

The background of the entire page is a photograph of four young girls from the Girl Guides of Canada, Ontario Council. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing dark blue Girl Guides uniforms. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text is white and positioned in the upper half of the page.

Girl Guides

Ontario Council

For Guiding in Ontario and Nunavut

Annual Report 2021

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONERS



2021 was another remarkable year for Guiding in Ontario and Nunavut. As we saw the world move into the second year of a global pandemic, we also saw youth and adult members of Guiding continue to demonstrate resilience, creativity and a drive to stay connected. We want to take this opportunity to thank all members for their dedication, service, and passion.

As we reflect on what was accomplished in Ontario and Nunavut Guiding in 2021, a common theme emerges: collaboration and partnership. Ontario Council was thrilled to partner with several organizations in 2021 to offer innovative programming in multiple areas. A partnership with the University of Toronto resulted in youth members taking part in several coding workshops, learning about HTML, Python and Tinkercad. A collaboration with Skills Ontario exposed more than 550 girls to careers and technologies in the area of skilled trades.

We also saw the return of Outdoor Experiences in 2021, with a focus on day-long experiences for all branch levels. We were thrilled to welcome several new Outdoor Experiences partners in Northern Ontario, in order to increase offerings for units in that part of the province.

On Thinking Day (February 22) 2021, we saw a whopping 13,829 members participated in the World Thinking Day Challenge. At the same time, Ontario Council launched our Guiding Lights Across Ontario and Nunavut initiative, which saw more than 20 monuments in cities across Ontario and Nunavut light up in Guiding blue (and in one case Niagara Falls lit up in GGC blue and GSUSA green!).

Lastly, 2021 marked 100 years of Ontario Council. In honour of this milestone, a virtual challenge was launched and more than 3300 youth participated! As we reflect on 100 years of Guiding in Ontario, we are reminded of the continued need to commit to inclusion. We know that members of GGC work together to foster safe and inclusive spaces and strive to ensure environments where people from all identities and lived experiences feel a sense of belonging and can participate fully.

In May 2022, we are completing our three-year term as Provincial Commissioners, and we would like to extend one final thought here on a value that members of GGC share: gratitude.

We'd like to express gratitude to the girls and youth, families, volunteers and staff that have demonstrated resilience, courage and spirit. We are very grateful to the volunteer members of Ontario Council, past and present, who have worked behind the scenes to ensure Guiding is well positioned for the future. Last but not least, we would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to our many staff partners. The volunteer-staff partnership model is unique and special in Guiding, and there are many staff members who truly made a difference during our term. We'd like to give a special nod to Moira French and Theresa Delpeache, who helped us "steer the ship" in Ontario and Nunavut through uncharted waters. Finally, we are elated to welcome a new Provincial Commissioner team at our Annual General meeting on May 7, 2022. We know the future of Guiding in Ontario and Nunavut is in great hands, and we can't wait to see what's to come in the next chapter!

Yours in Guiding,

Handwritten signatures of Lisa Nicholas and Melissa Martin in black ink.

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

COVID RELIEF SUBSIDY

Ontario Council created the COVID Relief Subsidy in 2020 to help alleviate some of the financial strain on units, due to the pandemic. This subsidy was continued in 2021, and 1485 units supporting 13,375 girls, benefited from the subsidy. \$51,000 in financial support was given to units to help support girls.

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

New Girls: 7545 — Total Girls: 20,313

New Unit Guiders: 768

Total Unit Guiders: 4446

Total Adult Members: 5692

U of T PARTNERSHIP

In partnership with the University of Toronto, Ontario Council hosted three unique virtual coding workshops, covering topics such as HTML/CSS, Python and Tinkercad.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSIDY

Ontario Council supported 2200 girls through the membership subsidy program.



OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES

Our Outdoor Experiences (OE) program returned in 2021! In the fall of 2021, Day Programming was offered at many OE Partner facilities. 790 participants, including 626 girls, participated in 23 Outdoor Experiences in the fall of 2021. In addition to working with existing OE Partners, Ontario Council welcomed new partners, including Lake Laurentian Conservation Area in Sudbury, and Lakehead Region Conservation Authority in Thunder Bay. The addition of these sites made OE more accessible to units and girls in Northern Ontario.

WORLD THINKING DAY

On February 22, 2021, Ontario Council launched our first ever virtual World Thinking Day Challenge, with activities that built on the WAGGGS theme of “Stand Strong, Stand Up and Stand Together” for peacebuilding. The Ontario and Nunavut Youth Forum led the charge on program creation as well as crest design. 13,829 Girl and Adult Members completed the challenge, earning free crests!



SKILLS ONTARIO PARTNERSHIP

Ontario Council, in partnership with Skills Ontario, hosted a virtual event aimed to inspire and empower girls to explore skilled trades and technologies. A hands-on learning kit was shipped free to all participants. Over 550 girls participated!



GUIDING LIGHTS ACROSS ONTARIO AND NUNAVUT

Ontario Council joined BC Council in their Guiding Lights World Thinking Day initiative to shine a Guiding Light across Ontario and Nunavut. Monuments in 20 cities across Ontario and Nunavut changed their exterior lights to GGC blue on February 22nd in celebration of World Thinking Day. Further, 6 cities across our Council proclaimed World Thinking Day as an official day of girl empowerment within their municipalities.

STAYING CONNECTED CHALLENGE

This challenge was created by Ontario Council with the goal of connecting with units across Ontario and Nunavut. Participants reflected on their Guiding experience during the pandemic and received free crests! Approximately 300 units participated, with more than 4400 crests sent out. Participating units also received a special letter from the Provincial Commissioners.



"My badge is about the future. There will be no limits to exploration! No limits for girls all over the world! Nothing is impossible and everything is possible!!!"

— Charlotte
1st Lone Spark Unit

BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGE

In partnership with the IUCN WCPA Beyond the Aichi Targets Task Force, Ontario Council launched the Biodiversity Leadership Challenge! Rangers and Pathfinders from across Ontario and Nunavut participated in this challenge and gained increased knowledge about biodiversity and conservation at the local, national and global levels. Approximately 450 girls participated!

100th ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE

Ontario Council celebrated 100 years in 2021. In honour of this milestone, the 100th Anniversary Challenge was created, along with a special line of anniversary-themed merchandise. This virtual challenge helped units learn the history of Guiding in Ontario. Over 3300 girls participated!

