

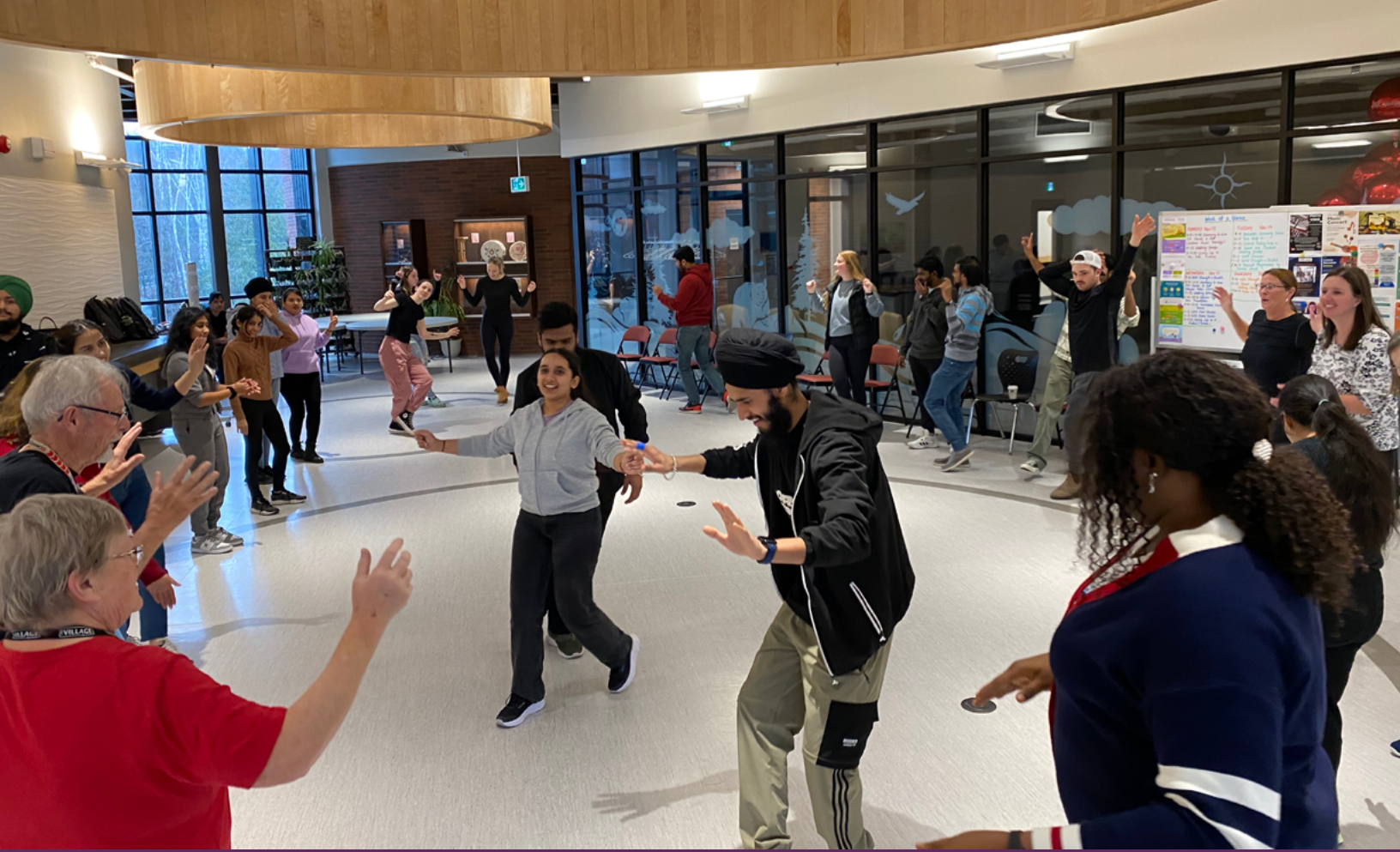


THE VILLAGE
CANADORE
COLLECTIVE IMPACT PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Funded in part by the
Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors Program





INTRODUCTION

Canadore College and The Village exist to help their students maximize their potential, acquire skills for employment, set up a basis for further education, or all three combined. As we evolve, we attract and support a diverse community of learners in a culturally safe environment and we will focus on their success and satisfaction. This includes linking with community support services and networks to create efficient partnerships and student opportunities.

We will continue to act as a catalyst for economic development by bringing together employers, agencies, and public and private sector partners to develop responsive and innovative programming to meet industry and community needs. We will continually seek to improve our connection to community through our employees and students being involved with local organizations, fundraising, partnerships and more.

2023 marked year 4 for The Village Collective Impact Project and 2 years of in-person programming following COVID-19 pandemic. Led and supported by our Community Connector students, our collective offered a wide range of programs that reduce social isolation in our community. We offered up to 70 programs per month that support healthy aging, including exercise, social connections, music, and technology supports. This is a big increase from the two programs we were offering on campus in 2021. On average The Village supports an average up to 750 Seniors per month. We look forward to sharing a few of the initiatives and successes shaped by The Village Collective Impact Project in 2023.

If you have any questions or feedback, we encourage you to reach out. Our doors are always open, and we look forward to staying in touch.

BACKGROUND

The Village welcomes new placement students every semester to become Community Connectors and support healthy aging on campus. In fall 2022, we welcomed Aman, an international student from the social service worker program, who was excited to work with older adults but was also set on leaving the north following his graduation in the spring of 2023. Our Seniors, who we call VIPs on campus, are always excited to welcome and meet new students. In the last year, The Village has connected with over 750 seniors per month, and we have had over 1500 students support programming.

Within a few weeks of his placement at The Village, Aman felt that North Bay was his home, and he would settle here. The Seniors on campus did what the rest of the community could not, they made connections and were invested in our student's success.

In April 2023, when Aman was preparing to graduate, he invited VIPs to attend his graduation, as family members. With his family away in India, watching online, Aman would graduate without them, however, because of the Village Collective Impact Project, Aman has a new Canadian family and did not graduate alone. Our seniors are involved and together with our students, we are creating a stronger community for everyone. We could not have predicted this outcome, and it cannot be measured. A photo of Aman and his VIP family at his graduation is on the cover of this report.

It is evident the Collective Impact Project continues to build reciprocal relationships between the generations, and in turn is helping to make a stronger community.



The goal of this project is to reduce the risk of social isolation for Seniors.



HISTORY

The Village – the world-class health and wellness facility located on the College Drive campus of Canadore College – is a unique model in Canada.

The only model of its kind in Canada, the facility is focused on collaborative interprofessional education and the integration of Indigenous, Eastern and Western healing and wellness practices. The Village will integrate seniors’ and community care with teaching, experiential skills training and applied research in one facility. The goal of the Village is to be a centre of excellence in healthy aging.

The Village encompasses Canadore’s Schools of Indigenous Studies, Human Care, Health Science and Social Services, and Sport and Recreation, which offers a comprehensive suite of student-run clinics, including general health, Eastern medicine, dental hygiene and safe mobility.

Other labs include cognitive stimulation and early childhood education on-site, as well as specialized Indigenous classrooms and ceremonial areas.



FIRST facility
of its kind in Canada



World-class health
and wellness facility



Indigenous, Eastern
and Western practices

The Village continues to educate and train the next generation of health and wellness professionals. Theory delivered in the classroom seamlessly becomes practical experience in student-led clinics.





THE VILLAGE COLLECTIVE IMPACT PROJECT

In November 2019, The Village at Canadore College received nearly **\$2 million dollars** in funding through the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program. Over five years, The Village Collective Impact Project (CIP) will work collaboratively with Seniors and Indigenous Seniors (60+), their caregivers, stakeholders, regional community organizations and agencies to focus on developing new models of healthy aging and inclusion efforts to improve the health outcomes for Seniors living in the Nipissing-Parry Sound districts. The Collective has grown to 34 collaborating and partner organizations and has a community network of 75 organizations. The Collective has a shared vision for change in our region that “every Senior is socially connected and engaged in their community.”

Our long-term goal is twofold: to use inter-cultural, inter-professional and inter-generational approaches that support an age-friendly and dementia-friendly inclusive community, and to improve our community’s connectedness to prevent isolation in the future. All the work of The Village CIP is supported by a team of students called Community Connectors. The engagement of the students ensures that we build capacity in our community and make sustainable changes in the community that help improve services for Seniors in the region. This work has proven to be a reciprocal relationship where Seniors, in turn, are helping to better prepare students for the workforce.

Students describe their work with the Seniors as a meaningful experience that better prepares them for the workforce.

Data to consider from the Nipissing Parry Sound District 1

Our population is nearly
130,000

Majority of people live in
rural areas



Nearly **15%** of those **over 65 have low income status** compared to 12% in Ontario

Nearly **23%** of our population in the North is over **65 years old** (compared to 17% for the province)



Majority (**92%**) of seniors live in **their homes** and nearly 30% live alone

There are **more women than men;** older women are the fastest growing demographic in the North



1/4 of all seniors are caregivers to other seniors

78% of First Nations communities are located in the North



Our Reach

Since the inception of the Collective Impact Project in November 2019, 1500 Community Connector students have connected with over 5300 Seniors including 15% Indigenous Seniors and Elders, 20% Francophones, 2% Newcomers in the Village, and in the community across the North Bay and Parry Sound region.. Our students have provided 87,500 hours of support on campus and with over 25 community organizations. We have built a community network of 87 organizations including a “Collective” of 50 partner organizations representing 13 sectors that support over 30,000 Seniors in our region. We have co-developed with Seniors, over 30 programs that provide experiential learning opportunities for students and support healthy aging. On average we offer up to 70 programs and services include exercise classes, technology supports, music, social connections, dental services, and access to Indigenous programs. Our work for the project is based on a foundation of valuing people of all ages and building relationships.

Collaborative Organizations and Partner Organizations

- Moose’s Cookehouse
- St. James United Church - The Mary Street Centre, Parry Sound
- North Bay Golden Age Club
- Callander Public Library
- Shawanaga First Nation Healing Centre
- East Ferris - Club Action 50+
- YMCA of Northeastern Ontario
- Third Age Learning Nipissing

- The North Bay Choral Society
- Home Instead
- Nipissing Serenity Hospice
- AIDS Committee of North Bay
- Parry Sound Friendship Centre
- Miikana
- Karis Disability Services
- North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit
- Women10 - Living Fit Inside Out
- City of North Bay
- Nipissing Wellness Ontario Health Team
- West Nipissing Health Centre
- Canadian Red Cross - Nipissing
- VON - North Bay
- Retired Teachers of Ontario Association - District 43
- Pathways Wellness and Medical Foot Care
- Alzheimer’s Society
- North Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre
- Community Living North Bay
- Carelink Advantage
- Barclay House
- Marina Point Village
- East Parry Sound Community Support Services
- West Parry Sound Community Support Services
- Connective Care
- Older Adults Centres’ Association of Ontario (OACAO)
- Canadian Shield Health Care Services
- Callander 50+ Club
- Gateway Theatre Guild
- March of Dimes Canada



Some highlights of 2023

The project team remains focused on building successful, sustainable community partnerships, and has three areas of focus to achieve its mission:

- Support an innovative, age-friendly and dementia-friendly community;
- Promote social participation and inclusion by addressing barriers; and
- Generate meaningful, intergenerational learning experiences for students and seniors.

In March and October 2023, the Village CIP launched the final two calls for grant proposals with a focus on reducing barriers to inclusion for Seniors including transportation and improving access to services and supports. As a result we identified seven new partners: the Alzheimer's society; Connective Care; Pathways Wellness and Medical Foot Care; the Older Adults Centres' Association of Ontario (OACAO); Callander 50+ Seniors Social Club; West Parry Sound Support Services; and East Parry Sound Community Support Services. We have distributed \$235,000 in grants for new programming across the region. "Collaborating organizations and seed grant partners have helped move our community

towards the collective vision of having every senior in our region socially connected and engaged. Together we are improving the lives of seniors in our region." said Micheline Demers, Project Manager.

Our district has limited resources due to the geographic sprawl, which includes 31 municipalities and 4 unorganized areas with a population of over 125,000. To increase our effectiveness and increase capacity, we surveyed our community network of 87 organizations and seniors and set priorities for working groups for the region. The results were that reaching older adults and transportation were the two areas identified that could affect the most change. In partnership with our local Health Unit, we began with the transportation working group in February 2023 and the reaching older adults working group was launched in November 2023. We have worked with all the members of our collective to decrease duplication and better support our network by aligning our community committees and working groups. As a result, we have seen an increase in inter-sector collaboration, improved communication and participation resulting in action-driven committee work for our region. Together we are solving issues faced by seniors in our region and improving outcomes.



At the Village

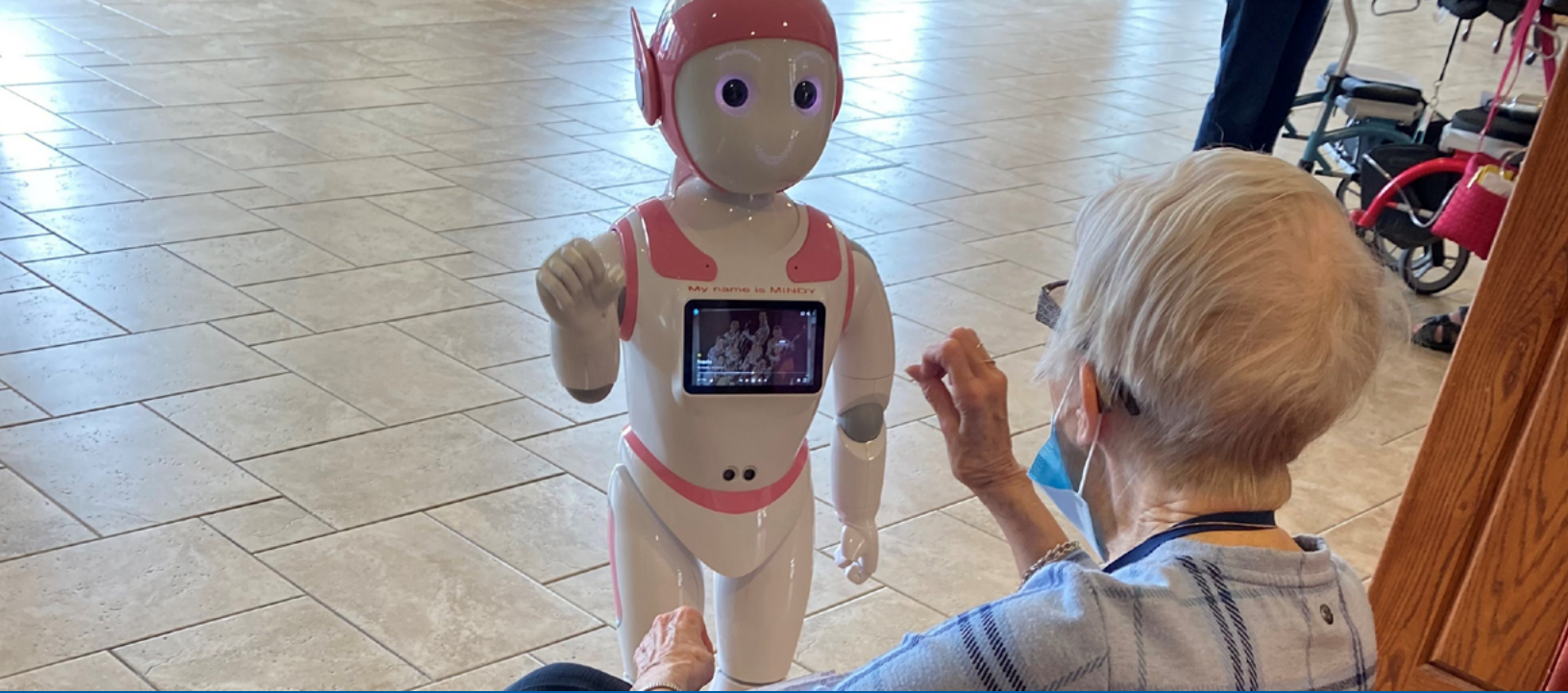
In Summer, The First People Center, offered Camp Kikandaaswiwin Mookiisin, meaning 'knowledge springing forth, for 360 Indigenous youth aged 14-18. They spent 15 days at Camp Petawachuan in Dokis First Nation with elders and leaders learning traditional teachings and participating in hands-on, land-based activities to explore Indigenous science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

In Fall, The Village launched the Living Well Series, an intergenerational value-based webinar learning series with the leadership of Hariett Madigan. The series features faces and stories from Northern Ontario. Visit [living well - Canadore College](#) to learn more.

We co-hosted two community wide events. First, in June, for Seniors Month, The Village co-hosted with our local health unit, the Aging with Confidence Symposium. This was the fifth senior inclusion community event in both Parry Sound and North Bay. This free event, was attended by over 200 Seniors and 38 vendors, representing 12 sectors. The event was free to everyone, and transportation support was provided to reduce the barriers for Seniors to attend.

In November, we welcomed Best-selling author and former federal cabinet minister Jody Wilson-Raybould. She brought her message of truth and reconciliation and attended a Community Feast with over 100 students, Indigenous Leaders and Elders and staff.

In 2022, the Village launched the VIP (Very Important Panthers) program to integrate Seniors at the Village to promote inclusion and inter-generational activities to prepare for the Long-Term Care facility on campus. 2023, has been very successful, and we have over 700 VIPs on campus. VIPs attend training offered to staff and students, help design programming, support new pilot projects and volunteer on campus. In fact, our VIPs have volunteered over 2500 hours to support students learning this year. They help with welcoming new students, recruiting, attending class presentations, signing up for dental services, support Pow-Wows and other cultural events and lead our Seniors Advisory Group on campus (SAGE Team). Erin Plourde, the Access and Inclusion Coordinator shared: "The VIP Seniors have made such a positive impact in terms of assisting our students with their transition to post-secondary school, and for that we are truly grateful."



Funded projects

- The Callander Library is offers a book delivery service for rural seniors, technology lending program and technology support;
- The Mary Street Centre in Parry Sound has opened The Turtle Track, an indoor walking track to keep people active all year round;
- East Ferris Club Action 50+ offer a monthly health check-up clinic;
- Nipissing Serenity Hospice created a commercial to promote their supports in the regions and provide grief and bereavement supports for the community from The Village;
- The Alzheimer’s society has home exercise kits to support those living with cognitive decline who may not be able to attend exercise in the community;
- Connective Care helps cover costs for education and access to services to clients who may have financial challenges;
- Pathways Wellness and Medical Foot Care reduced costs for services for clients in need;
- The Older Adults Centres’ Association of Ontario (OACAO) will support Active Living Fairs and Links2Wellbeing Social Prescribing for Older Adults project (2024);
- Callander 50+ Seniors Social Club provide transportation supports for rural Seniors;
- West Parry Sound Support Services provide transportation support for rural Seniors; and
- East Parry Sound Community Support Services will do a mail out of promotional materials for their services.

Additional supported projects

- Technology support to local long-term care and assisted living centres
- The North Bay Golden Age Club – exercise program both in person and online
- In partnership with the health unit, we support three community wide working groups to address barriers faced by seniors, engage and support seniors experiencing vulnerabilities, and to build capacity in the community to support Seniors and influence future programs. The working groups fall into three main areas for change:

1. Reaching Older Adults (how to reach people not connected to programming);
2. Seniors Annual Community Events (planning committee); and
3. Transportation (top barrier for Seniors in our region)

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CONNECTING AT THE VILLAGE

Research shows that regular social contact reduces the risks and anxiety associated with being isolated. That is why, 2022, The Village was happy to finally open its door and doors open, and welcome the community. Within the last two years of launching in-person programming, we went from two programs to 70 programs and services all with the input of our older adults and students. Pam Severin, a VIP shared: “The Village is a place where ages mesh together. I felt welcome the moment I attended my first activity. The students are kind and seem genuinely happy to see us and I love how they share their culture with us. The Village recognizes that Seniors are all about staying active in a fun and social environment.” According to **Linda Coghlan**, VIP and active Volunteer, the Seniors programs ... have given me a new lease on life. It’s a real pleasure to be part of the Village community and spend time getting to know the students as well as the other seniors. “Seniors and family members tell the project team regularly that the Village and the students have changed their experiences in the community” said **Micheline Demers**, Program Manager. “We receive regular feedback about the positive effect attending programming has on the lives of the Seniors. It is very rewarding for everyone involved”

Working with older adults is a great learning experience for the students too. “Because of my placement in the Village and getting to know the Seniors, I decided to stay in North Bay” said **Amanjot Singh**, a Canadore Social Service Worker Student. He developed relationship with some of the older men which made the time away from home and his grandfather easier.”

Mona Lisha Malick, Social Service Worker Student shared that working in the Village help her grow as an international student new to Canada. “I learned so much from the Seniors and I was more connected to my own culture” Mona did not have older adults in her life and this placement changed the way she thought about aging and Seniors.

Family members have shared that attending Village programming has improved their loved ones’ overall quality of life.

Thanks to the funding provided by the Government of Canada’s New Horizons for Seniors Program, we have improved community connectedness and outcomes for Seniors in our region.



THE FUTURE

Intergenerational Living

The Village has its eyes firmly fixed on the future, as it looks to build capacity in long-term care and affordable housing for seniors.

The COVID-19 pandemic shone a bright light on the need for improved long-term care options for our seniors. The Village is ready and willing to support the province in building new capacity in long-term care that puts residents first.

As part of Phase 2 of The Village, Canadore College is partnering to develop a new world-class, 160 person, seniors living facility in North Bay, where residents

will have access to diverse and client-centric health care options, including a fully functioning pharmacy and a healthcare provider on site.

The shortage of affordable housing units for seniors who require supports contributes to high alternate levels of care in hospitals and long-term care waitlists. Future plans for The Village include affordable housing units for seniors in Northeastern Ontario.

The Village, Phase 2: Canadore College is partnering to create a 160 person, seniors living facility in North Bay. The Village anticipates breaking ground on Phase 2 in 2024.





CONNECT WITH US

The Village Collective Impact Project Team is dedicated to supporting Seniors in our region and student success. This dedication means that we welcome feedback from our community members.

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canadorecollege.ca/the-village/seniors-project