



new  
Pathways

FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE  
OF FIRST NATIONS

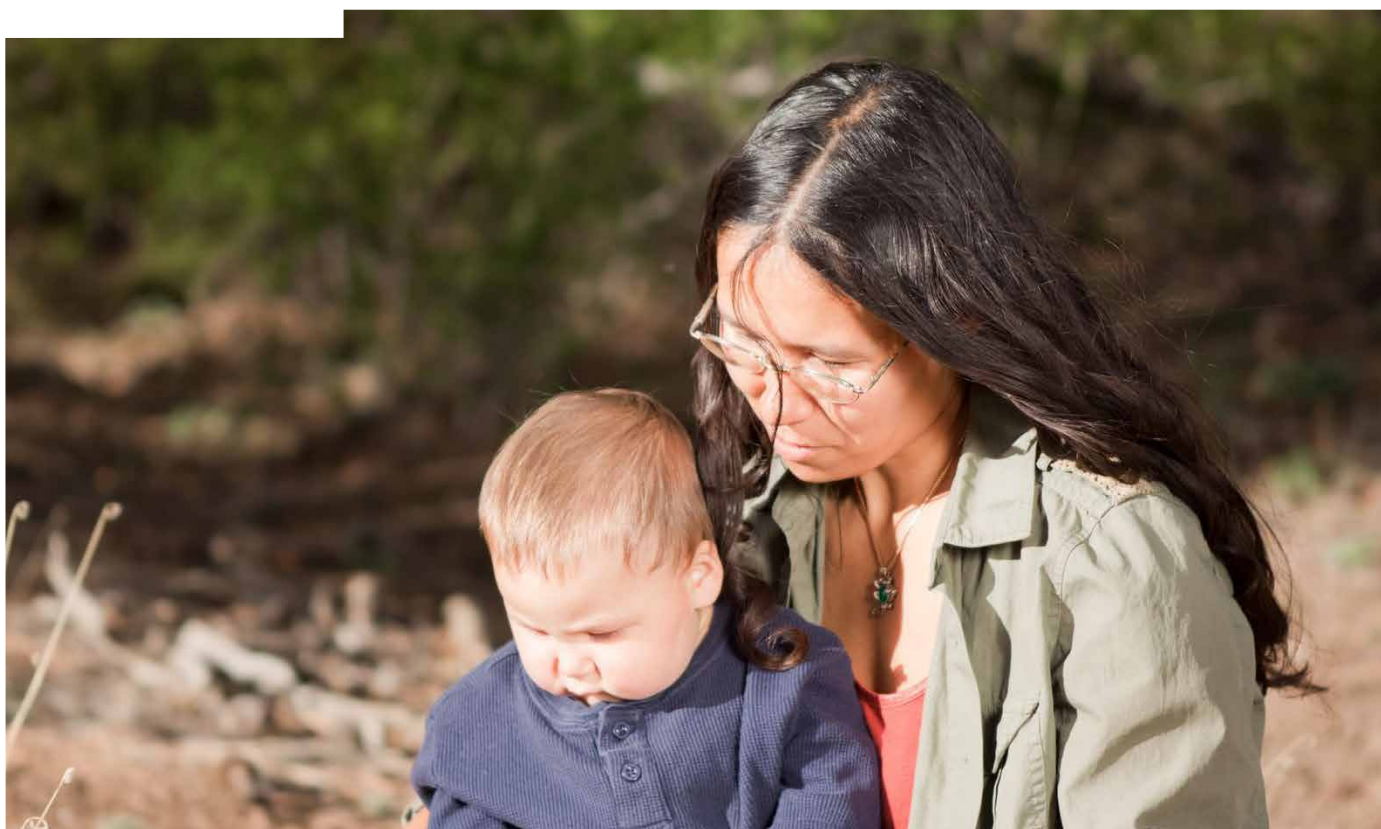
2015-2016

Annual Report



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## Message from the Chair of the Board

Kuei,

In 2015–2016, the New Pathways Foundation carried out a number of major projects in line with its mission. One great example is the second Youth Leadership Camp, held in spring 2016, which enabled 32 First Nations children to take part in a social project and to boost their self-confidence and self-esteem. The Camp has lasting impacts on participants' communities and brings hope to younger generations in search of better and more fulfilling lives. The first edition had such positive outcomes that the organizers decided to repeat the experience in the years to come.

Other concrete projects were launched this year, including the BECOME program. For the first edition, we selected eight Secondary 4 and 5 students from Quebec First Nations who had shown interest in healthcare professions. Through guided tours of various hospital departments as well as conversations with physicians and other members of the hospital staff, the participants were able to learn more about career opportunities in healthcare and to narrow down their career choices. This program is a great opportunity to help young people build bright futures for themselves through fulfilling careers.

The New Pathways Foundation also wants to assist communities with their social and human development initiatives. That is why the Foundation supports various projects within First Nations communities and organizations every year. It goes without saying that we need your support to accomplish our key mission: to build a better future for First Nations. We have big dreams—now we need the resources to make them come true. Our goals are concrete, and we need concrete help. There are many ways to support our cause, including through donations, sponsorships, networking, participation in our events, partnerships and volunteering.

Accordingly, I invite you to help spread the hope sparked by the New Pathways Foundation's sustained actions to improve the well-being of Quebec's First Nations communities.

**Mickel Robertson**

New Pathways Foundation Chair





## Message from the Coordinator

We are very excited to tell you about the progress we made in 2015–2016. This year, we developed and consolidated a number of partnerships in order to create and implement programs that reflect our mission and meet the needs of our target audience. We held the second First Nations Youth Leadership Camp and launched the BECOME program as well as the Desjardins/New Pathways Scholarships Towards a First Diploma while continuing to financially support initiatives from First Nations communities and organizations.

I want to extend my sincerest thanks to all our donors. Without you, we could not achieve our goals, as the New Pathways Foundation is not supported by any government program.

I would like to emphasize how crucial our cause is. Now, more than ever, is the time to build bridges and reduce the gaps between First Nations people and other Quebecers. There are pressing needs, and existing issues cannot remain unaddressed much longer.

The New Pathways Foundation needs your help to move its mission forward, to support uplifting projects with First Nations communities and organizations, and ultimately to build a better future.

**Isabelle Picard**

New Pathways Foundation Coordinator



## Our essential mission

Our mission at the New Pathways Foundation is to help improve living conditions for First Nations people by supporting initiatives that target the human and social development of individuals within their communities.

### Our compelling vision: from talk to action

To help improve the well-being of First Nations people and create new services and projects with lasting impact.

### The values that propel us into

- 👁 Respect
- 👁 Mutual assistance
- 👁 Solidarity



## 2014–2017 priorities and positioning

We want First Nations communities to become positive environments where young people can grow and better reach their potential. To achieve that, we need to consider all aspects of well-being: social, economic, cultural and spiritual. Accordingly, the Foundation endeavours to partner with stakeholders involved in social and economic development. Building partnerships takes time and requires an active local presence—and it is the key to solving the problems facing many First Nations communities.

The Board's three key priorities for the coming years are as follows:

1. Help kids stay in school
2. Support sports and recreation initiatives
3. Unlock the full potential of First Nations youth

New Pathways still intends not only to support community projects, but also to develop programs and support related projects. This year, we launched the BECOM E program and the Desjardins/New Pathways Scholarships Towards a First Diploma. In 2016–2017, we hope that we can offer a program to preserve and pass on cultural knowledge within First Nations communities and organizations. A program to support postsecondary students is also under development.

We know that we can be more efficient by both supporting projects initiated by communities and organizations and by offering specific programs and community support, somewhat like a community centre.



## HIGHLIGHTS and numbers

In a regional health survey of Quebec First Nations conducted in 2008, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC) found that:

- ☛ More than half (52.2%) of teenagers have repeated a grade.
- ☛ More than 51% of children never engage in sports or physical activity outside of school through groups or classes.
- ☛ Infant mortality in the Aboriginal population is 3 times higher than in the non-Aboriginal population (Canada).
- ☛ The risk of experiencing situations of poverty, neglect and placement at a very young age is 3 to 5 times higher (Quebec).
- ☛ More than 80% of teenagers believe that alcoholism and substance abuse are the biggest challenge facing their communities.
- ☛ Nearly half (44%) of all families are single-parent families (Quebec).
- ☛ 2 out of 3 women earn less than \$10,000 a year (Quebec).

In 2006, 3 out of 4 houses were overcrowded, and half were in dire need of repair and/or decontamination (Quebec).

To this day, poverty affects 1 in 4 children in our communities. There are 4 times more children living with food insecurity in the Aboriginal population than among the Canadian general population. UNICEF is concerned about the health of our children. The fight against poverty is one of our most pressing concerns: 33% of Aboriginal people suffer from food insecurity.

Preliminary data from a 2014–2015 FNQLHSSC regional survey of Quebec First Nations focusing on education, employment and early childhood reveal that:

- ☛ Only 60% of 17-year-olds are in school.
- ☛ 50% of adults are unemployed.
- ☛ 38% of households earn less than \$20,000 a year.

## How you can help

Our initiative was born out of a pressing need, with no established capital. Therefore, we still have much work ahead of us to raise our capital and acquire the means to meet demand. By financially supporting the New Pathways Foundation, you can be sure that you are helping fund meaningful projects that meet community needs and help build a better future for Quebec First Nations. We even developed a sponsorship and visibility plan for potential donors.

You can also attend one of our fundraisers to help raise awareness of our cause and promote potential partnerships.

Last but not least, we want to form a pool of volunteers to help with the Foundation's operational needs. Whether you wish to give a few hours of your time every week for administrative work or help with hospitality at one of our fundraisers, the Friends of the New Pathways Foundation will be happy to welcome you. To join the team, just call us or send us an email.



## 2015–2016 achievements

### First Nations Youth Leadership Camp

The New Pathways Foundation—in collaboration with the Breakfast Club of Canada, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC), the RBA Foundation, the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones, Health Canada and the Tim Horton Children's Foundation—held its second First Nations Youth Leadership Camp March 14–19, 2016, at the Camp des Voyageurs in Quyon, Outaouais.

A total of 32 First Nations children aged 10 to 14 participated in the camp. This project aims to recognize the contributions of outstanding young people who get involved with their peers, their schools or their communities. More specifically, the camp helps young participants to boost their self-esteem, their capacity to dream and their will to get involved with First Nations youths so that participants can go back to their communities with the power and courage to pursue their dreams and to become the best version of themselves.

The camp had many positive outcomes. School staff and social workers in participating First Nations communities said that the children came back happier and more outgoing, energized, mindful, independent and responsible. They also had a lot more self-confidence. Some kids even said they felt more alive.

### BECOME program – Exploratory career day in the workplace

In 2016, the New Pathways Foundation launched the BECOME program. The goal of this program is to offer one-day internship opportunities to high-school students faced with career choices in order to help them narrow down their career interests and explore professions they might be interested in.

The first edition of the program focused on healthcare. In early 2016, eight Secondary 4 and 5 students took part in an exploratory internship in a hospital setting at CHU de Québec (Hôpital de l'Enfant-Jésus). The young First Nations participants were selected according to their personal journeys and their interest in healthcare professions. They were able to witness operations in the surgery department, an emergency visit and an outpatient visit. They also had many opportunities to speak with surgeons, physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals throughout the day.

The hospital component of the BECOME program is a joint initiative of the New Pathways Foundation and the CHU de Québec.

### Desjardins/New Pathways Scholarships Towards a First Diploma

The Desjardins Foundation has made a generous annual pledge of \$5,000 that will go towards ten \$500 scholarships for First Nations high-school students. These scholarships will be awarded to ten students aged less than 18 who need specific assistance to pursue their studies. The money must be spent on services and/or physical resources that will help the students get their high-school diplomas.

### 2015 partnership – 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Golf Tournament – RBA Financial Group

On August 20, 2015, the New Pathways Foundation took part in the RBA Financial Group's 23rd Annual Golf Tournament to benefit the RBA Foundation at Golf de la Faune in Quebec City. The New Pathways Foundation adheres to the vision of the RBA Foundation, which is committed to supporting initiatives that promote the well-being of First Nations people. During the event, the RBA Foundation donated a total of \$10,000 to its three major partners, one of which is the New Pathways Foundation.



### Samian continues his partnership with New Pathways

Since November 2014, renowned Aboriginal multidisciplinary artist Samian has been the sponsor of the New Pathways Foundation. He strongly believes in the value of the Foundation's work. In his role, Samian raises awareness of the Foundation and the cause. The Board is very happy to have him as an advocate.

In June 2015, following our Win a day with Samian contest, Samian and the Foundation's coordinator visited the winning community: Ekuanitshit. Samian was able to meet children in every single class of the local elementary school, to visit the community's cultural centre, to see the breathtaking sights from a

helicopter and to attend a community dinner where a round dance was performed in his honour. This activity was a unique opportunity for young and not-so-young members of the Ekuanitshit community to meet their idol, who is a true role model. With his simplicity, sense of humour and positive message, Samian left a lasting impression on the community and beautifully fulfilled his role as sponsor of the New Pathways Foundation. We want to thank all the communities that entered the contest.

### Financial support for community projects

Since its inception in 2010, New Pathways has supported a number of organizations operating projects in Quebec's First Nations communities, such as Wapikoni Mobile, Jeunes musiciens du monde, some Aboriginal Friendship Centres and various community projects. Supported activities ranged from cultural and music camps to audiovisual director internships in the communities, just to name a few. In 2015–2016, the New Pathways Foundation supported on-land cultural camp projects for Wemotaci youths and elders, as well as the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society's 2016 Mushuau-nipi Youth Initiatives. These initiatives enable young First Nations people to go on a ten-day cultural and spiritual retreat in the Moisie River area that includes Matashans and support from caregivers and spiritual leaders.

## 2015–2016 objectives

The Foundation's main objectives for the past year were threefold:

- ✦ Increase capital and partnerships
- ✦ Raise awareness
- ✦ Get closer to First Nations communities and organizations

We believe that we met each of these goals. First, we developed a dozen new partnerships. Second, we gave many interviews and presentations and participated in multiple events to raise the Foundation's profile. We are also preparing a major benefit concert that will be held in early May 2016. Third, the New Pathways Foundation coordinator visited a number of First Nations communities and organizations in Abitibi, Côte-Nord, Centre-du-Québec, Wendake and Montreal to raise awareness of the Foundation's mission and objectives.

## Board of directors

The New Pathways Foundation board of directors has the following general responsibilities:

- ✦ Helping to develop and adopting strategic plans and action plans
- ✦ Overseeing the Foundation's business
- ✦ Adopting effective, efficient and transparent governance policies and practices
- ✦ Following up on its decisions and being accountable for its results

The members of the Board are listed here:

| NAME                                         | COMMUNITY CAREER                    | BACKGROUND                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mickel Robertson, Chair                      | Uashat mak Mani-utenam, off reserve | Business: RBC Royal Bank                                                                               |
| Marjolaine Sioui, Vice Chair                 | Wendake                             | First Nations organization: First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission |
| Claudine Gros Louis, Secretary and Treasurer | Wendake, off reserve                | Business: RBA Financial Group                                                                          |
| Mélodie Jourdain-Michel, Director            | Uashat mak Mani-Utenam              | Social development: University of Montreal                                                             |
| Claudette Awashish, Director                 | Opitciwan                           | Community services: Opitciwan health and community centre                                              |

2015–2016

## New Pathways Foundation team

### Isabelle Picard, Coordinator

Isabelle Picard has been our coordinator since January 2014. She oversees the Foundation's administrative operations. Her broad responsibilities include fundraising as well as raising awareness, organizing projects and fundraisers, and supporting communities and organizations. Isabelle is a Wendat with years of experience working both as a consultant and for various Aboriginal organizations. She is truly committed to helping First Nations children and youth.

### Nathalie Veilleux, Administrative Coordination Assistant

Nathalie Veilleux joined the New Pathways Foundation in April 2015. Since then, she has provided administrative and logistical support. With her many years of experience in various organizations, Nathalie is more than able to support our work at the New Pathways Foundation.

## 2015–2016 donor partners

The New Pathways Foundation could not survive and accomplish its mission without the help of its valued partners and sponsors. We want to thank them for their generosity.

Within a single year...

### GIANT STEPS category: \$25,000.00 or more

- First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC)

### FIRST STEPS category: \$10,000.00 to \$24,999.99

- RBA Foundation
- Hydro-Québec
- Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones (SAA)

### LITTLE FEET category: \$5,000.00 to \$9,999.99

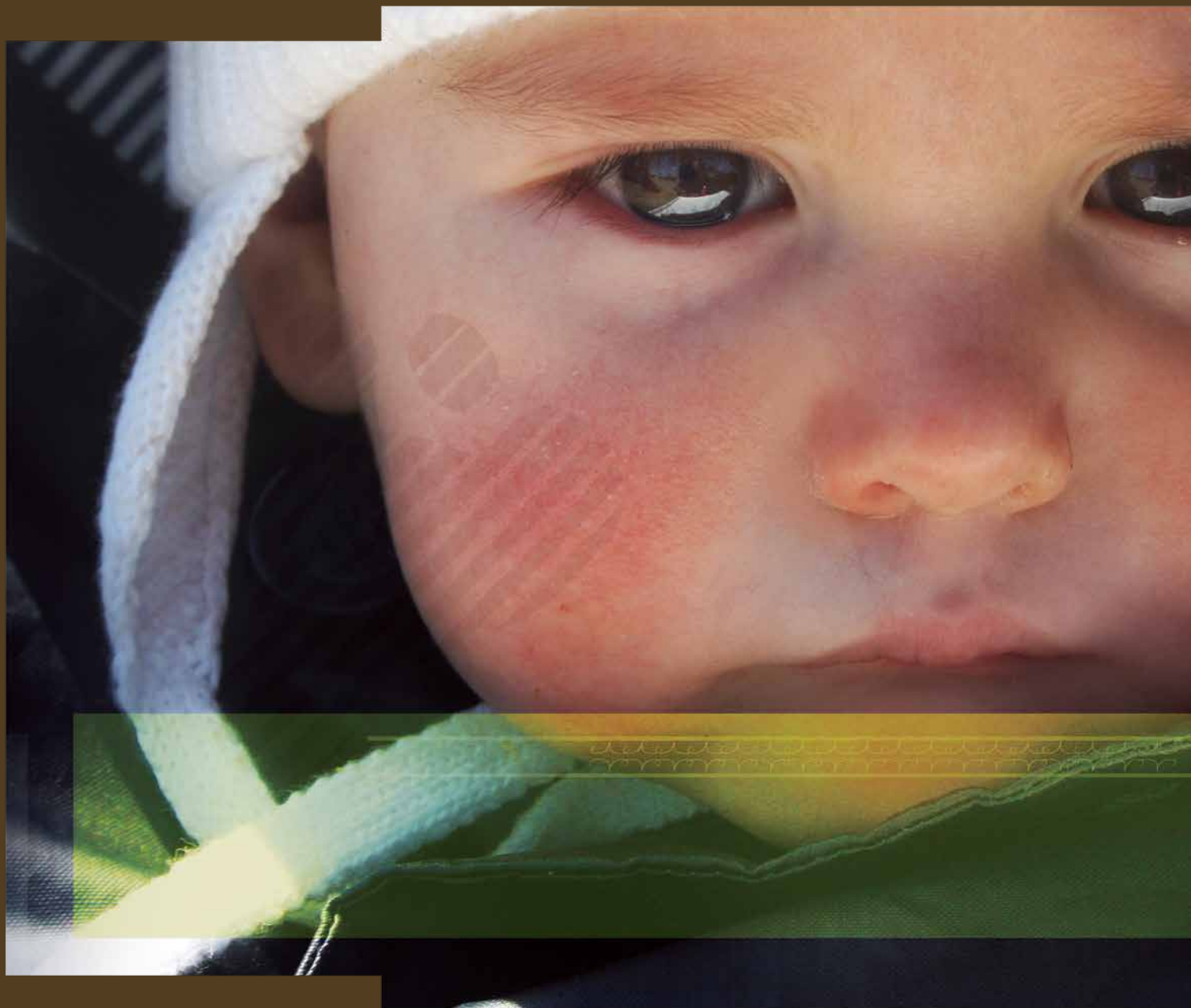
- Fondation François Bourgeois
- Desjardins Foundation
- Health Canada

### Less than \$5,000.00

- Geoffrey Kelley, Minister responsible for Native Affairs
- Lucie Charlebois, Minister for Rehabilitation, Youth Protection, Public Health and Healthy Lifestyles
- Philippe Couillard, Premier of Quebec
- Sam Hamad, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity
- Christine St-Pierre, Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie
- Robert Poëti, Minister of Transport
- Pierre Arcand, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources
- Jean-Marc Fournier, Minister responsible for Canadian Relations and the Canadian Francophonie
- Fondation Jacques & Michel Auger
- United Way Toronto & York Region
- Costco Wholesale Canada
- Belden Canada Inc.
- Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ)
- Les Cours Mont-Royal – Triasima
- Secular institute – Les Oblates missionnaires de Marie Immaculée
- Sœurs de Saint-Joseph de Saint-Vallier
- Sœurs de la Présentation de Marie du Québec
- Sœurs du Bon-Pasteur de Québec– General administration
- Congrégation des sœurs de Notre-Dame du Perpétuel Secours – General administration
- Compagnie de Jésus No. 1
- Œuvres caritatives des Filles de Jésus, Canada
- Sœurs de Notre-Dame du Saint-Rosaire
- Province du Saint-Cœur de Marie – Sœurs Servantes du Saint-Coeur de Marie
- Frères des Écoles chrétiennes
- Congrégation des Sœurs de Notre-Dame du Bon-Conseil de Chicoutimi
- Pekuakamiulnuatsh Takuhikan
- FNQLHSSC employees
- Private individuals







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