



2022 ANNUAL REPORT





WHO WE ARE

Established in 1983 as the St. John's Native Friendship Centre and re-branded in 2018, First Light is a registered charity and non-profit organization. Serving the urban Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities alike in St. John's, NL, First Light provides programs and services rooted in the revitalization, strengthening, and celebration of Indigenous cultures and languages. Our work is grounded in the spirit of trust, respect, and friendship.

GET IN TOUCH

709-726-5902
info@firstlightnl.ca
firstlightnl.ca



BOARD MEMBERS

Catherine Fagan
President

Tama Fost
Vice President

David Works
Treasurer

Lisa Smith
Secretary

Sophie Bennett
Youth Representative

Emma Reelis
Elder

Stuart Gill
Member

Patricia Keough
Member

Hasan Hai
Member

Blair Benoit
Member

MESSAGE FROM OUR **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Each year First Light continues to grow and exceed expectations. The Annual General Meeting is a time to look back on the previous year, however, we can not help but recognize the history of our organization and pay homage to how much has been accomplished. As I look upon my desk, at a needs assessment for a St. John's Friendship Centre written in 1982 by James MacLean, I am grateful for all those who have paved the way for us to be here 40 years later. We are so fortunate for all those who played a role in making that dream a reality.

Under the guidance of the Board of Directors, we began dreaming about the future of First Light through our strategic planning session facilitated by Kingfisher and Gimiwan Consulting. It was a strategic planning session like no other, facilitated through an Indigenous lens and holistic process. Though it is not yet finalized, we promise it will be worth the wait.

Let's just say that 2022 was quite an exciting year for our organization. The Childcare Centre revealed a newly renovated backyard, construction began at 42 Bannerman Street, the Lunar Inn had its grand opening, and we received notification that we were successful in securing funding for both the housing project at 716 Water Street, and for the renovations of our new headquarters at 40 Quidi Vidi Road. Construction will begin in early 2023 and is estimated to take two years to complete. Employees working from these locations have found a temporary home to be announced soon. We look forward to continuing to provide all the same programs and services from our new location and will ensure a smooth transition.

Again this year, we would like to send a huge thank you to our volunteer Board of Directors who went above and beyond this past year in supporting our organization and staff. There have been a lot of hours of dedication by the Board members to participate in training, revise the policy manual, and develop new policies. We appreciate their commitment and guidance.

We would also like to thank our Elders, traditional knowledge keepers, funders, volunteers and community members for supporting First Light and making a difference in the lives of the urban Indigenous community.

Wela'lin



Stacey Howse
Executive Director



WHERE WE ARE

We respectfully acknowledge the land on which we work as the ancestral homelands of the Beothuk. We acknowledge the island of Ktaqmkuk as the unceded, traditional territory of the Beothuk & the Mi'kmaq. We acknowledge Labrador as the traditional & ancestral homelands of the Innu of Nitassinan, the Inuit of Nunatsiavut, and the Inuit of NunatuKavut.

About Land Acknowledgments:



firstlightnl.ca

OUR LOCATIONS

Headquarters
40 Quidi Vidi

Housing & Social Supports
716 Water Street

Lunar Inn
36 Quidi Vidi Road

Childcare Centre
97 Elizabeth Avenue

Performance Centre
42 Bannerman Street





4962

times people joined us
at programs this year



158

backpacks distributed
to families ahead of
back to school season



"We came as strangers, but left as friends."
- Program Participant



Spirit Song 2021



11
events



1017
guests





3247

points of contact with
our Social Supports team



72

people
housed

"Through the support of First Light, I have moved into my own apartment, have full time employment and I am on the path to recovery. I couldn't have done this without the support I received."

- Cultural Support Client



2007

connections with our
Indigenous Patient
Navigator Team

The First Voice Working Group on Police Oversight is a community-led project to review the system of police oversight in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Their report titled Building Trust, Restoring Confidence contains 26 proposals for change that align with Calls for Justice 5.7 and 9.2 (iii). These calls focus on establishing robust and well-funded Indigenous civilian police oversight bodies, and for all actors in the justice system, including police service, to build respectful working relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

88% of poll respondents said they support the creation of a police oversight board for NL

Recommendations

Read the Report:



firstvoicenl.ca

On September 30, we wear orange to honour the children who survived Residential School and to remember those that didn't.

This year, we held an event open to the public, providing an opportunity to come together in a spirit of reconciliation and to release tobacco into a sacred fire during ceremony.

More info on Orange Shirt Day:



firstlightnl.ca



450+

people joined us on September 30 for Orange Shirt Day



2739
orange shirts sold






At our Performance Centre this year:

 **512**
events

 **10,623**
guests

Our Medical Transportation
Social Enterprise provided:

 **16,646**
rides



"Thanks to First Light and this beautiful venue,
Indigenous artists of Newfoundland and Labrador
have a place to call home in the city of St. John's."
- Artist Recommendation

Our Training was provided to:

 **99**
groups

 **1546**
participants



This year, we celebrated the completion of a new natural backyard space at our Daycare.

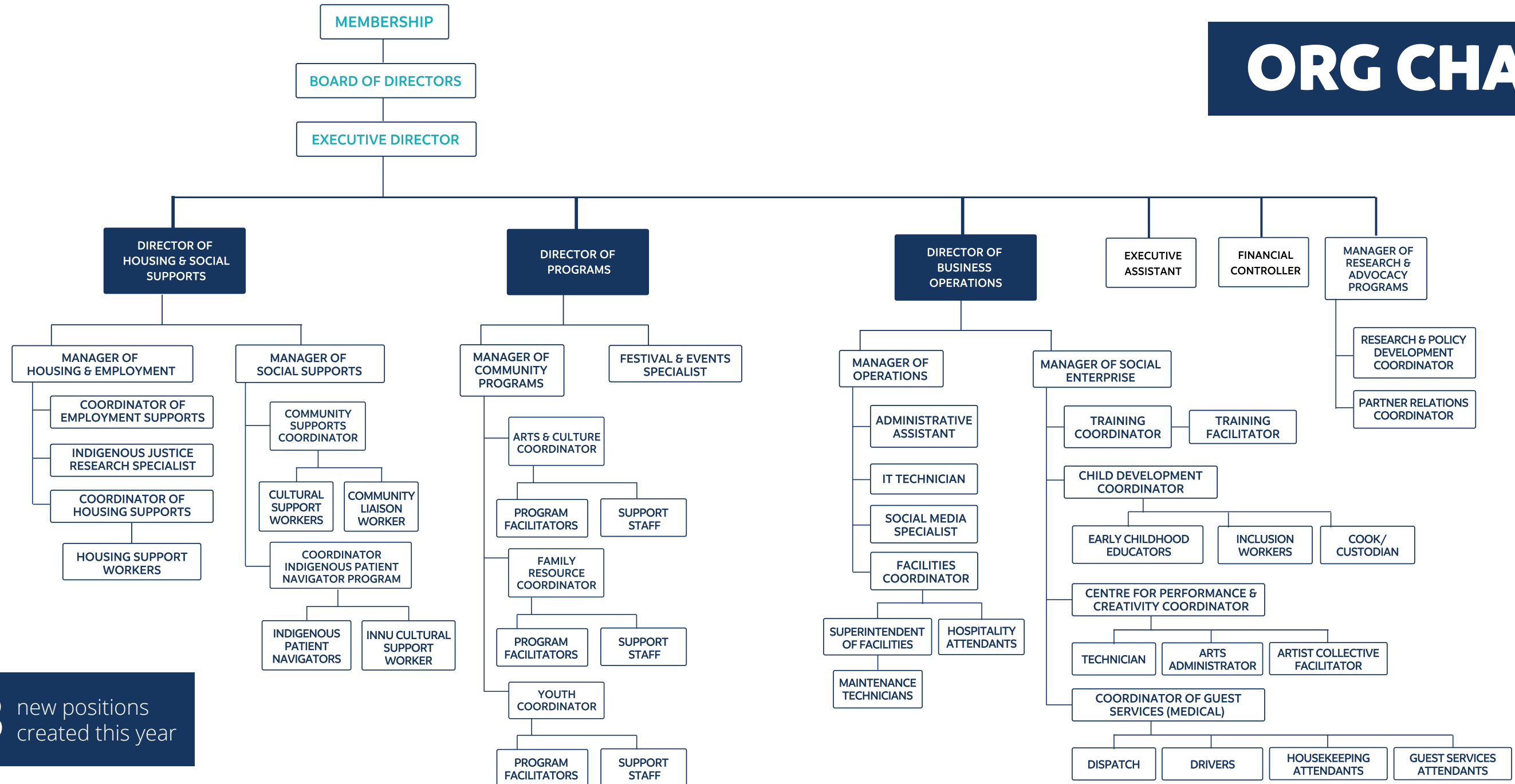
The space provides plenty of opportunities for the children to learn and play outside throughout the year!



28 childcare spaces were filled 100% of the time at First Light's Childcare Centre



ORG CHART



18 new positions created this year



A light away from home.

The Lunar Inn is specifically designed with the needs of clients travelling for medical appointments in mind. All four rooms have been beautifully designed & filled with works from local Indigenous artists.



More info:



lunarinn.ca



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our partners & funders for the continued support throughout the year.

But our biggest thanks goes out to you, the community!

Our Partners:



firstlightnl.ca





firstlightnl.ca