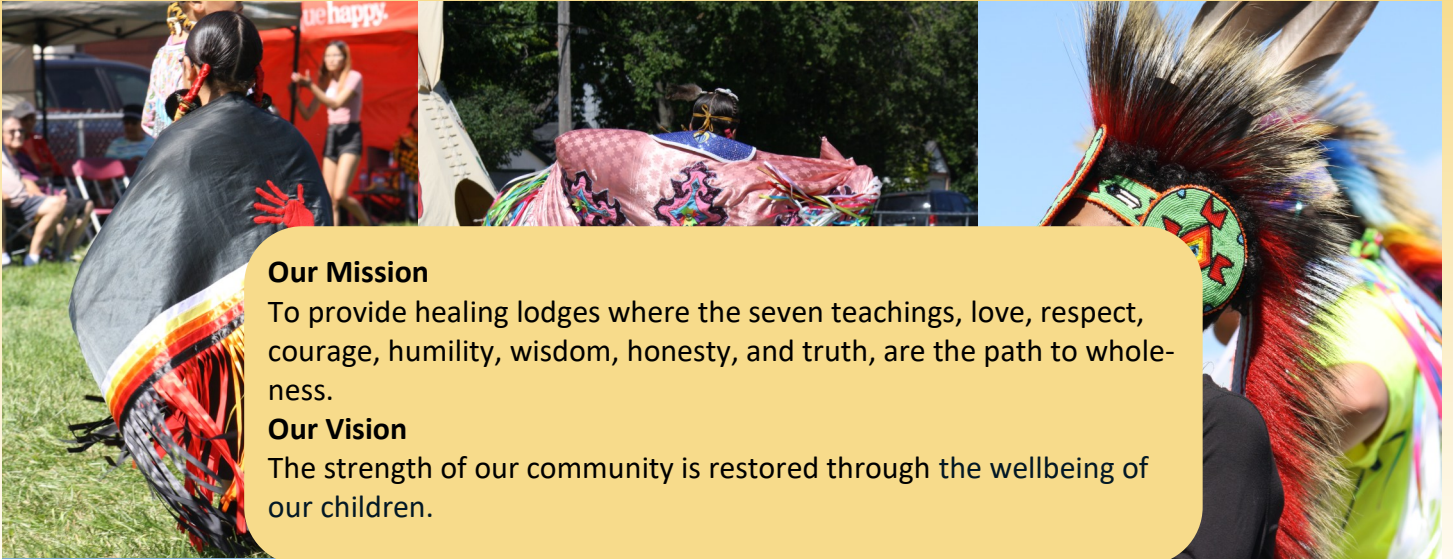




NEECHEEWAM

Healing Lodges for Manitoba's Children

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



Our Mission

To provide healing lodges where the seven teachings, love, respect, courage, humility, wisdom, honesty, and truth, are the path to wholeness.

Our Vision

The strength of our community is restored through the wellbeing of our children.



About Neecheewam

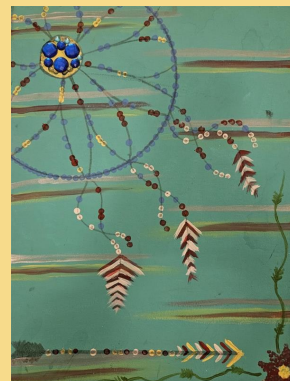
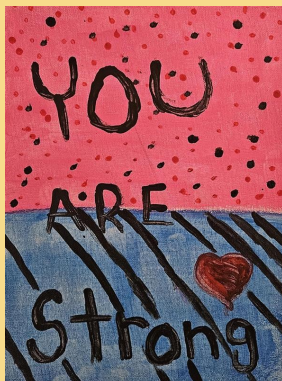
Neecheewam provides healing lodges and supports for children and youth through a Two-Eyed Seeing approach that brings together Indigenous ways of knowing and Western practice. Our work supports children and youth with complex needs, including sexually exploited youth, youth at risk, and youth who are gang or justice-involved. Across our programs, we focus on safety, relationship-building, culture, harm reduction, advocacy, and healing.

Year at a glance

Highlight	2024-2025
Annual Pow Wow	375 attendees, 59 registered dancers, 4 drum groups, and 5 local Indigenous vendors.
Spiritual Care	63 pipe ceremonies, 18 sweat lodge ceremonies, 36 cedar baths, and regular cultural programming for youth and staff.
EEY growth	135 youth connected, 56 referrals, 47 admissions, and 2,741 total service activities
CSU support	48 youth served and 133 admissions through a low-barrier crisis stabilization setting.
Golden Eagle	26 intakes, 18 discharges, and support for sibling groups and emergency placement needs.

Our Approach

- Relationship-first care that builds trust.
- Culturally grounded support including ceremony, medicines, language, and community connection.
- Trauma-informed, youth-centred practice that responds to complex and overlapping needs.
- Collaboration with families, communities, agencies, and systems to create stronger care plans.



Program Snapshots

The **Spiritual Care Department** continued to support youth, staff, and lodges through ceremony, cultural teachings, grief support, and wellness activities. This included 63 pipe ceremonies, 18 sweat lodge ceremonies, 36 cedar baths, cultural club, ribbon skirt and shirt making, star blanket workshops, murals, paintings, and community gathering participation.

- Expanded cultural presence across the organization
- Supported staff wellness and debriefing after critical incidents
- Strengthened links between spiritual care and mental health support

Eagle Embracing You (EEY)

EEY supported 135 youth during the year, received 56 referrals, and completed 47 admissions. The program delivered 2,741 service activities, averaging 228 meaningful engagements each month. This included in-house support, clinical work, outreach, medical appointments, life skills, cultural programming, and transitional follow-up.

Strong Heart Buffalo Women Crisis Stabilization Unit

The CSU remained a trauma-informed place of safety for high-risk female-identifying youth. During the year, 48 youth accessed the unit through 133 admissions, with increasing voluntary returns showing strong trust in staff and program space.

Residential programs

- **Blue Turtle, White Butterfly, Little Butterfly, Eagle Warriors, and Golden Eagle** continued to provide structured, relationship-based care for youth with complex trauma, mental health concerns, substance use, exploitation risk, placement instability, and justice involvement.
- Blue Turtle supported youth requiring a high level of structure and supervision, while maintaining strong emotional safety and consistency.
- White Butterfly supported long-term residents and transitions, including justice-involved youth and youth preparing for adulthood and reconnection with family.
- Little Butterfly continued long-term healing work with youth and prioritized culture, relationship-building, and emotional regulation.
- Golden Eagle provided emergency placement support for children and youth, including sibling groups.

Impact and Community Connection

This year showed continued growth in both service demand and community trust. Youth returned to programs by choice, partners continued referring young people with complex needs, and staff worked across programs to create stability, connection, and culturally grounded healing. Examples of impact:

- Youth accessed safe spaces during crisis, after exploitation, during withdrawal, and after placement breakdowns.
- Programs created opportunities for healing through ceremony, shared meals, one-on-one support, cultural activities, school participation, and community outings.
- Several lodges supported youth through major transitions including reunification, independent living planning, or movement to programs better suited to their needs.
- Community events such as the Annual Pow Wow strengthened cultural identity, visibility, and intergenerational connection.

Annual Powwow

With support from Telus, Neecheewam hosted its annual Pow Wow on August 6, 2024 in Winnipeg. The event welcomed 375 attendees, 59 registered dancers, 4 drum groups, Elders, youth, families, and community members. It also created space for Indigenous vendors, youth activities, and cultural education for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous guests.

Powwow Event Financial Snapshot

Category	Budgeted	Actual
Honorariums	\$13,000	\$13,070
Activities/Rentals	\$7,000	\$7,485.95
Supplies	\$800	\$801.66
Marketing and Promotion	\$1,400	\$1,374
Total	\$26,200	\$21,987.61



Challenges and Priorities

The year highlighted pressures that continue to affect children, youth, and service providers. These realities shape our planning, advocacy, and future growth.

Ongoing challenges:

- Limited access to timely mental health supports for youth.
- Increasing risk related to fentanyl, heroin, and changing substance use patterns.
- Barriers within systems around assessments and long-term supports.
- Placement instability, youth aging out of care, and gaps in safe, specialized services.
- Property maintenance and infrastructure needs across residential settings.

Priorities for 2025-2026

- Continue strengthening culturally grounded and clinical care through a Two-Eyed Seeing lens.
- Improve documentation and data collection to better understand trends and outcomes.
- Invest in staff development, supervision, and training.
- Expand outreach, aftercare, and youth-centred access to services.
- Build stronger systems, facilities, and partnerships to support long-term organizational sustainability

Thank you

Neecheewam's work is made possible by youth, families, staff, Elders, funders, community partners, and supporters who continue to believe in healing, safety, and the strength of community.

