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HEALER'S ICCYOUTH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The Odawa Native Friendship Centre aims to positively affect quality of life, strives to maintain a level of tradition, and encourages the ethics of both self-help and development to Urban Indigenous community members living in Ottawa and the surrounding region. The traditional teachings from our elders are important values, which we will continue to reinforce in the coming years. Through the Healer's mentorship program proposed today, our goal is to expand on the traditional cultural support systems that our elders provide, by mirroring this mentor/protégé relationship. We will provide training, mentorship, and support to the Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students (mentors) who will in turn provide mentorship and support for children and youth (proteges). We believe that as this program expands, we will be able to support mothers during pregnancy, infants, children, teenagers and college/university aged students through recreation, tutoring, mentorship and education. The program aims to become fully self-sustaining with proteges eventually taking the place of mentors and so on and so forth. This program is pertinent in supporting our next generation of Indigenous children, youth and their families. Through effective mentorship and leadership, as offered by ICCYOUTH, we can address the systemic racial and cultural difficulties faced by Indigenous children, youth and their families in the general Canadian society.


Kimberly Jerome
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