

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

From grade 7 to their career path of choice.

Our life cycle of programming inspires youth to re-engage in education!



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A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER+CEO

Looking back at these past 18 months, it was most likely the most challenging year of our history. This past year was the second time we did not do a live annual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and OLI like all organizations, we were trying to figure out our future and how we would operate. The first three months into the pandemic, I think we were still in a bit of shock that this was happening, and then a move to acceptance as then we settled into this new normal and worked to try and find new ways to reach our youth.

Although we lost 30% of our revenue from our communities that could not participate, we were still able to reach beyond our OLI family to other Indigenous youth and adults who were looking for assistance and inspiration. Along with our donors and government assistance, OLI was able to continue to provide programming through online classes.



"We were still able to reach beyond our OLI family to other Indigenous youth and adults who were looking for assistance and inspiration"

It was still very disappointing for all of us though that we could not reach the youth in the communities in which we operate, knowing that a lot of communities have poor connectivity and lack of technology.

If the last year proved anything for OLI, it was how you really cannot replace the importance of in-person classes and simultaneously, how virtual classes can still reach those even though it is not the most ideal.

I know that when we can return to an in-person reality, including meetings, classes, and our annual event, we will be doing so with gratitude - we have missed the intensity of the day-to-day rigour of our program. This year has been a roller-coaster of emotions, and we crave those calm sea waters where we can see the clear blue horizon in the distance.

"worked to try and find new ways to reach our youth"

I want to thank our staff, Board of Directors, donors, sponsors, volunteers and participating communities for keeping the faith and encouraging OLI through your words, actions, donations, and support overall. I look forward to celebrating our 15th Anniversary back in person with you at Meridian Hall in 2022!



TRACEE SMITH
FOUNDER + CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Kim Baird



Derek Sutherland



Darlene McCulloch



William Pashby



Tamara Podemski



Daniel J. Brant
Chairman of the Board



Darren Googoo

MISSION

Through the transformative art of dance, Indigenous youth are inspired to pursue education, engage in self-expression, and celebrate empowerment!



Vision

To provide a full life-cycle of programs to support Indigenous youth from high school through to graduation, post-secondary education, and career readiness.



Values

- To give Indigenous youth more reasons to go to school and complete their education.
- Through Experiential learning, inspire Indigenous youth with the teachings of long-term commitment, accountability, responsibility and perseverance.
- To celebrate their accomplishments with a national platform and the largest stage to showcase their achievements.
- To provide tangible learning and networking opportunities that leave a long-term impact on their lives.
- Increase access to the power of arts education.
- To have something to “call our own”, to do it our way, and to celebrate who we are, while giving Canadians a safe place to learn more about Indigenous Peoples.

2021 COMMUNITIES



Aamjiwnaang, ON

Algonquin, ON

Berens River, MB

Chisasibi, QC

Deep Brook, NS

Deer Lake First Nation, ON

Elsipogtog, NB

Fonthill, ON

Fort Frances, ON

Garden Hill First Nation, MB

Grunthal, MB

Iqaluit, NU

Lac La Croix, ON

London, ON

Mississauga First Nation River 8, ON

Ottawa, ON

Peguis First Nation, MB

Pikangikum, ON

Red Sucker Lake First Nation, MB

Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Slave Lake, AB

St Marys, ON

St Theresa Point, MB

Wasagamack Island Lake, MB

Webequie First Nation, ON

West Vancouver, BC

Wikwemikong, ON

Winnipeg, MB

Xaxl'ip First Nation, BC

OUR STAFF



Aldrin Alegre
Data Analyst



Sarah Ali
Program Coordinator



Keesic Douglas
Media Productions Manager



Maureen Hatherley
Director of Programming



Zohair Khan
Director of Operations



Jordan Martinez
Manager, Marketing + Comms.



Queenie Seguban
Program Manager



Tracee Smith
CEO



Janet Zanutto
Program Manager

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Banzo, Vance

Belhumeur-Lamabe, Arielle

Bowers, Kimberly

Cabral, Stephen

Catchpole, Charles

Chotalia, Shivani

Corciega-Bismonte, Rizalyn

Dietrich, Lindsay

Fernandes, Meryl

Grant, Stephanie

Hammond, Alisha

Hart, Melissa

Hohn, Aaron

Ip, Vanessa

Kikuchi, Lora

Kinoshameg, Lindy

Krayn, Darcy

Langdon, Bobbie-Jane

Lee, Phoebe

Lin, Tiffany

Linklater, Jonathan

Mackinnon, Laura

Marshall, Sherry

Mitchell, Rob

Mooswa, Brett

Mushquash, Clifford

O'Leary, Valerie

Pennock, Tyler

Ruiz, Maria

Shute, Jessica

Thambu-kesevan, Vithu

Tremmel, Lindsay

Winch, Jennifer



Pictured: Vance Banzo

14th ANNUAL SHOWCASE

This year marked the 14th year of our Annual Showcase, celebrating the achievements of our participants throughout the year. We welcomed brand new faces as well as returning alumni from Nova Scotia to West Vancouver. From Niagara Falls up to Iqaluit, Nunavut.

We recognized a need in the Indigenous community; to build strong leaders, offer mentorship and guidance, provide access to structured play through dance, and a platform to tell our own stories. This year, we led participants through high school, college, and university. Like in years past, we've developed a network of Indigenous people across the country and supported their successes through many different challenges.



**“Thank you
to RBC for
supporting us
through our
whole journey”**



Pictured: Ciara, Mikey, and Jacob Harris: The Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers.

With the launch of our new Work/Study program, the success of our RBC Future Leaders, and our ability to continue dancing with OLI Dance throughout all of the Covid-19 lockdowns – there was a lot to celebrate this year!

This was our second year moving our Annual Showcase online, and we set the bar high to build off last year's success. The show focuses on our program participants' achievements and we brought in several special guests to congratulate them and inspire them to continue pursuing their dreams.

Our guest host, Vance Banzo, kicked off the show with a powerful montage of the

year and guided us through the show with his witty persona and humorous skits.

OLI Dance is always the highlight of our show, and this year was no different. Dance has always been a considerable part of Indigenous culture. And it has always been a massive part of what we do at OLI. It's about movement. It's about recognizing and celebrating our strengths and our skills. Dancing to us means striving and persevering through it all to advance together as a community.

We watched videos of youth dancing across the country guided by OLI Choreographers and enjoyed an exclusive dance performance by dancers Mikey Harris and his siblings Jacob and Cienna Harris – The Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers.

“It helped me a lot to grow as a person and get more confident, and I appreciate everyone at OLI for that .”

Next up, it was time to showcase our RBC Future Leaders and highlight the successes of the participants of this program.

We watched our group of Future Leaders expand their self-knowledge, explore creativity, build confidence, learn healthy personal management tools + techniques, and create connections with a community of Indigenous leaders.

All of this was on display in our showcase. We spoke with participants, mentors, and program managers to hear firsthand about the impacts and experiences made available through the program.

This section ended with a skit from TikTok comedian Brett Mooswa with the core message of being yourself, overcoming failure and pursuing your dreams. Scan the QR code to watch his video.



Pictured: Brett Mooswa

The spotlight then shifted to OLI Work/Study to call out the great work of our participants as they persevered through College level courses, and we watched them build confidence and gain a sense of identity. OLI Work/Study is the perfect way to get a post-secondary education, work experience, and ongoing professional support while allowing participants to stay in their home community – and we watched firsthand why this is the case.

To cap things off with Work/Study, we had an exceptional music performance from musician Mattmac, from Garden Hill First Nation, a community that OLI has worked with several times.



Our final guest is best known as the first Indigenous woman in Canada to win the Mrs. Universe title. Ashley Callingbull joined us and shared a message of inspiration, overcoming obstacles and stereotypes and finding your path. It was a moving speech and Ashley continues to be an inspiration and role model to our youth through her extensive volunteer work, notable TED Talks, and as a recipient of a role model award from the United Nations.

A big thank you to all of our guests and to Chef Charles Catchpole for hosting our pre-show event and sharing his delicious recipe of Indigenous fry bread with all of our guests. Scan the QR code on his image for the tasty recipe!

Our Annual Showcase highlights some of what we have accomplished this year. We are Outside Looking In, and we are still dancing! For 2022, we will perform our Annual Showcase live in person at Meridian Hall in Toronto – we would love to see you there on May 12, 2022.



Top Left: Ashley Callingbull
Top Right: Mattmac
Bottom Right: Charles Catchpole



OLI STORYTELLERS

A platform to share unique self-directed stories.

Outside Looking In has always been a big proponent of hearing stories from our Indigenous Youth across the country. We try to amplify voices to educate both our youth and our audience. Stories and the art of storytelling have always been integral to Indigenous people. Cultural teachings are often embedded inside of stories. This past year at OLI we hired 6 youth in rural and urban communities to tell stories through the camera lens. Through mentorship, workshops, and ongoing support the OLI Storytellers were given a platform through our Social Media channels and our Annual Showcase to share photographs and videos with their own unique points of view through their own self-directed stories.

Sony Canada was a major supporter of this program and provided cameras and microphones to put the tools to create directly into the hands of our youth. The stories were engaging and powerful and really helped to show what life is like for Indigenous youth both inside First Nations communities and in urban environments. The participants learned about documentary photography and video and were encouraged to tell stories that they were passionate about. This program went beyond training and skills development and helped to show our youth that their voices matter and that their stories are important.

OLI STORYTELLERS

We very much look forward to seeing where this partnership with Sony Canada leads to so that we can help develop the skills and ignite the fires for pursuing career opportunities on a more creative path.

This year's storytellers were – Aurora from Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reservation, Kaylee currently living in Hamilton ON, Jade from Nisga'a Territory, Morningstar from Pikangikum First Nation ON, Alison from the North End of Winnipeg, and Rain from Keewaywin First Nation ON. We are so proud of the stories that they told and their creativity.

Scan the QR code below to see each of their final videos!



FRIENDS OF SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST STUDIES

Youth from Outside Looking In and Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center Use Words to Change the World.

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) is a non-profit human rights organization committed to countering racism and antisemitism and to promoting the principles of tolerance, social justice and Canadian democratic values through advocacy and education. FSWC is guided by the words of Holocaust survivor Simon Wiesenthal:

“Freedom is not a gift from heaven. One must fight for it every day.”

Over the course of several months in 2020/21, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies (FSWC) and Outside Looking In (OLI) partnered on an initiative that brought 3 Indigenous and 3 Jewish youth together to discuss a variety of issues including identity, culture, traditions, experiences of discrimination and personal strategies to create positive change.



2020 DONOR CAMPAIGN



For this past Giving Tuesday, we chose a campaign that was able to show the direct impact of donations on our OLI participants. Bernadette from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Indian Reservation participated in OLI in previous years and is currently a nursing student at Georgian College in Barrie ON.

We captured the journey of going through the life cycle of OLI programs from learning the dance and rehearsing weekly, performing in the Annual Showcase in Toronto, pursuing post-secondary education, graduating with a degree or diploma, and entering the career path of their choice. The life cycle of OLI programs offers support to participants on their entire life journey.

Scan the QR code to watch the behind the scenes video!



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

This year we shine a light on four OLI Alumni to share with the community what they are doing after they complete one of our programs. Scan the QR codes in each of their images below to watch a video of their Alumni stories.



Ashley

Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reservation

Ashley's career path was not a direct one. It was only through sheer determination that she graduated while travelling over 3 hours each way from Manitoulin Island to North bay to complete her program in Social Work. "Back when OLI was in Wiky I had so much self-doubt but my passion for dance was so strong that I stuck it out, I stayed in school, I didn't miss any more practices. Ashley plans on pursuing her Master's Degree in Social Work so that she can make even more of a positive impact.



Aurora

Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reservation

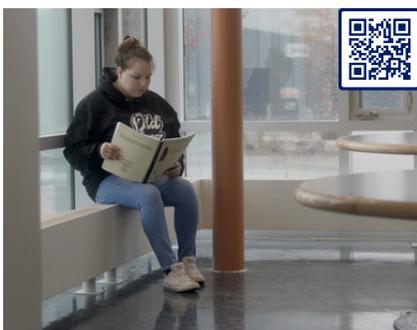
Aurora is pursuing her Bachelors of Social Work & Indigenous Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa ON. "What I want to do is make a difference in Indigenous communities. I want to help create a better life for Indigenous children". Aurora remembers being backstage at an OLI show with another youth that was upset. She listened and offered support and said it was the best feeling that she had ever had. Pursuing this as a career and life path seemed like an obvious step for her.



Brigitte

Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reservation

Brigitte graduated from the Anishnabemowin (Ojibway Language) Program at Georgian College in Barrie, Ontario and is currently working as a teacher trainee at an Ojibway language immersion school in Wisconsin, USA. Carrying on the traditions and knowledge of her ancestors is crucial to her, and she hopes to one day start a language immersion school in her home community. Brigitte says that "OLI helped her become a better leader and gave me the courage to pursue my goals."



Starlee

Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reservation

Starlee is studying Child & Youth Studies at Trent University, where she received a scholarship. She wants to encourage Indigenous youth to be successful and to give back to her community. She credits OLI with helping her learn the importance of pushing herself to be successful in the education system, "OLI helped me find self-determination and really showed me the meaning of perseverance."

2021 OVERVIEW



At Outside Looking In, our mission is to empower Indigenous youth through the transformative art of dance. For thirteen years prior to “Covid times”, we cultivated self-confidence, personal growth and skill development while building strong interpersonal relationships with youth, their families and community members. A highlight and foundation of our programming was having the opportunity to work with youth in their home communities.

As the COVID-19 situation evolved in the spring of 2020, our highest priority was the health, safety, and well-being of students in our participating communities, their families, volunteers, and staff; as the seriousness of the COVID-19 situation escalated in the summer of 2020, closures, restrictions, and ‘stay-at-home’ mandates became the “new normal”.



OLI DANCE

Covid restrictions and local protocols in 2021/21 forced most people to stay within the confines of their homes. Gathering in large groups to build camaraderie and enjoy the fellowship of others through dancing together was prohibited. This was indeed the largest barrier for OLI Dance. Lack of connectivity and the inability to join online classes was a second barrier for many youth residing in remote communities. Individual dancers, who could connect, took on the challenge of participating virtually and learning choreography in their kitchens, bedrooms, living spaces, and hallways.

Dancers could also be seen performing in the snowy environs of their homes. OLI was happy to welcome individuals from different parts of the country who joined the classes. The 2021 Dance experience, while supported by energetic choreographers, OLI and community volunteers, was largely a solitary journey where dancers had to tap into an inherent desire to express themselves through music and movement.



OLI CHOREOGRAPHERS



Pictured: Kim Calma, Taylor Trudeau, Kelly Gammie

Outside Looking In ran four online classes per week throughout the year, culminating with OLI's Dance-Off Extravaganza where mentors, volunteers, and participants from all programs celebrated the year-end by "busting a move" and performing for each other and with each other. The three online instructors/choreographers were instrumental in making OLI Dance happen in spite of very challenging circumstances.

Kim Calma: "To explore another area of Canada (Kasabonika First Nation) where these (OLI) youth live was mind-blowing and beautiful. To be around nature, the silence was so peaceful and it brought a whole other side to me"

Taylor Trudeau: "I'm back teaching with OLI because working with Indigenous youth brings me so much joy. Helping a student find a passion and love for dance is such a rewarding experience"

Kelly Gammie: "I am working with OLI this year because I am forever grateful for the exchanges that I have had with the youth in this program. It's an honour to learn about their individual stories and witness their growth/resilience/power, all through the lens of what I love to do most...dance!"

RBC FUTURE LEADERS



Transitioning our RBC Future Leaders program entirely online was both a challenge and a remarkable feat! With the help of functional online platforms like Slack, Google Classroom, and Zoom, we had new and returning Future Leader participants from Nunavut, British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario. Our student participants were able to adapt, persevere, grow and work together with their Mentors throughout the school year to earn an additional high school credit during the pandemic.

No matter the circumstance, Future Leaders stayed resilient and were encouraged to DREAM BIG and design a final culminating project based on their passions and career interests! Their project ideas were creative, innovative, and inspiring. We were very proud of what our Future Leader youth were able to accomplish!



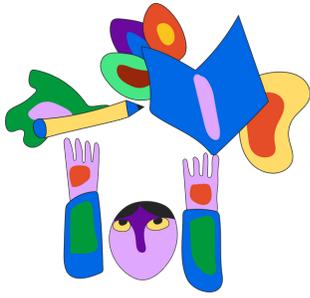


Throughout the program, mentors and mentees continued to work collaboratively via Zoom and our Slack Channel to help prepare our young leaders for their next steps after high-school graduation. We invited Indigenous volunteer leaders to share stories about their career journeys with our youth through an online career panel.



Due to Covid, many schools were closed. As a result, some of our students at home had a hard time focusing due to distractions. The lack of structure that schools once provided and the absence of a teacher's immediate help for feedback and support proved to be the most significant barriers to our students' success. So, OLI stepped in and created the OLI Homework Power Hour - a weekly Zoom study/work session every Tuesday from 6-7 PM EST, open to all Future Leaders who need assistance 'powering through' their work with extra support from OLI Staff.





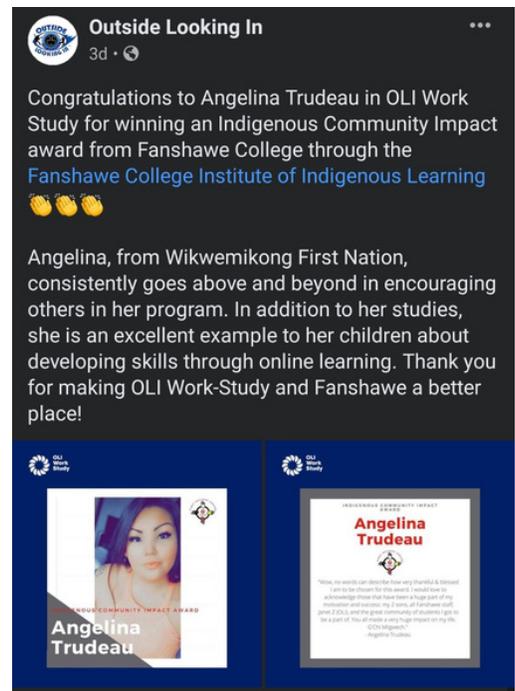
OLI WORK/STUDY

The objective of the Work/Study Program was to equip participants with the confidence and skill sets necessary to successfully enter/re-enter the workforce in a career discipline of their choosing. In this inaugural year of the program, we were able to do just that!

In partnership with Fanshawe College, and with the support of the Tachane Foundation, OLI offered participants an enhanced post-secondary experience that included all of the educational and cultural benefits of an Indigenous-led academic program, plus financial compensation, and individualized academic support from OLI staff.

By participating in a series of workshops and projects designed to encourage participants to identify their passions and strengths, embrace the discomfort of learning new things, and translate these teachings into employable skills.

OLI provided financial support that freed up participants to be able to dedicate time to academic pursuits by funding a paid 15hr/week professional skills development program.



2022 ANNUAL SHOWCASE

OUR
15th SHOW
YEAR

COME CHEER
ON OUR
YOUTH

LIVE + IN
PERSON

Mark your calendars!
May 12, 2022 at 7 PM
Live at Meridian Hall
1 Front St E, Toronto, ON



Sign up for our newsletter to be the first to be hear when tickets go on sale

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended June 30	2021	2020
Revenue		
Government grants	50,269	30,263
Community fees	119,500	535,500
In-kind contributions	-	78,808
Donations	499,411	288,367
Other income	372,577	70,221
Sponsorship	25,000	304,962
Merchandise	1,268	169
Ticket sales	-	3,925
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	1,228	-
	1,312,215	1,522,280
Program Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	49,947	19,613
Alumni program	13,037	-
Artists fees	1,749	108,750
Dance program	155,630	-
Future leaders	131,437	40,702
Office and general	7,152	5,480
Program manager fees	-	227,771
Rent (recovery)	(1,355)	2,356
Summer program	1,692	-
Travel	250	163,565
Venue and production costs	36,583	21,134
Work study program	176,841	-
	998,492	1,713,776
Administrative Expenses		
Advertising and promotion	22,612	35,480
Amortization	6,427	4,219
Bank charges and interest	2,821	4,129
Insurance	5,918	4,305
Meals and entertainment	82	2,431
Office and general	49,488	40,567
Professional development	2,088	-
Professional fees	50,435	33,584
Rent	13,556	30,298
Repairs and maintenance	425	1,355
Subcontractor	-	2,211
Telephone and internet	1,861	3,896
Travel	1,577	12,485
Wages and benefits	259,904	234,161
	417,194	409,121
Excess of revenue over expenses	79,096	313,723

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

RBC FUTURE LEADERS



OLI WORK/STUDY



DONORS



IN-KIND DONORS





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*Outside Looking In is a registered charity
Charitable Registration Number: 81551 7099 RR 0001*