



2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT





**Cherylee Bourgeois, RM,
President**

Joint Message from the Board President and the Executive Director

It's hard to believe that the Toronto Birth Centre is 5 years old! The vision for the Toronto Birth Centre grew into its current form rooted in the hard work and experiences of Indigenous peoples and the midwifery community - a shared commitment to creating a learning and birthing space focused on access for communities experiencing the greatest barriers accessing culturally safe healthcare. It is extremely meaningful to be able to work with the 11 midwifery practice groups to welcome new life coming in through the eastern door of the spirit world into the physical world, while recognizing birth as a sacred ceremony for birth parents, family and community. We have had the honour of hosting space to celebrate the joy of the 1,848 babies that have come been born at TBC since opening and the many more who have spent time labouring here. We have worked very hard to cultivate a space where identities are grounded in the land, where community includes a feeling of belonging and caring, and the freedom to practice cultural and ceremonial traditions is centred.



**Roberta Pike, MSW
Executive Director**

It takes an incredible amount of loving commitment to maintain both the physical space and the Indigenous Framework of the TBC and it could not be done without the staff and midwives. This year we want to acknowledge the Birth Centre Aides in particular, who answer the call of midwives at all hours of the day and night, are always ready to step up to any task put before them and approach their work with incredible professionalism that makes attending births at the TBC an enormous privilege. We also want to express our respect and appreciation to the midwives from across the city who accompany their clients in labour at the TBC, serve on committees, and regularly bring life into the education space. We are so thankful for the TBC community.

This past year, we have supported the pre and post-natal journeys of Indigenous families through our partnership with Seventh Generation Midwives of Toronto's Baby Bundle Project. TBC, alongside multiple agencies across Toronto, signed onto the Baby Bundle Project's Birth Accord, an agreement intended to demonstrate commitment to integrating services across the community to support safe, thriving, healthy and strong Indigenous families. TBC is happy to be the location of the weekly BBP Generations Group.

An important moment this year, which must be mentioned was when TBC came full circle and held a ceremony to commemorate the Three Sisters Birth Accord with partners Women's College Hospital and Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto. This document was critical in recognizing the long standing, reciprocal and mutually beneficial relationships between our three organizations, with the signing being symbolized through 3 starblankets all with the image of the Three Sisters - corn, beans and squash, emblazoned in the centre of the quilt.

As we move through another cycle of seasons, we remain committed to continued growth and development as we strive to best serve the Indigenous and midwifery communities.

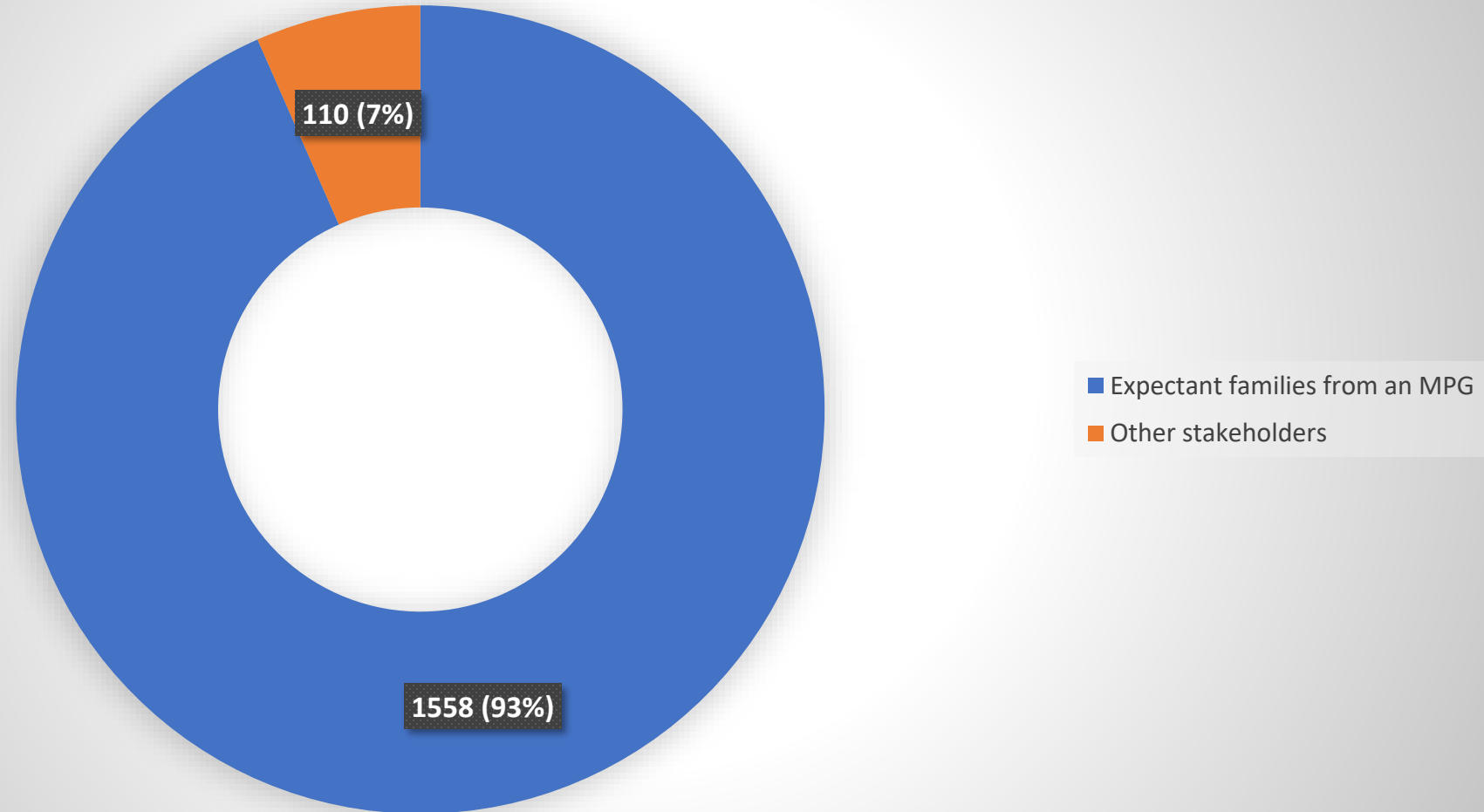
Hiy Hiy! Miigwetch!



Clinical Program

Tours

Who toured TBC



1668 people toured the TBC in 2018-19

Client Feedback

- “The environment that was so welcoming to me and my family, safe, cheerful and positive. I loved the privacy and quiet, as well as the knowledge ability of all the staff and midwives.”
- “Warm welcoming environment with a focus on comfort for everyone attending a birth. Having so many options available for during labour was wonderful. The family oriented environment that was welcoming and inclusive for my LGBT+ family was especially important and positive for us.”
- “Knowing that there were so many tools available for me to utilize that would aid my comfort during labour and birth (birthing tub, rebozo, sling, ball, etc.) My birth wish was to have a water birth and I was able to do so in a very wonderful atmosphere at the TBC”
- “The space itself, the feeling that it was inclusive and a safe and positive place to give birth”

Clients Admitted in Labour

608

A large, vibrant sunflower with yellow and orange petals and a dark brown center is the central focus. The number '608' is printed in white, bold font directly over the center of the flower. The background shows a clear blue sky, green foliage, and a brick building in the distance.

Births this year at TBC

447 Births

51
birthed for a Second
time at TBC

90 Waterbirths

PARITY OF people who gave BIRTH: (as a % of Admissions)



Primips:
(first birth)
374 (61.5%)



Multips:
(one or more prior vaginal birth)
218 (35.9%)



Multiparous with prior C/S:
(one or more prior birth, including Caesarean)
16 (2.6%)



**SINCE
OPENING**



1 8 4 8

B A B I E S

B O R N H E R E



6.44 hours
= average
total stay

443
(23.4%)
water
births





99.6% of babies had skin-to-skin contact with a parent before leaving TBC

(89.7% of births where there was a transport to hospital)

Breast/Chest Feeding

94.7% of babies born at TBC latched
before leaving

3.1 % had no opportunity
due to transport

1.9 % couldn't achieve latch

0.3 % of parents declined to
breast/chestfeed



2467 Admissions

(% of all admissions)

1849 (75%)

Births

618 (25.1%)

Intrapartum
Transport

1710 (69.3%)

No Transport

87 (3.5%)

Postpartum*
Transport

58 (2.4%)

Newborn*
Transport

84.5%
by private
vehicle

15.5%
by
ambulance

27.6%
by private
vehicle

72.4%
by
ambulance

53.4%
by private
vehicle

46.6%
by
ambulance

Most common reasons for transport

Intrapartum Transport

Postpartum Transport

Newborn Transport*

Non-
progressive 1st
stage of labour

Presence of
meconium

Postpartum
Hemorrhage

Laceration
greater than
second degree

Respiratory
distress

Small for
gestational
age

Transports

January 30, 2014 – March 31,
2019

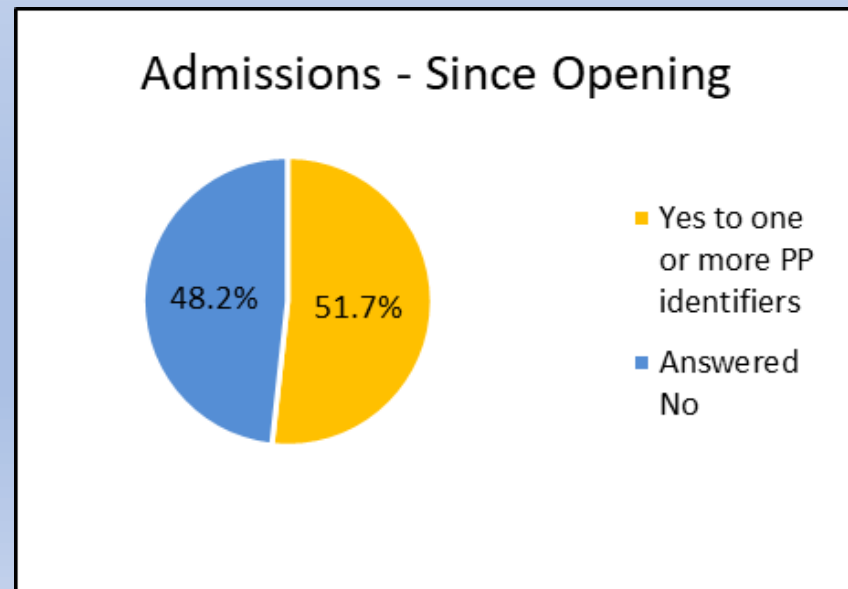
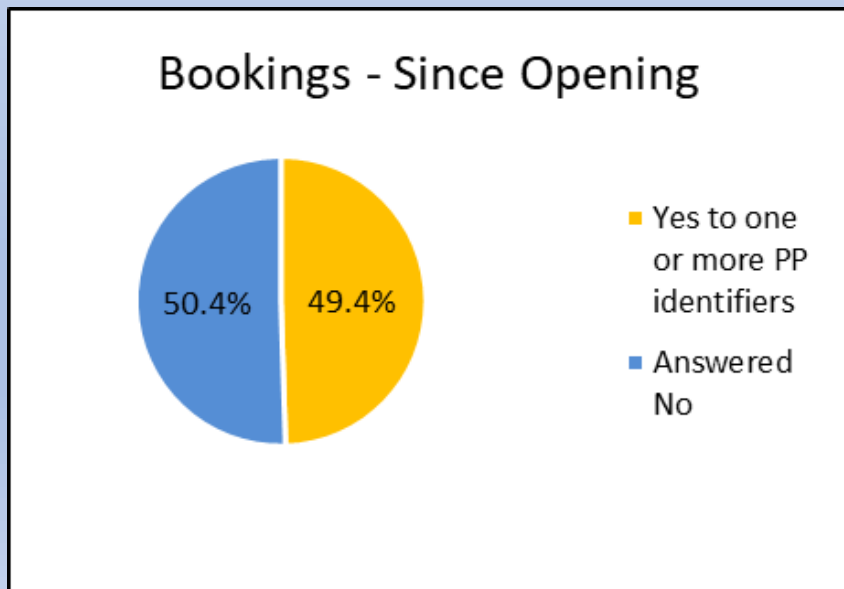
- 30.9% of people admitted to TBC experience transport to a hospital. This is in line with the Association of Ontario Midwives statistics for transports from home births.
- 75.6% of all transports were non-urgent transports to hospital by private vehicle.
- 5.6% of transports went to St. Michael's Hospital, as the closest to TBC, with midwives who do not hold privileges there
- <1% of transports went to Sick Kids Hospital

*On occasion, parent and newborn may both require transport. This may be in the same or separate vehicles.

Access and Equity

The Toronto Birth Centre has set a mandate to prioritize access for communities that experience barriers to adequate health care. Clients can choose to self-identify as members of one or more Priority Populations (PP).

TBC continued this year to explore our understandings of access and equity, and to work towards changing our booking process to better enact our Indigenous Framework and core values of Self-Determination, Equity, Dignity and Justice.



Modes of birth for all clients admitted to TBC since opening:

MODE OF DELIVERY				
TBC Admissions:	Total	Total Nullip	Total Multip, No prior C/S	Total Multip, with prior C/S
	2467	1504	907	56
Spontaneous vaginal births - TOTAL	2211	1272	893	46
% of admissions	89.6%	84.6%	98.5%	82.1%
Spontaneous vaginal births - at TBC	1849	981	829	39
% of admissions	74.9%	65.2%	91.4%	69.6%
Spontaneous vaginal births - in hospital	362	291	64	7
% of admissions	14.7%	19.3%	7.1%	12.5%
Vacuum births	68	62	6	0
% of admissions	2.8%	4.1%	0.7%	0.0%
Forceps births	41	41	0	0
% of admissions	1.7%	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Caesarean births	146	128	8	10
% of admissions	5.9%	8.5%	0.9%	17.9%
Missing data	1	1	0	0
% of admissions	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%

Partnerships and Relationship Development



Partnerships

Seventh Generation Midwives
Toronto and Women's College
Hospital-**Three Sisters Accord**

Seventh Generation Midwives
Toronto-**Baby Bundle Program**

Dr. Janice Wu, ND -Various **Lunch
and Learn** sessions on
Naturopathic Medicine

Relationships

Planned Parenthood ~ Tours twice a year for PPT volunteers usually around 25 new volunteers per year.

Dyke March~ participation in the march

Parkdale Community Health Centre's Prenatal Mom's group ~ presentations on TBC

Jessies ~ Tours for Prenatal program; tours for our IPE & MEP programs
14th Annual Strawberry Ceremony ~ Tobacco ties workshop+ attending
2 High school tours and 2 high school presentations
CRC community garden

Info Tables at:

- NaMeRes /Fort York Pow-wow
- First Nations school, Eastview Public School
- NCCT Dundas square Indigenous awareness month
- World Indigenous Games
- Taste Of Regent Park

11 requests for care (late to care or required assistance with service navigation) were received by our ICEC worker, of which 7 found care.

Baby Bundle Project- Affiliated Agencies Accord

TBC along with numerous other agencies signed the accord on Thursday November 22, 2018.

The Accord maps out a shared vision of service integration so that Indigenous families have everything they need to be safe, thriving, healthy and strong.

The Accord is prominently posted in the entryway at TBC.





THE THREE SISTERS BIRTH ACCORD

Memorandum of Understanding
between the Toronto Birth Centre,
Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto
and Women's College Hospital.

Ceremony was held on September 26,
2018 at the Toronto Birth Centre.

The Three Sisters image was designed by Hannah Schreck for a Midwifery student event. She has generously provided consent for TBC to use this image in conjunction with the Birth Accord.



These infant sized star quilts were created by Nancy Johnson- a member of Caldwell First Nation – to commemorate the partnership (or treaty) of the three organizations and the commitment they made to an ongoing long-term relationship that upholds values of cooperation, mutual benefit, and reciprocity.

Left to Right: Jennifer Dockery, RN, BScN, MHSc, Women’s College Hospital (WCH); Cherylee Bourgeois, RM, Toronto Birth Centre (TBC); and Sara Wolfe, RM, MBA, Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto (SGMT)

Toronto Birth Centre

TBC is represented by
Squash; the youngest of
the three sisters.

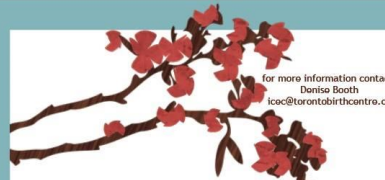


A close-up photograph of a field of blue cornflowers. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some fully open and others as buds. A bee is visible on one of the central flowers, collecting nectar. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a healthy garden or field.

Community Outreach and Activities

Outreach, Events & Programs




for more information contact:
Denise Booth
icec@torontobirthcentre.ca

Moonstration Workshops


Everyone welcome
Friday January 5, 12 and 19, 2018

1:00pm to 3:00pm
Soup and snacks provided
Toronto Birth Centre
2nd Floor Classroom
525 Dundas St. East, Toronto, ON

Topics include:
Menstrual health 101
Decolonizing Body Literacy
Introduction to Fertility Awareness




Everyone Welcome
Moonstration Workshop:
Menstrual Health 101




Friday, October 26th, 2018
1:30 - 3:30pm

Toronto Birth Centre
2nd Floor Classroom
525 Dundas Street East
Soup and Snacks provided
For more information contact
Denise Booth, icec@torontobirthcentre.ca



*Credit to R.J. Jones, "Decolonized Divine Cup"

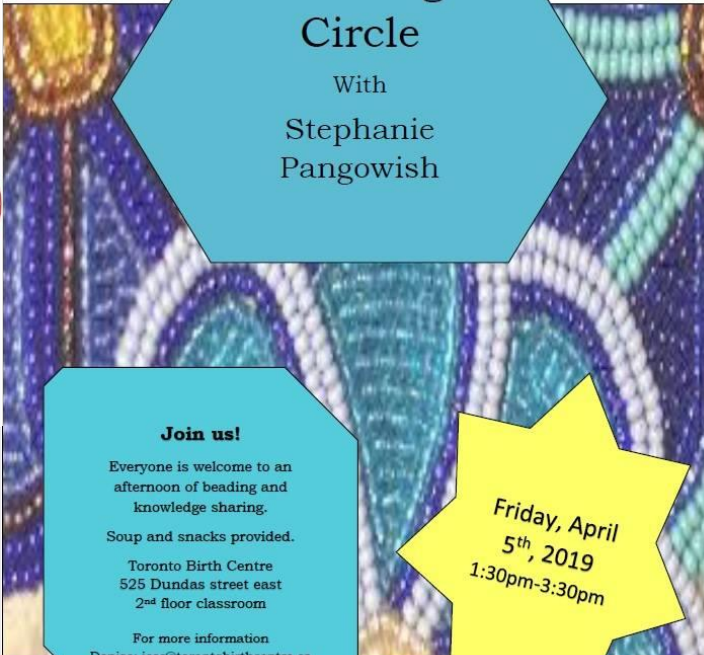



Beading Circle

With
Stephanie Pangowish

Join us!
Everyone is welcome to an afternoon of beading and knowledge sharing.
Soup and snacks provided.
Toronto Birth Centre
525 Dundas street east
2nd floor classroom
For more information
Denise: icec@torontobirthcentre.ca

Friday, April 5th, 2019
1:30pm-3:30pm

TORONTO BIRTH CENTRE'S STUDENT TEAM PRESENTS

MEDICINE BAG MAKING

Enjoy a free evening of crafting and conversation! Tacos and snacks provided. Everyone is welcome!

WEDNESDAY MARCH 13TH
525 DUNDAS ST E, 2ND FLOOR. 6PM TO 8PM
To Register or for more information, email:
icec@torontobirthcentre.ca


Please Join Us!!

Birth & Placenta Teachings

With Heather Chijiinweh

Friday September 28, 2018
1:00PM- 3:00PM
TBC Classroom 2nd floor
525 Dundas St. East
Toronto, ON M5A 2B6

Everyone welcome to share in an afternoon of learning traditional knowledge surrounding Anishinaabe Birth and Placenta teachings.
For more information and to register



Women's Teachings

With Vivian Recollet

Friday November 16th, 2018
1:30PM to 3:30pm
TBC Classroom
525 Dundas Street East, 2nd floor

Please Join Us!!
Everyone is welcome to attend an afternoon of knowledge sharing and learning.
Soup and snacks will be available
Babies, toddlers and children welcome to attend,
if you have contact
torontobirthcentre.ca

BABY BUNDLE PROJECT

RIBBON SKIRT WORKSHOP

April 30 - May 7 - May 14
11am-2pm
Toronto Birth Centre, 2nd Floor
525 Dundas St E, Toronto, ON



The Generations Group will be holding a Ribbon Skirt making workshop. Attendance at all three dates are required to complete one ribbon skirt. All materials will be provided free of charge. Snacks and a light lunch will be served.
Please RSVP with Koraeton to reserve your spot.
Koraeton-Bergeson @ 416-230-7468
kbergeson@tbc.ca

Open event for all friends, family, and community members.
Food - Teachings - Crafts - Friends





Rattle Making

With Kevin Myran

Please join us!
4:00pm to 6:00pm
TBC Classroom
2ND Floor
525 Dundas Street East
Light Refreshments provided

Limited Space Available
Two different workshop dates available!
Wednesday
March 27th
April 10th
Please register with Denise
icec@torontobirthcentre.ca






Education at TBC

The TBC has contracts with 3 Midwifery Education Programs (MEPs) - Laurentian, McMaster, and Ryerson Universities.

For a second year, TBC offered inter-professional placements from Sept-April for Nursing, Nutrition and Social Work programs (students in the front row).

TBC entered into a one-time agreement with George Brown College for a placement for a first-year Indigenous student enrolled in the Social Service Worker program.

TBC also offered for the second year a community placement for U of T Medical students.

51% of all admissions involved students

251 admissions attended by **1** student

63 admissions attended by **2+** students

Education at TBC

25 admissions included students placed at TBC

58 admissions included students identified as Indigenous

7 admissions included First-year Midwifery students

4 admissions included non-midwifery students



Financial Information

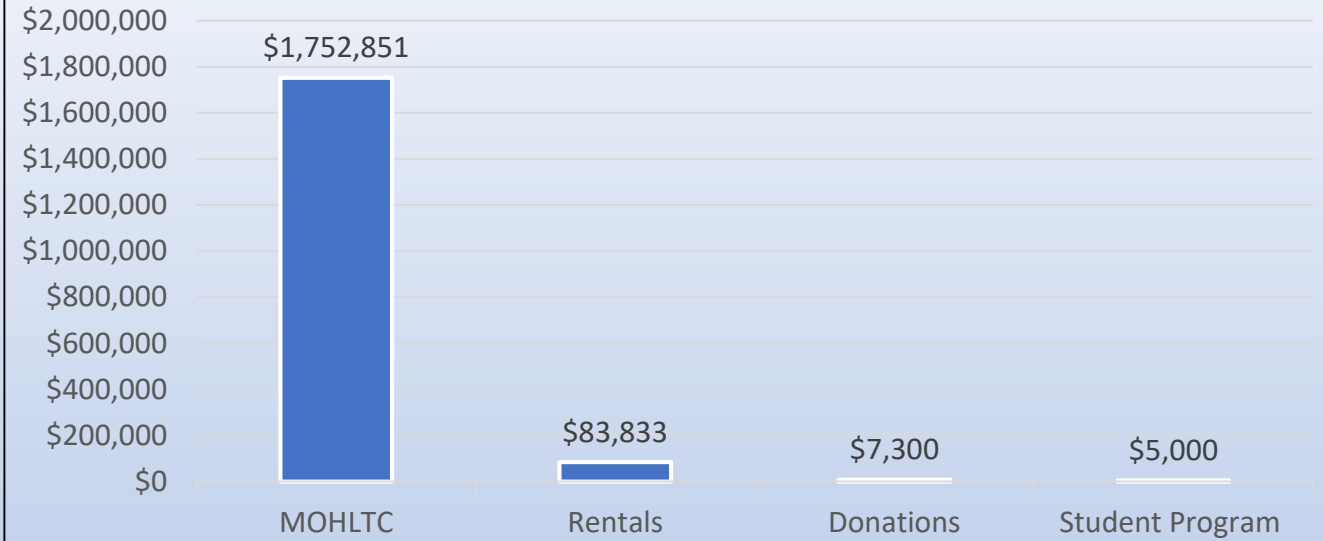
Financial statements for the 2018-19 fiscal year have been audited by Norton McMullen, LLP.

The following slides are summary excerpts from the audited financial statements.

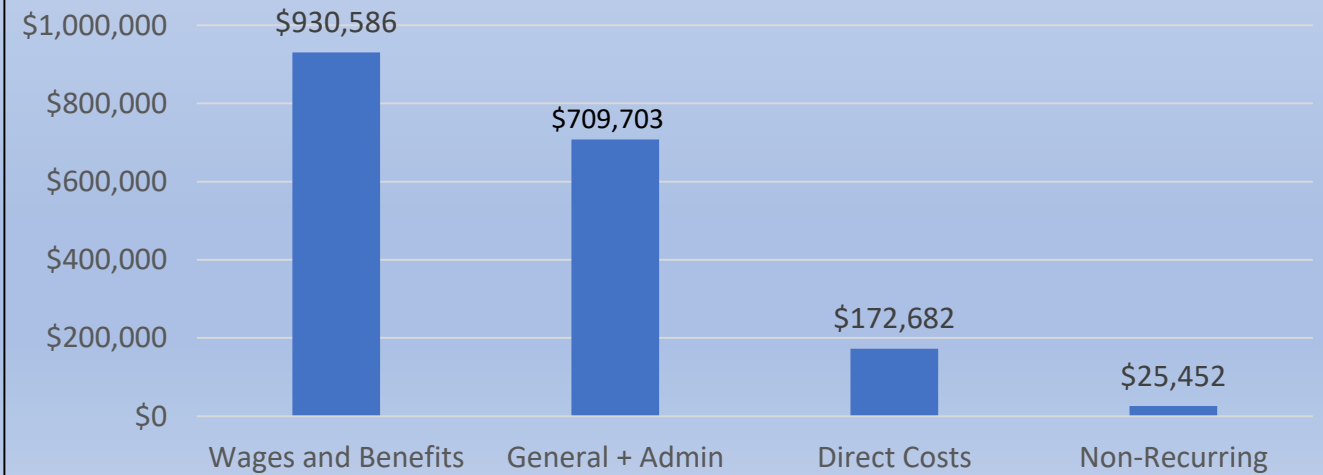
If you would like to request a copy of the complete and approved TBC audited financial statements, please contact Cheryl Creighton at: admin@torontobirthcentre.ca .

Financial Summary

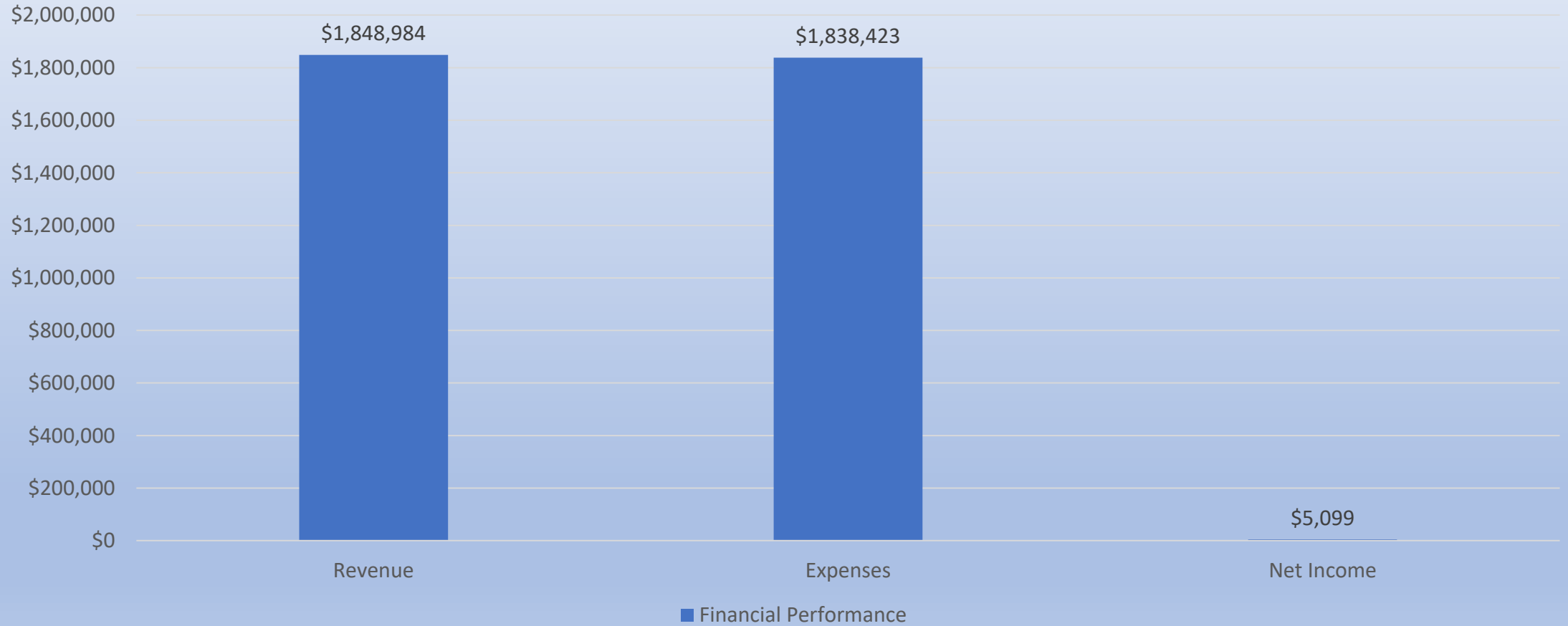
Where it comes from



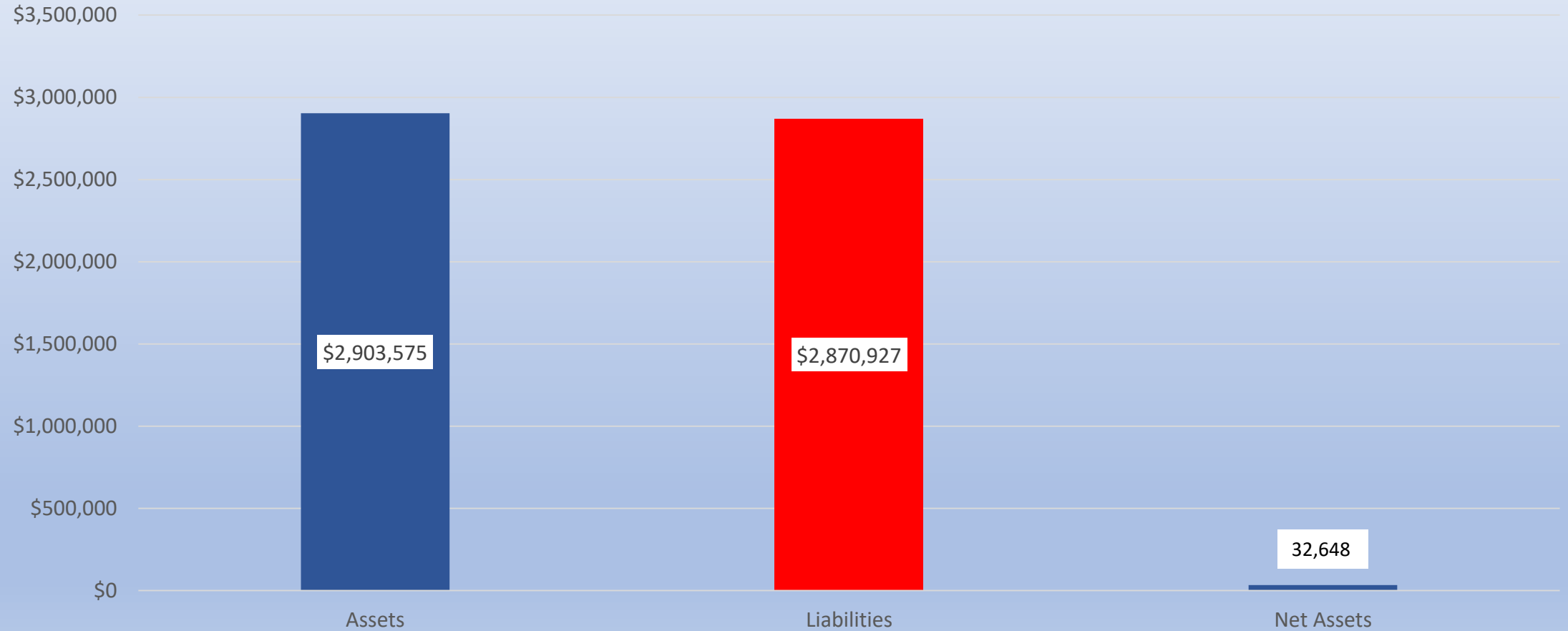
Where it is spent



Financial Performance



Financial Position





TBC Staff

Executive Director: Roberta Pike, MSW

Clinical Director: Sara Booth, RM

Office Manager: Cheryl Creighton

Clinical Administrative Assistant: Celia Su

Indigenous Community Engagement Coordinator: Denise Booth

Data Analyst/Database Administrator: Monica Mitchell-Taylor

Head Birth Centre Aide: Tamara Sanchez

Birth Centre Aides: Asinkwe Aicken; Marixa Alva Roncal; Cameron MacIntyre; Victoria Manitowabi; Kandace Price, Hannah Schreck; Barbara Schreck; Evan Noodin Smith; and Cassandra Thompson

Mukwa Babaamose: Shen Roberts

Governance and Committees

TBC's Board of Directors:

Ellen Blais, A.M., Director; Cheryllee Bourgeois, R.M. (President) ; Aimée Carbonneau, R.M. (Secretary/Treasurer)
Kristen Dennis, R.M., Director; Jennifer Dockery, Director (Women's College Hospital); Andrea Luciuk, R.M., Director;
Jay McGillivray, R.M., Director; Monica McKay, Director; and Kimberley Orton, R.M., Director.

Community Council:

Co-chairs: Shannon Simpson and Rochelle Allan; Krysta Williams; Nicole Penak; Faith Wraith; Nadya Burton; Natalie Lucas; Rebecca Beaulne-Stuebing; Melissa Stevenson.

Quality Advisory Committee

Sara Booth, RM - Quality Advisor : Sara Wolfe, RM; Sophie Roher, PhD (cand); Dione Amsterdam, RM ;Elizabeth Redmond, RPM; Jennifer Gilbert, BA, MA; Dr. Elin Raymond, OB-GYN; Katelyn Blascik, RM; Kimberley Orton, RM; Tiffany Fung, RM.

Midwives Council:

Co-chairs: Sara Chambers, RM (Kensington Midwives) and Sarah Davies, RM (The Midwives Clinic of East York-Don Mills)

Indigenous Seats (Shared): Chrissy Neilson, RM; Rocio Guzman Velasquez, RM; Odaemin McKay-Loescher, RM—Seventh Generation Midwives of Toronto

Alusha Morris, RM—Community Midwives of Toronto

Fariba Shodjaie, RM—Community Midwives of Toronto

Alexandra Nikitakis, RM—Diversity Midwives

Tama Cross, RM—Diversity Midwives

Jennifer Brewer, RM—Kensington Midwives

Noelia Greizerstein, RM — Kensington Midwives

Sheezeen Suleman, RM - MATCH

Jenna Bly, RM- MATCH

Anita Bright, RM—Midwife Alliance

Tara Wodelet, RM—Midwife Alliance

Sarilyn Zimmerman, RM—The Midwives Clinic of East York-Don Mills

Ness Dixon, RM-The Midwives Clinic of East York-Don Mills

Nimerta Dhami, RM—Midwives Collective of Toronto

Noushin Shameli , RM and Zuzanna Betkova, Midwives Collective of Toronto

Sabina Fella, RM—Riverdale Community Midwives

Tia Sarkar, RM—Riverdale Community Midwives

Leah Crawford, RM—Seventh Generation Midwives of Toronto

Kathleen Babe, RM—Seventh Generation Midwives of Toronto

Brecia Nember-Reid, RM- Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto

Fang Yu, RM and Yanxiang Gao, RM, -Trillium Midwives

Miigwetch!! Thank You

