



Girl Guides

Ontario Council

For Guiding in Ontario and Nunavut

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS



Everything she wants to be. These five powerful words speak volumes about what Guiding in Ontario and Nunavut is all about. Guiding is a place where every girl knows she belongs. Where she is supported. Where she can discover herself, and set and achieve her goals. Girl Guides is the place that lets every girl shine in her own unique way. And that's a powerful thing.

Beginning in March 2020, all members of Guiding faced dynamic, unprecedented challenges introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Girls and adults in Ontario and Nunavut displayed courage, resiliency and agility when pivoted on multiple occasions towards mainly Virtual and

Anytime Guiding but also outdoor Guiding when public health guidelines allowed. We want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Guiders. We thank you for staying with Guiding in 2020 and for helping girls to stay connected even in the most challenging of circumstances. A sincere thank you from Ontario Council for your dedication and resilience.

On Thinking Day (February 22) 2020, we saw 3,315 members attend the World Thinking Day - Living Threads Across Ontario and Nunavut event at 24 sites. Girls participated in the planning of this event, led sessions, and helped design the official crest. Not only on Thinking Day, but every day, along with our Guiding sisters around the world, we celebrate the richness of human diversity in its many forms; programming and practices that encourage self-awareness and awareness of others; room for difference; and environments where girls and women feel safe, respected, supported and inspired to reach their potential. The future is #InOurHands #EntreNosMains.

Reflecting on the Living Threads event reminds us of the continued need to commit to inclusion. Girl Guides of Canada-Guides du Canada (GGC) recognizes and values the richness of human diversity in its many forms, and therefore strives to ensure environments where girls and women from all walks of life, identities, and lived experiences feel a sense of belonging and can participate fully. This commitment to inclusion means GGC's culture, programming, and practices encourage self-awareness and awareness of others; room for difference; and environments where girls and women feel safe, respected, supported and inspired to reach their potential.

With optimism and hope, we look forward to what the future holds for members in Ontario and Nunavut. We are committed to continuing to offer Guiding to girls in communities across Ontario and Nunavut with the unparalleled experience only Girl Guides can offer. Together, we know we can achieve a better world, by girls.

Yours in Guiding,

Handwritten signatures of Lisa Nicholas and Melissa Martin, the Provincial Commissioners for Girl Guides of Canada, Ontario Council.

Lisa Nicholas & Melissa Martin
Provincial Commissioners
Girl Guides of Canada, Ontario Council

FOLLOW US!



INSTAGRAM:
[@girlguidesONNV](https://www.instagram.com/girlguidesONNV)



FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/girlguidesONNV



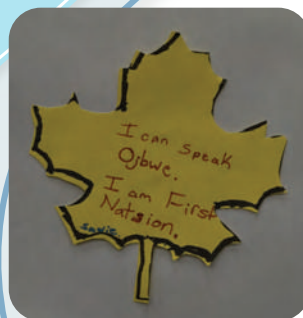
TWITTER:
[@girlguidesONNV](https://twitter.com/girlguidesONNV)

A BETTER WORLD, BY GIRLS

The last provincial in-person event held prior to the COVID-19 pandemic was Ontario Council's 2020 World Thinking Day - Living Threads across Ontario and Nunavut, held on February 22, 2020.

World Thinking Day was a multi-site day event, with 2619 girls and 696 adults participating across Ontario and Nunavut at 24 different locations. Participants completed the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) World Thinking Day 2020 program, called Living Threads - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and they received both a WAGGGS crest and a girl-designed crest from Ontario Council.

Girl members were also part of the planning committee for this event, and led sessions and activities at events across Ontario and Nunavut. Girls inspired and motivated each other to celebrate diversity within their own communities and reflect on ways to action the ideas explored by participating in the day's activities.



YOUTH FORUM ARTWORK CHALLENGE

Youth Forum ran this virtual challenge on their Instagram (@on.nv.youthforum); they asked girls to create art inspired by the nature around them.



ISABEL KERR SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship is an annual program designed by Girl Guides of Canada, Ontario Council to encourage the further education of our members ages 17+, including youth members, bridging members and adults.

2020 Recipients of the Isabel Kerr Scholarship:

Abigail White, Community 21
Rachel Aldworth, Community 36
Alyssa Scanga, Community 23
Meghan Dewar, Community 5

SUPPORTING UNITS IN ONTARIO AND NUNAVUT

VIRTUAL GUIDING

During the 2020/2021 Guiding year, Ontario Council provided programming and support to approximately 16,885 girl members and 4,887 Unit Guiders. Despite the challenges introduced by the COVID-19 pandemic, many units pivoted to Virtual & Anytime Guiding and conducted interactive, girl-led virtual programming.

COVID RELIEF SUBSIDY

Ontario Council created a COVID Relief Subsidy to help alleviate some of the financial strain on units due to the pandemic, and provide funding to be used to help support girls.

1,700 units, supporting 17,380 girls, benefited from the subsidy. \$51,000 in financial support was given to units.