



NIIJIGAABAWITAG
NIIJIZANIKWE

WE STAND WITH
OUR SISTERS

ANNUAL REPORT
2020/2021

CO-CHAIRS' MESSAGE

Tansi, Boozhoo!

The theme of this year's Annual General Assembly is **NIIJIGAABAWITAG NIIJIZANIKWE —WE STAND WITH OUR SISTERS.**

Welcome to all the women, girls, gender diverse individuals, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, staff and board, and allies. Your membership in Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. (MMVI) is the reason for us being here. Miigwetch!

Miigwetch to Gizhe-Manidoo for this day and the interest of so many people with love and dedication in their hearts. Your support of MMVI's mission to empower Indigenous women girls, and gender diverse individuals allows us to work toward reclaiming our power and place.

As we work hard toward that goal, we must recognize those that came before us, the children of residential schools who never made it home; the women and families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, 2S+, and also our Missing and Murdered Men and Boys.

The discovery of the graves of our relatives had impacted us all, with love and honour they will not be forgotten. To honour their memory, the board of directors of MMVI has been working to support our community in the betterment of all Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals across the province.

The board participated in numerous capacity building workshops, including: Meeting Management and Minute Taking for Boards, Lateral Violence Training, Board Governance Training, and Reading Financial Documents training.

Board members Denise Cook, Melissa Critch, Dawnis Kennedy, Ashleigh Bear, Albert McLeod, Jessie Harper-Langford, Thelma Morrisseau and our Acting Executive Director Shannon Hoskie attended this year's NWAC AGA online.

As the board of MMVI, we have committed and feel a great responsibility to ensure that the Calls to Justice are implemented. We have worked on the position paper for MMVI that outlines our priority areas and we have participated on NWAC's working group.

In 2020, MMVI board member Denise Cook was acclaimed to the board at the AGA, and we have since welcomed Ashleigh Shultz-Bear and our Youth Representative Jessie Harper-Langford to our board of directors. Our former Co-Chair Thelma Morrisseau moved from the board.

Our Executive Council this year includes Denise Cook and Melissa Critch as Co-Charis, Dawnis Kennedy as Secretary, and Albert McLeod as treasurer. We wish to also acknowledge the commitment of the existing board including Audrey Richard, Gayle Pruden, Jackie Flett and grandmother Iris Luzon. Everyone brings a unique perspective and gifts, strength, and love for the community.

Although MMVI accomplished much in the last year, we want to acknowledge that there have been challenges as well. The COVID-19 Pandemic made working on our mission difficult, but staff rose to the occasion and worked from home to keep everyone safe.

We recognize this difficult time we are all currently in. We encourage members to continue to be cautious and stay safe this winter.

We look forward to working with all of you in the coming year as we continue to move forward as an organization.

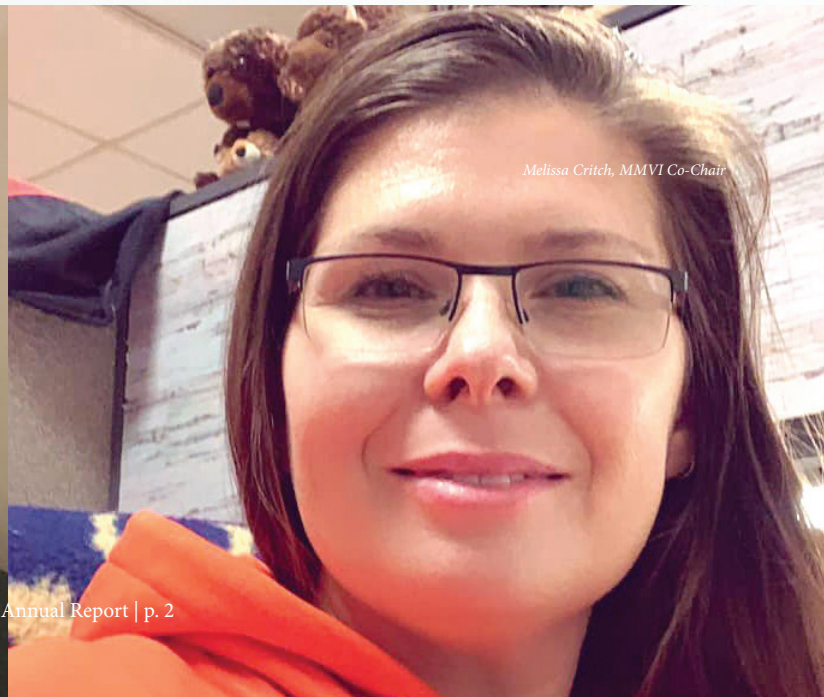
Miigwetch to all of our relatives,

— Denise Cook, MMVI Co-Chair
— Melissa Critch, MMVI Co-Chair

Denise Cook, MMVI Co-Chair



Melissa Critch, MMVI Co-Chair





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Aaniin everyone,

I want to start by saying a warm thank you to our returning members, the board of directors, our volunteers, and staff. The good that MMVI does in the world would not be possible without your continuing contributions.

I want to take a moment to recognize all the new members that have joined MMVI, as well. In the last year, our membership has more than doubled. This increased engagement is a powerful symbol of how MMVI has been helping to meet the needs of the community. I can think of no better endorsement of our impact than an increase in the number of people who see value in what we say and do. Thank you to all the new members for believing in what we do.

I want to acknowledge that while we were increasing our membership and capacity, MMVI also wrestled with the very real impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 has been an ongoing challenge for MMVI and the community at large. We shut the office, worked from home, and toiled to deliver programs and services to a community we weren't allowed to see face to face.

In addition, we grieved with our relatives at the multiple discoveries of unmarked graves of residential school children across the country. We continue to mourn the loss of these innocents and use the anger and grief to motivate us to do more, while we honour their memory.

We found the strength and courage to continue in the face of this adversity by focusing on the fundamentals and recommitting to the goal of the organization, empowering Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse individuals.

I'm happy to announce that MMI has made great strides toward meeting the goals and objectives laid out in our strategic plan, especially in the areas of fund development, capacity building, community support, and communications.

MMVI secured over \$450,000 in support of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals.

We increased the organization's capacity to respond to the needs of the community by improving financial structures, finalizing the strategic plan, producing the draft Communications, Social Media, and Fund Development Strategies. In addition, we reinvigorated our membership renewal process, ensuring that the voices of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals are heard.

MMVI supported almost 150 relatives during the pandemic with COVID Support Packages, 30 of which went to women in the north who were in a shelter due to violence and abuse. One recipient thanked the Creator for MMVI's assistance because the added financial stress of feeding her daughter when school was closed had pushed her and her family close to the financial cliff.

MMVI awarded the Gwen Cook Memorial Bursary to Darlene Keeper, helping another women achieve her education and career goals.

With the help of Two-Spirited People of Manitoba, MMVI created the Reclaiming our Power and Place, a culturally sensitive program that will address the needs of individuals who have been impacted by the loss of a loved one due to the phenomenon of murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals.

Our communications have been refined and now reach a much larger group of readers and viewers. We created and shared messaging on issues important to our members: Red Dress Day, Indigenous Peoples Day, and Orange Shirt Day. In response to COVID restrictions, we created a safe way to keep the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals front and centre. The Honouring Project was a social media campaign that featured families with a picture of their lost loved ones. Over 150,000 people saw the campaign, which was shared across the country and was featured in CBC Manitoba, the Winnipeg Free Press, and on the Government of Canada Indigenous social media network.

Despite the challenges we faced in 2020, the future is looking brighter for MMVI and our community at large. COVID-19 vaccines have allowed us to return to the office and to something resembling normalcy. We look forward to the day we can meet face-to-face with staff, board, partners, and members, a development that will make it easier to address the needs of the community.

We look forward to 2021 with renewed hope and the understanding that we are all here in sisterhood.

Thank you to everyone for your contributions, we couldn't do this without you.

In the spirit of our ancestors,

— Shannon Hoskie, MMVI Executive Director



231 CALLS FOR JUSTICE: CONFRONTING INCREMENTAL GENOCIDE

A POSITION STATEMENT PREPARED BY MANITOBA MOON VOICES INC. (MMVI)

September 2, 2020

During this time, especially with the COVID-19 Pandemic, many of us find it hard to connect with the outside, with nature, with the plant medicines, and ceremonies. A lot of us are still suffering mentally, emotionally, spiritually but part of our work is relying on our strengths of survival, this is not the first pandemic that we have experienced. We have to learn from our traditions, our ceremonies, our teachings, and our language on how we do this together and we have to make space, to be patient, listen carefully, and sometimes we have to wait, wait for our answers to come to us. Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people are essential to the survival, future, and wellness of our communities because we are protectors of the land and water.

The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls found that incremental genocide committed and condoned by the Canadian state forms the root cause of violence Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people face daily. When our relatives are lost through such violence or by unknown circumstances, it affects every one of us, as they are all valuable and have purpose and place in our lives and communities.

MMVI acknowledges and honors the sacred stories and experiences shared by the loved ones of Our Missing and Murdered Relatives from Indigenous communities across Manitoba and Turtle Island.

MMVI acknowledges and affirms the 231 Calls for Justice in Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Legal Analysis of Genocide: Supplementary Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

MMVI, as an organization representing the interests of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people in Manitoba, a Provincial

Territorial Member Associate (PTMA) of the Native Women's Association of Canada's (NWAC) and a member of the (MM)IWG-Manitoba Coalition, is committed to:

- Promoting the MMIWG Inquiry's 231 Calls for Justice to our membership and acting on priority areas in Manitoba.
- Collaborating and supporting the (MM)IWG-Manitoba Coalition to achieve its objectives.
- Collaborating and liaising with NWAC to ensure Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA have a voice and influence at the national level.
- Centering the traditional roles of Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people, by honouring their responsibilities and strengthening the knowledges and skills they carry for our families, communities, organizations, Nations, and Territories.
- Championing and advocating for Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA Peoples' right to directly participate at all decision-making tables at the municipal, provincial, federal, and Indigenous governance levels.
- Advocating for financial and social support with government for Indigenous families that have been impacted by the disappearance of loved ones and violence inflicted on their families.
- Advocating for a universal basic income to ensure that Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people, have equitable access to the social determinants of health that include food, shelter, education, culture, employment, justice, health care, and safety.
- Educating the MMVI membership about the impacts of the child welfare system on Indigenous families and identifying and implementing strategies to empower Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people to lead in decision-making.
- Promoting and providing Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people access to land-based knowledge, healing, and land reclamation initiatives.
- Promoting an awareness among MMVI members about genocide and identifying and addressing the acts of Canadian incremental genocide* that are impacting our Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA People in Manitoba.
- Identifying and addressing the impacts of resource extraction camps on Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people in Manitoba.
- Advocating for recognition that the incremental genocide responsible for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA people also results in equally detrimental impacts affecting us all, including the Suicide Epidemic in our communities, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys and other forms of violence.
- Promoting research on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men and Boys in Manitoba.

MMVI Board of Directors:

Thelma Morrisseau, Co-Chair

Denise Cook, Co-Chair

Dawnis Kennedy, Secretary

Melissa Critch, Treasurer

Audrey Richard, Board Member

Albert McLeod, Board Member

Grandmothers Circle

Albert McLeod

Iris Lauzon

* The National Inquiry is of the opinion that the definition of genocide in international law, as it stands, encompasses the past and current actions and omissions of Canada towards Indigenous Peoples. Genocide is a root cause of the violence perpetrated against Indigenous women and girls, not only because of the genocidal acts that were and still are perpetrated against them, but also because of all the societal vulnerabilities it fosters, which leads to deaths and disappearances and which permeates all aspects of Canadian society today.

INDIGENOUS SKILLS AND EDUCATION TRAINING (ISET) PROGRAM REPORT

I am happy to report the Indigenous Skills and Education Training Program (ISET) had an exciting and successful year. MMVI sponsored 36 clients, 20 of which have completed their studies. Nine have secured employment and another nine have returned for further education.

This year ISET is helping Indigenous women attain credentials in the following areas: Early Childhood Education (2), Educational Assistant (3), Undergraduate Degree (3), Master's Degree (2), Massage Therapy (1), Family Support Worker (6), Licensed Practical Nurse (7), Administrative Assistant (1), Youth Care Worker (1).

We provided job start assistance to two clients, who received assistance with job specific work gear, bus pass/tickets, criminal record checks, and child abuse registry checks.

Our partners, SEED Winnipeg and the Canadian Women's Foundation, hosted the Indigenous Women Exploring Business training course. We are proud to announce that six members

completed the course and are now one step closer to starting their own business.

Because of the work we have done and the successes we have had, NWAC awarded us an additional \$60,000 to cover client costs.

We continue to welcome our members and ensure that they are given the support and resources necessary to succeed.

Finally, I would like to introduce our new ISET Coordinator: Cindy Morrison. Cindy was hired in September and will be the face of the ISET program going forward. We look forward to hearing from Cindy at the next Annual General Assembly.

Respectfully,

— Shannon Hoskie
Former ISET Coordinator/MMVI Executive Director

“ My goal was to finish my degree, to get my Master of Education in School Psychology.

MMVI funded my last year of University of Winnipeg and I graduated in 2018 and my last year at the University of Calgary, I graduated in 2021.

The support of tuition, a monthly living allowance, transportation, and childcare supports was the biggest help, since I had a 10-month unpaid internship from September 2020-June 2021. without that I'm not sure how I would have done it.

In August 2021 I started at MFNERC -Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre – as a School Psychologist.

My future goal is to get my Doctorate in the Psychology field, not sure of the specific area of expertise yet. Indigenous female psychologists with their doctorates are rare and I would love to help fill the role.

” — ISET Recipient



Boozhoo!

My name is Cindy Morrison. I am thrilled to be the new ISET Coordinator for Manitoba Moon Voices Inc.

My home community is in Treaty Three territory, Mishkosiminiziibiing - Big Grassy River. I have lived and worked in my home territory and have acquired a deep understanding and appreciation for ceremony and our cultural protocols. I am a mother of three adult children and Kookum to one precious granddaughter.

I look forward to the work of walking with our Indigenous women and gender-diverse participants on their journey of empowerment, a journey not only for themselves, but for their families and the larger community as well.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. (MMVI) is committed to the empowerment of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals in our community. We believe that when women are given the proper tools they are able to empower themselves, their families, and their communities.

This is the purpose of the Indigenous Skills & Employment Training (ISET) program that we deliver in partnership with the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC), funded through Employment and Social Development Canada.

The main priority of the project is to enhance labour and skills development in order for Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals to gain meaningful skills and employment. MMVI assists members and clients with skills development, job start assistance, and job maintenance assistance.

Applications for the ISET Program are accepted on an on-going basis, and acceptance is based on funding availability. The selection committee approves applications based on eligibility criteria and available resources. The selection committee includes community members and the board of directors.

For more information, please contact me at:

Cindy Morrison
ISET Coordinator
204-942-1828
cmorrison@mmvi.ca



GWEN COOK MEMORIAL BURSARY

The Gwen Cook Memorial bursary was created to honour the memory of Gwen Cook — Bimosekwe — who was one of the founding grandmothers of the Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. Grandmother Advisory Circle.

Gwen was a proud Mashkego Anishinaabe ikwe who was born in The Pas, Manitoba and grew up in Flin Flon and Cranberry Portage. She was a loving mother, sister, grandmother, and friend who had a strong and gentle spirit.

Education was always important to Gwen as she pursued and obtained her Bachelor of Social Work degree, Masters of Social Work, and was pursuing a Doctoral degree.

Gwen worked in Winnipeg for forty years at various organizations where she loved her work with people, facilitating, counselling, and teaching.

She contributed to the community by volunteering with various boards including Ka Ni Kanichihk and Grandmothers Working for Good Life council where she provided expertise in the area of social services and shared her traditional knowledge. Gwen was also a committee member with the Masters of Social Work Indigenous Knowledge Program.

Gwen was also an active member of the Three Fires Midewin Lodge for well over twenty years and was a fourth degree Midewin woman. Reclamation of our Anishinaabe traditional way of life was essential to her life and she encouraged others to work at that in their own healing.

Gwen was a leader in the community who adhered to traditional practice, values, and leadership.

GWEN COOK 2021 BURSARY RECIPIENT: DARLENE KEEPER

The 2020-2021 Gwen Cook Memorial Bursary was presented to Darlene Keeper. Darlene received \$1,000 towards her Bachelor Degree studies in Social Work at the University of Manitoba.





ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS: 2020-2021

- Secured funding for The Honouring Project, a social media campaign for MMIWG and their families. The campaign was covered by CBC Manitoba, the Winnipeg Free Press, and nationally on Government of Canada Indigenous social media networks. The messaging had a potential reach of over 150,000.
- In order to keep members safe and engaged, MMVI hosted its first ever Virtual Annual General Meeting in January, 2021.
- During 2020-21 MMVI secured over \$450,000 in support of its vision and mission.
- Through the Indigenous Skills and Education Training Program, MMVI sponsored 36 clients, 20 of which have completed their studies. Nine have secured employment and another nine have returned for further education.
- MMVI contributed to making the community safer for Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals by sharing timely information on people thought to be missing.
- MMVI engaged with at least 16 community organizations and has started to build mutually beneficial partnerships with organizations outside of the capital region, like Aurora House in The Pas and the Thompson Crisis Centre.
- MMVI finalized the organization of the Strategic Plan, charting the direction of MMVI into the future.
- Produced a Communications Strategy and draft Fund Development Strategy, providing MMVI with a system for communicating key messages and a plan to achieve increased financial sustainability.
- MMVI supported almost 150 relatives during the pandemic with COVID Support Packages, 30 of which went to women in the north who were in a shelter due to violence and abuse.
- MMVI and Two-Spirited People Manitoba created Reclaiming our Power and Place, a culturally sensitive program that aims to address the needs of individuals who have been impacted by the loss of a loved one due to the phenomenon of murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals.
- The 2020-2021 Gwen Cook Memorial Bursary was presented to Darlene Keeper. Darlene Received \$1,000 towards her Bachelor Degree studies in Social Work at the University of Manitoba.
- Hired three new staff members, increasing the capacity of MMVI to respond to the needs of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals.
- MMVI reinvigorated its membership renewal process, creating a campaign that includes both e-blasts to former members and an easy to compete online membership form, ensuring that the voices of Indigenous women, girls, and gender diverse individuals have the ability to influence MMVI's goals and direction.
- Researched and actioned direct deposit system for organization, freeing up time and resources that can be directed to meeting the needs of our constituency.
- MMVI continued to build the capacity of the organization, staff, and board by providing professional development opportunities, including Meeting Management and Minute Taking for Boards, Board Governance Training, Lateral Violence Training, and Reading Financial Documents training.



MMVI BOARD & STAFF

GRANDMOTHERS ADVISORY CIRCLE:

Iris Lauzan
Albert McLeod
Thelma Morriseau

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Denise Cook, Co-Chair
Melissa Critch, Co-Chair
Dawnis Kennedy, Secretary
Albert McLeod, Treasurer
Jessie Harper-Langford, Youth Representative
Ashleigh Schultz-Bear
Gayle Pruden
Audrey Richard
Jacqueline Flett

STAFF:

Shannon Hoskie, A/Executive Director
Sonya Ballantyne, Communications & Partnership Strategist
Rob Marriott, Funding Coordinator/Proposal Writer
Judy Cook, Administrative Assistant



MIIGWITCH,
EKOSI,
WOPIDA,
MASI CHO
& THANK
YOU TO OUR
FUNDERS &
PARTNERS:



Native Women's
Association of Canada
L'Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada

 Government
of Canada  Gouvernement
du Canada

Manitoba 

Canada 

REPORT GRAPHIC DESIGN & LAYOUT BY KRISHNA LALBIHARIE: krishna.lalbiharie@gmail.com | 204.899.8687