cannot read or write but is going to school to try to learn this. Awesome to see. One of SW members that have openly told me that he was testing me! I passed!!

HAMILTON

Harm Reductions Supplies Distributed:

Condoms

Male – 3138

Female (insertive) – 104

Lubricant – 4210

Dental Dams – 97

***This region doesn't supply Injection drug or smoking inhalation kits.

Prevention to Indigenous People

	# of events	# of contacts
Education presentations/workshops	4	458
One-on-one education activities	1	16
Significant Outreach Contacts	0	195
Brief Outreach contacts	0	1096

of Outreach contacts made with People living with HIV

Significant Outreach Contacts	9
Brief Outreach Contacts	49

of Outreach to people who use drugs

Significant Outreach Contacts	14
Brief Outreach contacts	100

of Prevention activities to Women At-Risk

	# of events	# of Contacts
Education presentations/workshops	1	19
Significant Outreach Contact	1	

Other At- Risk Populations

	# of Events	# of Contacts
Education presentations/workshop	1	156
Significant Outreach Contact	2	
Brief Outreach Contact	3	

Regional Trends as Reported by Oahas Staff, Laura Williams:

2-spirit activity is increasing throughout the region, most likely due to Six Nations Pride; although this region hasn't seen the up-take of new two-spirit service users, but I have been approach to attend more community events in nearby First Nations and have spent significant time educating potential members.

Due to the increase in opioid overdoses and death caused by opioid overdose; agencies are developing Networks and Drug Strategy to better prepare community agencies as well as ASO's for the crisis.

Training for Naloxone has increased.

Events:

James Street Art Crawl
McMaster Social Work – Intro to Social Work presentation “How to Help Indigenous clients”
ARCH Cultural Safety Training
Hamilton’s Beautiful Alleys project
Hot Diggity Dog
De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre Gala
Grand River Grannies Gathering
Walking 4 Change 6Nay
Ontario First Nations HIV/AIDS Education Circle
Niagara Regional Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Communication Network
Central West Opening Doors Counselling Forum
World Hepatitis Day Resource Table and Outreach
Six Nations World AIDS Day
The AIDS Network World AIDS Day
Six Nations PRIDE
Toronto PRIDE
Brantford PRIDE
Kitchener-Waterloo PRIDE
Positive Living Niagara – AIDS Awareness Week
Positive Living Niagara – Burlesque Night
Hamilton’s Drug Overdose Awareness Day
Hamilton’s Take Back the Night
Brantford Elder Abuse Prevention
Brantford Native Housing

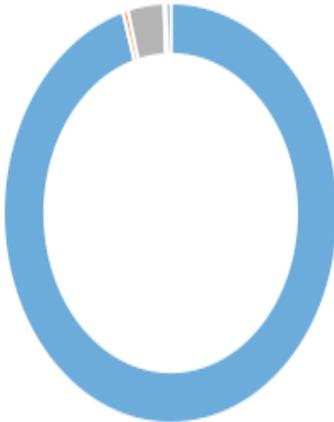
LHINs – Indigenous Health Network – Community Engagement resource table
Fort Erie Native Centre – Health & Wellness Day
Professional Aboriginal Advocacy Networking Group (PAANG) – Celebration of Growth social
Waterloo Education Centre Pow Wow, Waterloo
Grand River Champion of Champions Pow Wow, Ohsweken
Conestoga College, Kitchener
Sisters in Spirit, Hamilton Chapter
Sisters in Spirit, Niagara Region
Wasa Nabin HIV 101 workshop
Youth in Transition HIV !01 and STBBIs workshop
Niagara Women and Youth Gathering
Ontario Council on Women’s Rights
Healthy Sexuality for Youth
Salvation Army, Ellen Osler Home



FINANCIALS

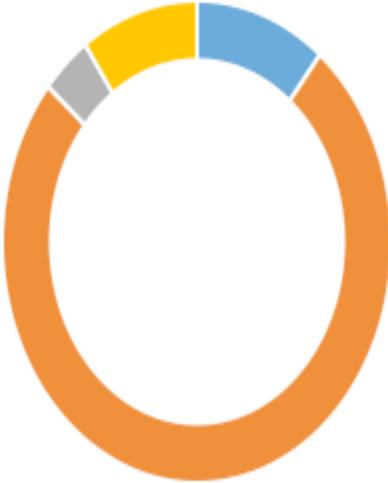


2016-2017 OAHAS REVENUE WITH MOH



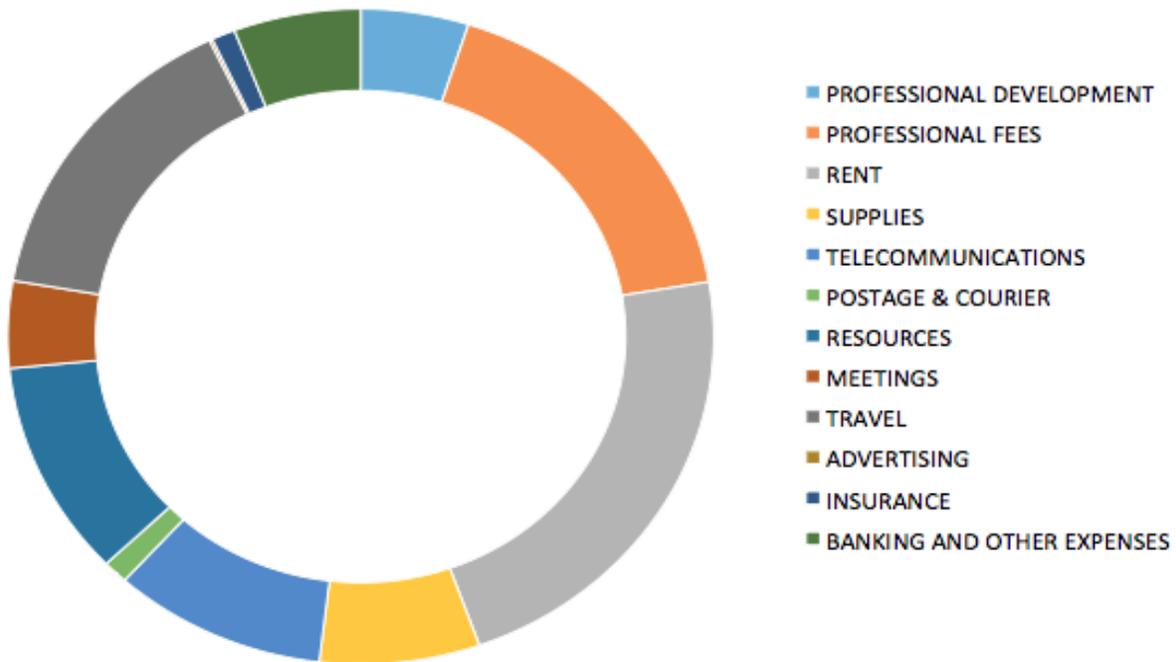
- AIDS BUREAU
- GENERAL RESERVE FUND
- MIZIWE BIIK FUNDING
- ACAP REVENUE
- OHTN RESEARCH GRANT

2016-2017 OAHAS REVENUE WITHOUT MOH

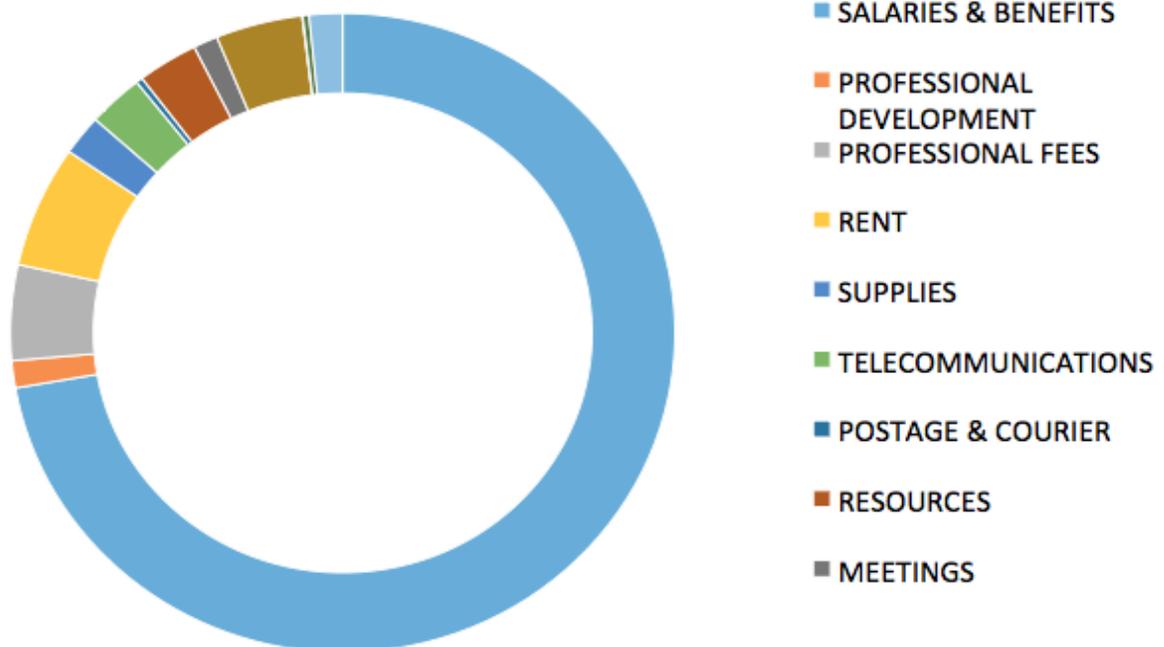


- GENERAL RESERVE FUND
- MIZIWE BIIK FUNDING
- ACAP REVENUE
- OHTN RESEARCH GRANT

2016-2017 Expenses without Salaries & Benefits



2016-2017 Expenses with Salaries & Benefits



With Thanks

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care - AIDS Bureau

Gary Akenhead

Selena Bennett

John McMahon

Ronald Turk

Daniel Flynn

Barry Waite

Jennifer Northcote

Michele Threndyle

Kevin Robinson (Robinson Heeney)

Kenda Hoffer

Maggie's

Pasan

2-Spirits

Millard, DesLauriers & Shoemaker LLP

Ten Oaks Ottawa

Native Horizons

Media Style

United Way

Oahas currently has 16 funded staff positions, 9 Board positions, over 100 partners from across the province and Oahas reaches thousands of urban Indigenous people each year.



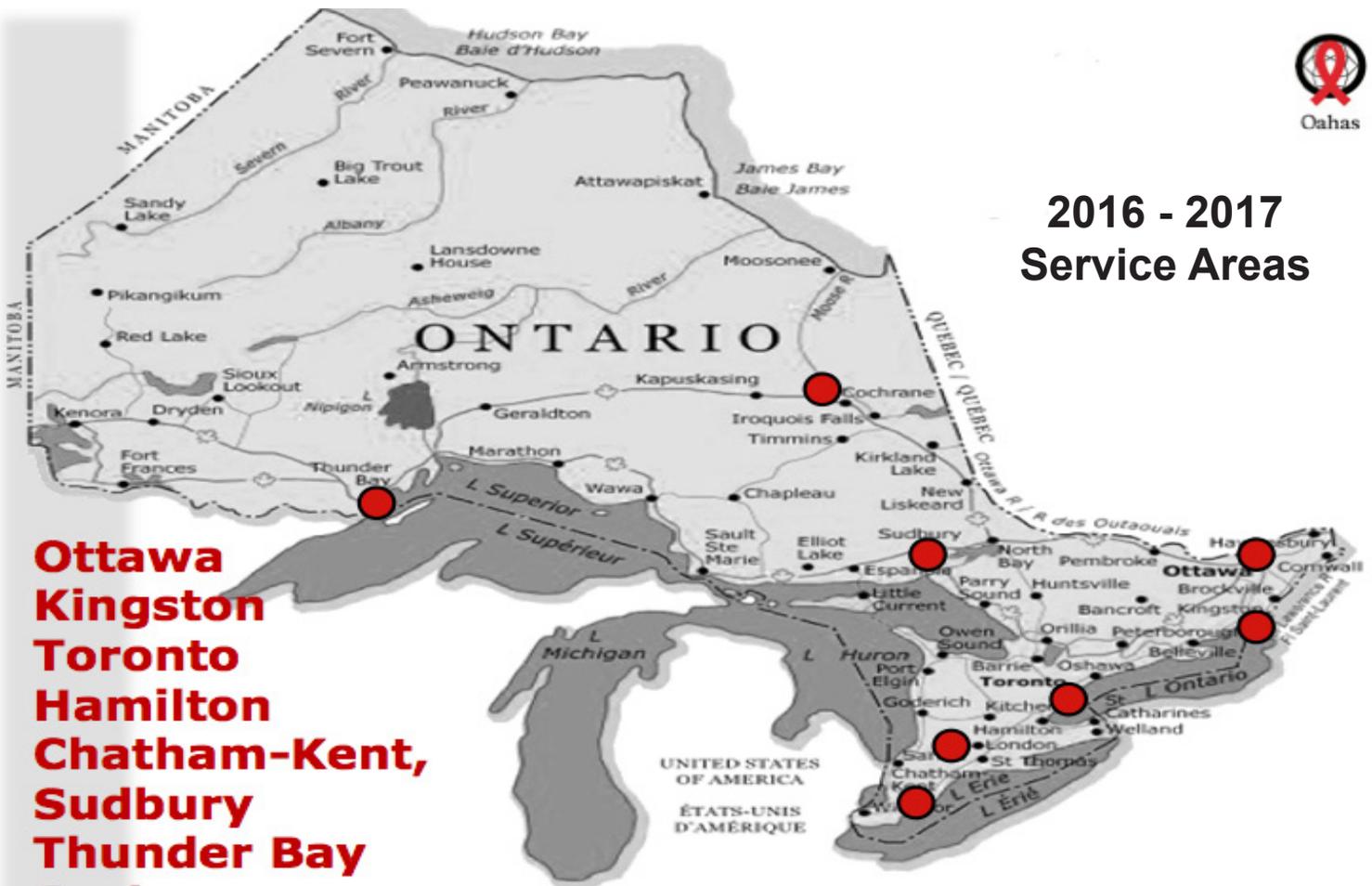
We also wish to extend our warmest thanks and gratitude to the many volunteers who have helped Oahas this year!

Miigwetch | Niá:wen | Kinana'skomitin | Marsee | Qujannamiik

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OAHAS Services



2016 - 2017
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