

2017-18

Annual Report

Toronto
Birth
Centre



Joint Message

Cherylee Bourgeois, President

Roberta Pike, Executive Director



This past fiscal year was a fabulous year for the Toronto Birth Centre. Our clinical program surpassed our target number of admissions funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care at 105%. This is with a new 2017-18 target of 525 admissions! We project that we will continue to see a high demand for bookings at TBC.

The eyes of the midwifery world were on TBC in the summer of 2017 with midwives from various countries squeezing in a visit at TBC during the International Congress of Midwives in June. We were very pleased to partner with NACM to host a feast in honour of all the Indigenous midwives attending ICM for an evening of knowledge exchange, comradery and good food.

During our tours with midwives I (Roberta) learned a lot about the struggles in the recognition of midwifery as a profession in many countries and the importance of emergency skills in developing countries. All visitors were blown away with the Birth Centre and TBC staff felt truly humbled by their stories. We are appreciative of the Indigenous Framework and the approach TBC takes to better support access to equity populations residing in Toronto-take a look at our world cloud on page 17 for more information on who books at TBC.



This past year, the TBC has come into its own as a provider of educational, learning and developmental opportunities. In addition to the regular educational opportunities for midwifery students, TBC partnered to offer training for midwives on topics ranging from Indigenous cultural safety to naloxone training. In conjunction with

the Native Youth Sexual Health Network, we were able to offer an awesome series of workshops on menstrual health, decolonizing body literacy and introduction to fertility awareness. TBC partnered with Ryerson to offer Interprofessional placements to Social Work, Midwifery, Nursing and Nutrition students with plans to continue to provide a place of learning across disciplines. TBC also collaborates with Seventh Generation Midwives Toronto in the provision of the Baby Bundle Project's Generations Group on Mondays.

We look forward to the coming year at TBC and actively participating in community and midwifery growth! We are grateful to everyone who contributes to the ongoing success of the Toronto Birth Centre.

Clinical Program

2017-2018

Tours

1 458 people toured the birthing space from April 2017– March 2018

1 288 (88.3%) were pregnant people with an affiliated midwifery practice and their families.

139 (9.5%) of tour participants were expectant families without a midwife

31 (2.1%) of tour participants were non-expectant students, visiting midwives, doulas, and health care providers

The Midwifery Practice Groups renting classroom space for their prenatal classes offer their class participants a tour of the birth centre. There are an estimated 260-360 additional tours being provided by midwives teaching these private classes.



CLIENT FEEDBACK

“Did not feel clinical. Birth felt like a safe experience or ceremony and not like a 'procedure'”

“I love that my children were able to join us . . . My kids were comfortable and were even able to nap on the couches. It was priceless to have them there when the baby came to the world.”

“The space is magnetic for a pregnant person: very modern, gives one the sense of being very safe and comfortable, and you immediately understand you are being taken care of at a facility that is welcoming and supportive.”

Common words to describe the birth centre include: calm, comfort, home-like, private, support, clean, sacred, beautiful. . .

Feedback sourced from the Client Experience Survey, a voluntary survey offered to clients after their discharge from TBC

Clinical Program

2017-2018



544

Clients admitted in labour

415 births

Parity

of 415 births this fiscal year



Nulliparous (first birth):

217 (52.3%)



Multiparous

one or more prior vaginal births:

192 (47.3%)



Multiparous

vaginal birth after caesarean (VBAC):

6 (1.4%)

96
(23%)
water births

56
(13.5%)
clients delivered at
TBC a 2nd time!

*One client delivered at TBC
for a 3rd time!*

Clinical Program

January 2014-March 2018



1 4 0 1
B A B I E S
B O R N H E R E

... by the numbers

6.5 hours
Average total stay

343 (25%)
water births

94%

latched baby at the breast/chest
within 2 hours of birth

<0.5% declined to breast/chestfeed

(53% of births with transport latched
before leaving TBC)

99.3%

Of babies had skin-to-skin contact
with a parent before leaving TBC

(92% of births with transport)

90 (6.4%)

Subsequent births at TBC

88 clients gave birth twice at TBC
1 client has given birth 3 times at

Clinical Program

January 2014-March 2018

Transports from TBC

1859 Admissions
(% of all admissions)

1401 (75.4%)
Births

458 (24.6%)
Intrapartum Transport

1290 (69.4%)
No Transport

67 (3.6%)
Postpartum Transport

49 (2.6%)
Newborn Transport

85.4%
by private vehicle

14.6%
by ambulance

25.4%
by private vehicle

74.6%
by ambulance

49%
by private vehicle

51%
by ambulance

75.3% of all transports from TBC were non-urgent transports to hospital by private vehicle

5.4% of transports went to St. Michael's Hospital with midwives without hospital privileges and

1% of newborn transports went to Sick Kids Hospital

Common reasons for transport

Intrapartum Transport

Postpartum Transport

Newborn Transport

Non-progressive labour

Presence of meconium

Postpartum Hemorrhage

Laceration >2nd degree

Respiratory distress

Small for gestational age

Mode of Delivery

Birth outcomes after admission to TBC

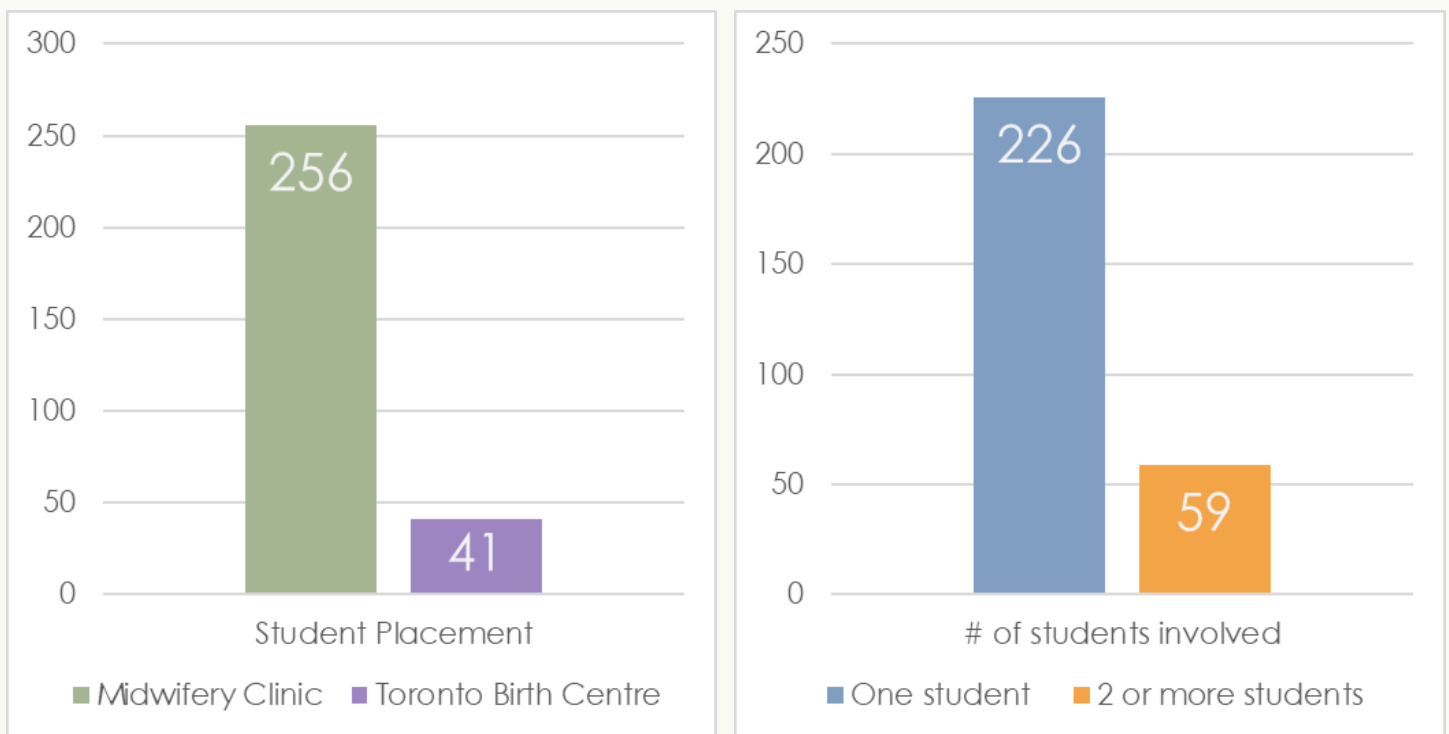
TBC Admissions:	Total	Total Nullip	Total Multip, No prior C/S	Total Multip, with prior C/S
	1859	1131	688	40
Spontaneous vaginal births - TOTAL % of admissions	1675 90.1%	969 85.7%	675 98.1%	31 77.5%
Spontaneous vaginal births - at TBC % of admissions	1401 75.4%	751 66.4%	626 91.0%	24 60.0%
Spontaneous vaginal births - in hospital % of admissions	274 14.7%	218 19.3%	49 7.1%	7 17.5%
Vacuum births % of admissions	44 2.4%	38 3.4%	6 0.9%	0 0.0%
Forceps births % of admissions	30 1.6%	30 2.7%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
Caesarean births % of admissions	103 5.5%	89 7.9%	6 0.9%	8 20.0%
Missing data % of admissions	6 0.3%	4 0.4%	1 0.1%	1 2.5%

Education at TBC

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

In addition to TBC and MPG placement students from these MEP programs, TBC also offered inter-professional placements for the first time in 2017-18.

285 admissions had student involvement this year.



23 students identified as Indigenous to Turtle Island/Canada.

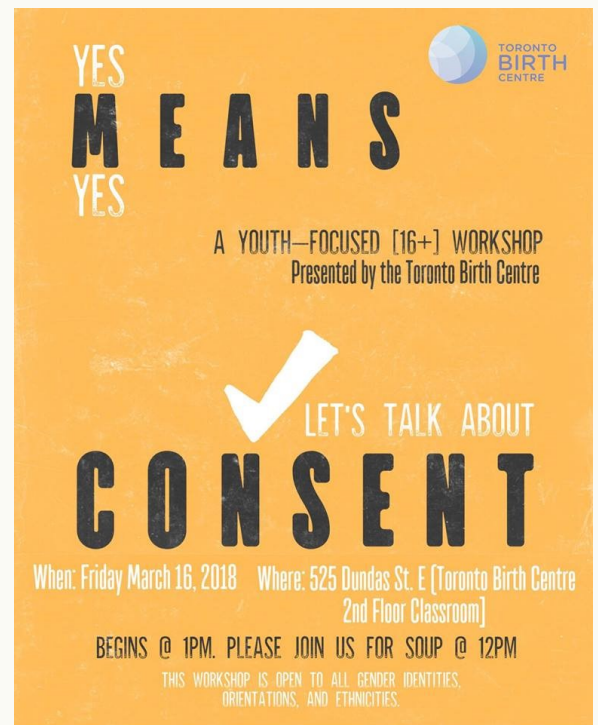
Outreach, Events and Programs

Midwife workshops throughout the year have included:

- Female Genital Cutting: Clinical Tips and Cultural Awareness
- Anti-Oppression Series(3)
- Opioids, Fentanyl and Naloxone Considerations for Practice

Other events included:

- Moccasin making
- Moonstration Series (3)
- Crochet and Knitting
- Biindige A'Maazo
- Ojibwe Playgroup
- Consent Workshop for Youth



31

Requests for Care

International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) 31st Triennial Congress - Toronto, 2017



This batik was handmade in Guatemala and given to the TBC by **Indigenous Midwives**.

It takes pride of place near the front desk of the birthing space.

A record of more than 4,000 midwives, partners, stakeholders in midwifery and civil society organizations attended the Congress. This is the only platform which gather a large number of midwives at the same place to discuss, strategize, share experience and present findings on midwife-issues.—ICM

Toronto Birth Centre took part in the congress calendar of events by:

- Offering guided tours of the Birth Centre throughout the day on the 21st of June for 40 people.
- Inviting Indigenous Midwives to the birth centre, to knowledge share, feast and honour them.
- Hosting a poster presentation in the exhibit area at the congress.

TBC was a popular destination before, during and after the congress & not just on the 'official' day of tours. We estimate approximately 1000 midwives toured our space-in addition to the numbers of regular tours listed on page 2.



1000 BIRTHS

In May 2017, the 1000th baby was born at TBC. We celebrated with an open house event for midwives and community to reflect on our achievements to date.

We have replaced the first group of ribbons from the ribbon tree with a large ribbon on the trunk of the tree to commemorate these first 1000 births.

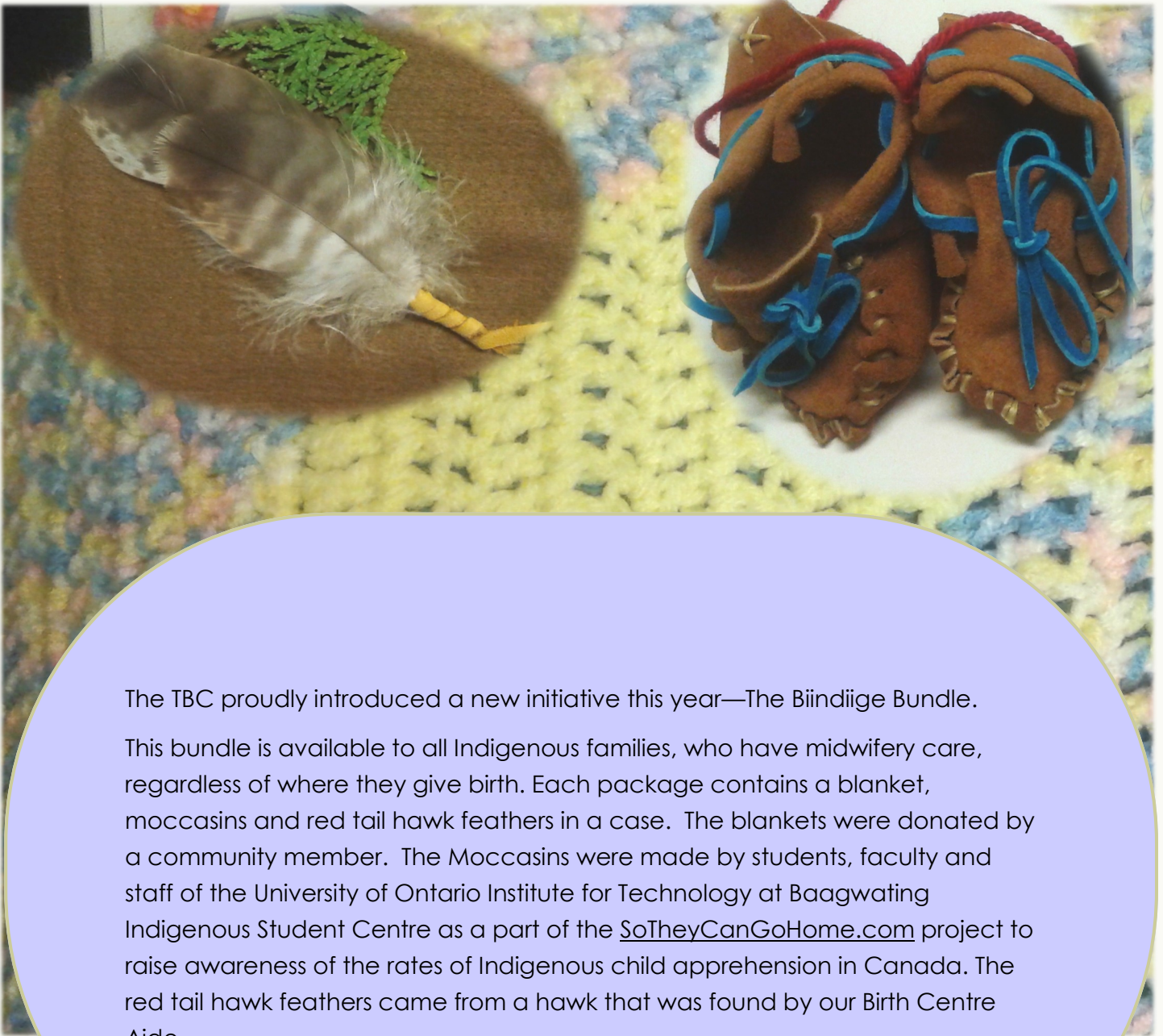
The first ribbons were saved, woven into patchwork squares, and will become an art installation in the birthing space.



In June, a Red Tail Hawk was found outside the birthing centre by our Head Birth Centre Aide. TBC staff along with a Knowledge Keeper honoured this hawk in a good way and cleaned the bird to use as many parts as we could. Its feathers are in use at the TBC and now part of a baby bundle that is offered to Indigenous babies born with the help of midwives in the community.



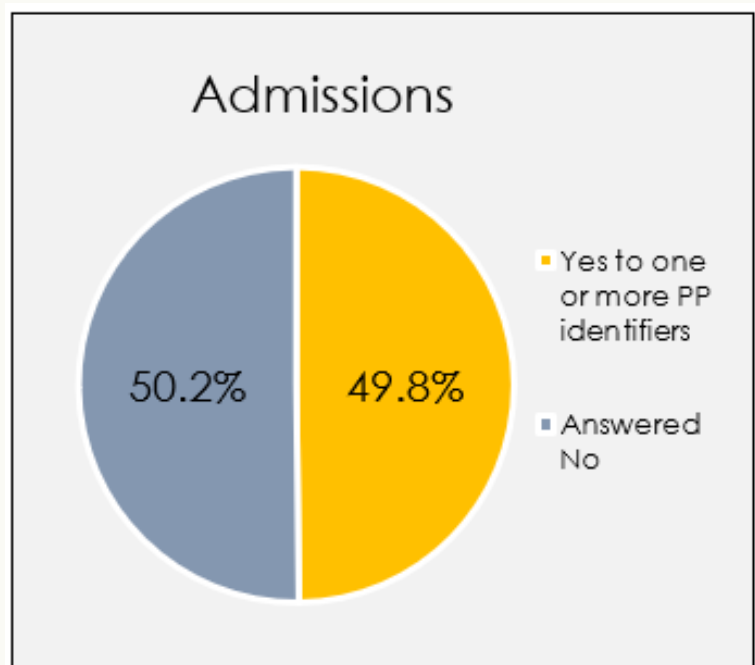
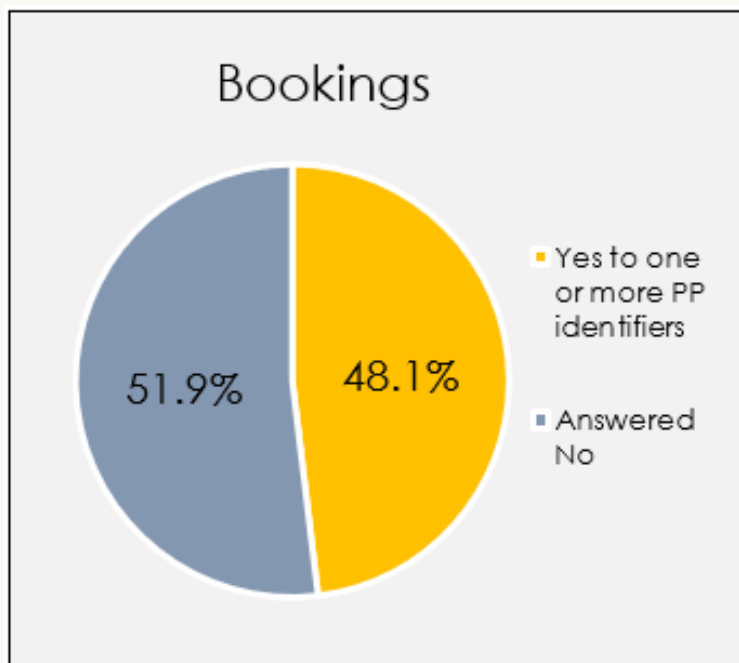
Biindiige Bundle (Welcome Bundle)



The TBC proudly introduced a new initiative this year—The Biindiige Bundle. This bundle is available to all Indigenous families, who have midwifery care, regardless of where they give birth. Each package contains a blanket, moccasins and red tail hawk feathers in a case. The blankets were donated by a community member. The Moccasins were made by students, faculty and staff of the University of Ontario Institute for Technology at Baagwating Indigenous Student Centre as a part of the SoTheyCanGoHome.com project to raise awareness of the rates of Indigenous child apprehension in Canada. The red tail hawk feathers came from a hawk that was found by our Birth Centre Aide.

Access and Equity

The Toronto Birth Centre has set a mandate to assist in prioritizing access to communities that experience barriers to adequate health care. Clients are offered an opportunity to discuss these barriers with their midwife, and can choose to self-identify as a priority population on the TBC booking form.



Clients may self identify as a member of one or more priority populations:

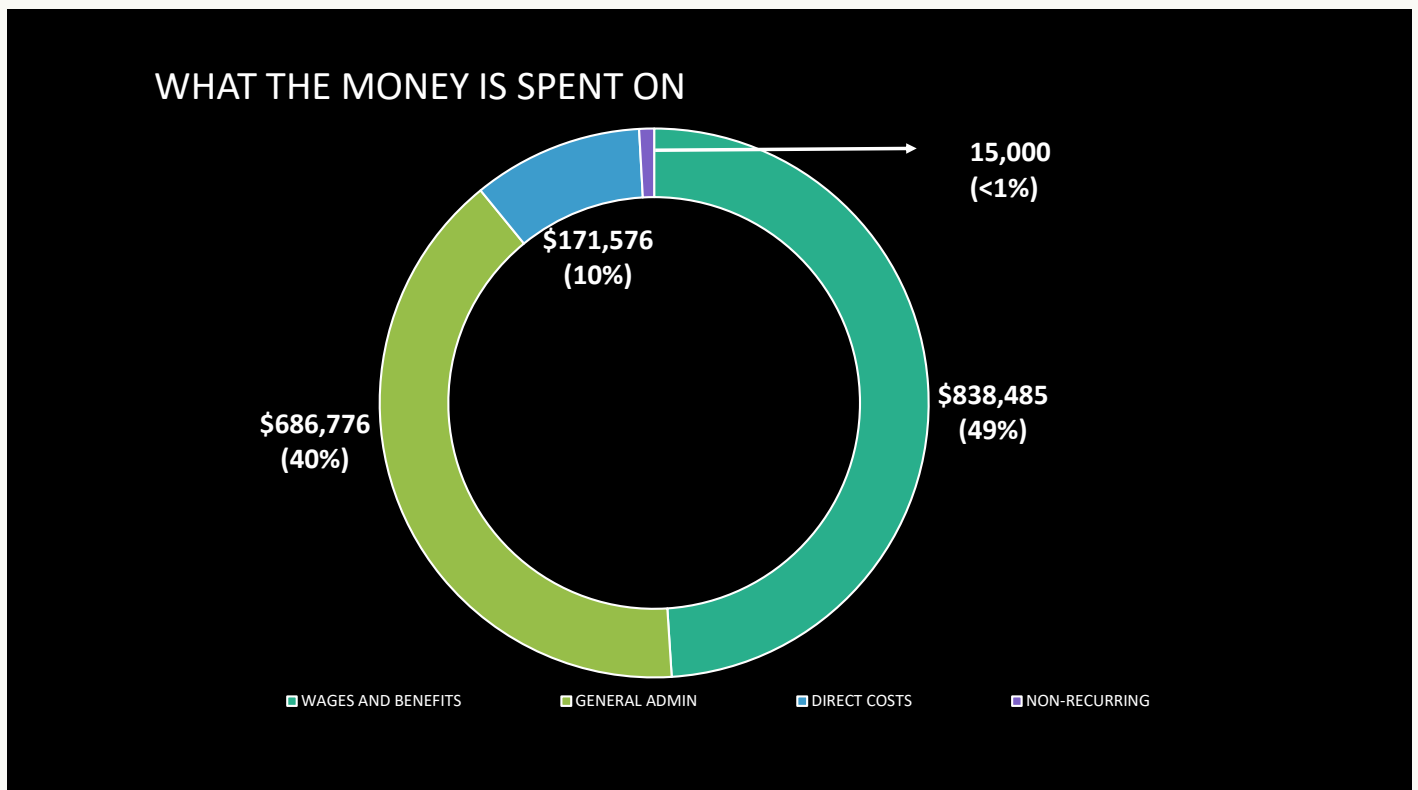
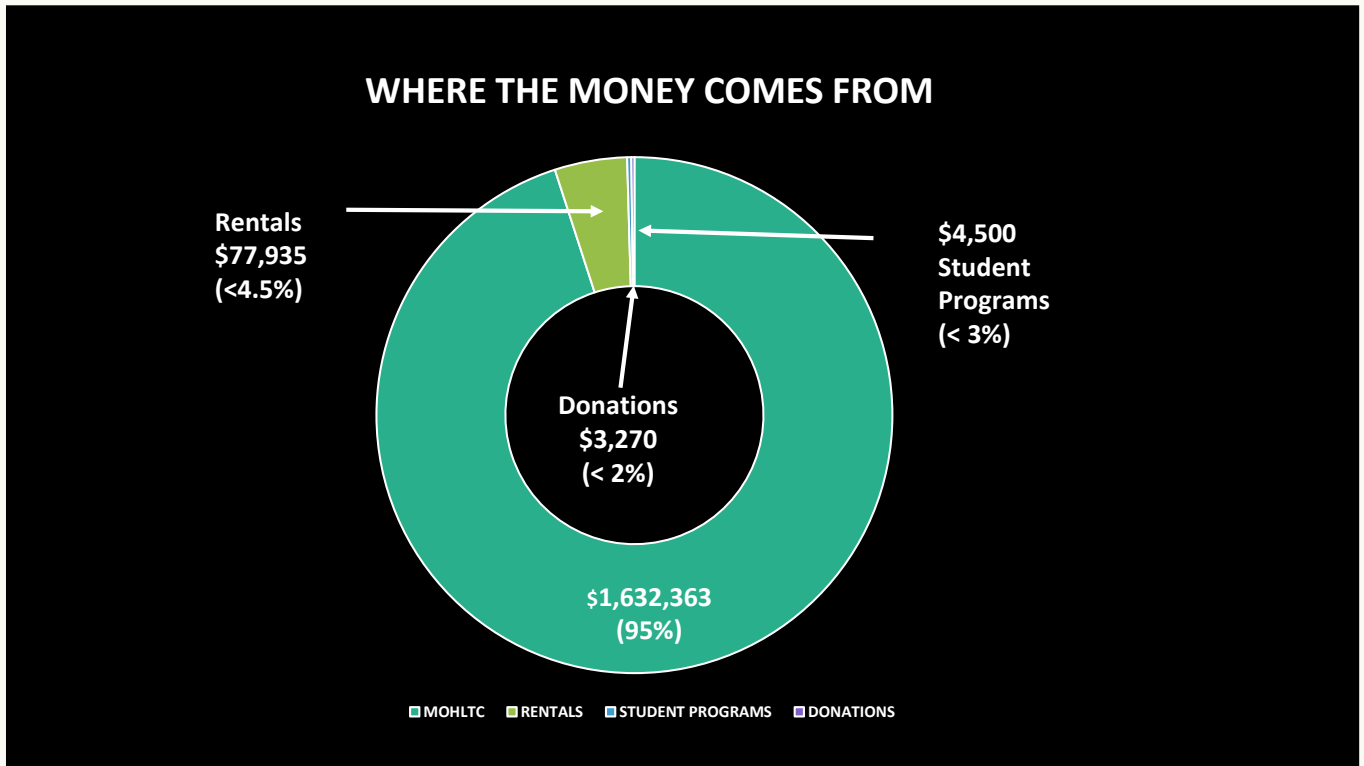


*word cloud represents the priority populations identified among clients booked at TBC.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

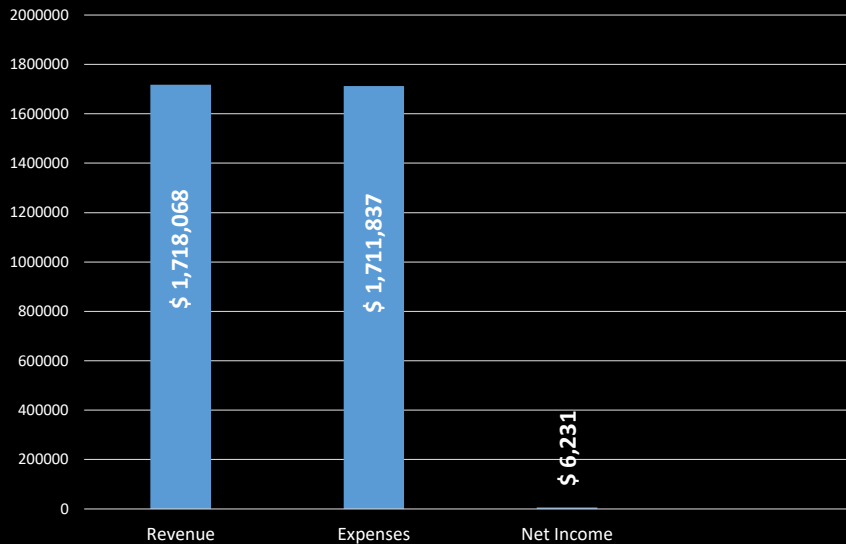
Financial Statements for the 2017-18 fiscal year have been audited by Norton McMullen, LLP. The following financial summary is an excerpt from the audited financial statements. If you would like to request a copy of the complete and approved TBC audited financial statements, please contact Cheryl Creighton at: admin@torontobirthcentre.ca.

Financial Summary

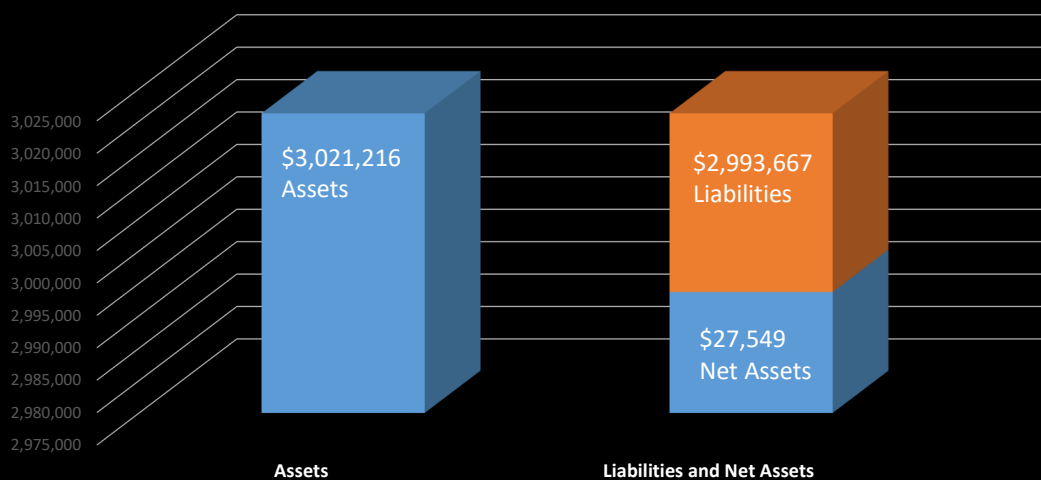


Financial Summary Continued...

Our Financial Performance



Our Financial Position



Governance and Committees

TBC's Board of Directors:

Ellen Blais, A.M., Director

Cherylllee Bourgeois, R.M.—President

Aimée Carbonneau, R.M.—Secretary/Treasurer

Kristen Dennis, R.M., Director

Jennifer Dockery, Director

Andrea Luciuk, R.M., Director

Jay McGillivray, R.M., Director

Monica McKay, Director

Kimberley Orton, R.M., Director



Birth Centre Staff:

Roberta Pike, MSW - Executive Director

Sara Booth, R.M. - Clinical Director

Cheryl Creighton - Office Manager

Celia Su - Clinical Administrative Assistant

Denise Booth - Indigenous Community Engagement Coordinator

Monica Mitchell-Taylor - Data Analyst/Database Administrator

Tamara Sanchez - Head Birth Centre Aide

Birth Centre Aides: Marixa Alva Roncal, Evan Noodin-Smith,

Asinkwe Aicken, Hannah Schreck, Barbara Schreck,

Victoria Manitowabi and Emily Stewart-Wilson

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

Kimberley Orton, RM

Tiffany Fung, RM

Midwives Council

Co-chairs: Sara Chambers, RM (Kensington Midwives)

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

Anita Bright, RM—Midwife Alliance

Tara Wodelet, RM—Midwife Alliance

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

Nimerta Dhami, RM—Midwives Collective of Toronto

Noushin Shameli, RM—Midwives Collective

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

Community Council

Co-chairs: Rochelle Allan and Shannon Simpson

Rebecca Beaulne-Stuebing

Nadya Burton

Faith Chaput

Claire Dion Fletcher, RM

Natalie Lucus

Nicole Penak

Melissa Stevenson

Emma Stromberg

Krysta Williams

Miigwetch! Thank You!



Left:

Reaco Billy presenting a Tikinagan to the Toronto Birth Centre's Executive Director, Roberta Pike.

This Tikinaagan was made by Reaco Billy, a member of the Chilcotin Nation from Nemiah Valley, British Columbia. Funding to support its' construction was provided by Miizwe Biik and NaMeRes.

At the time of donating the piece, Reaco let us know that the use of the Tikinagan is part of the woodland peoples' culture (of this region) and not a practice of his Nation. Chilcotin people traditionally weave willow baskets for their infants. When Raeco becomes a father, he wants his children to follow in his traditions and will create baskets for them.

This Tikinagan took three days to make and is a fine example of the mix of modern and traditional styles. It is made of Ash and Pine. The support for the baby is made of memory foam. Raeco chose the covering for the Tikinagan because it represented western colours. The Tikinagan is assembled using sinew. Burnt into the back wooden surface of the cradleboard is a design reflecting a Chilcotin legend about the Thunder Bird and the Black Snake. The Thunder Bird is the protector against the black snake and in this way Raeco has marked the cradleboard with protection.

The Tikinagan will be used as an educational piece to visitors of the birth centre highlighting the functional construction of the cradleboard and the benefits to the developing infant.



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BIRTH
CENTRE

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