



**Manitoba
Moon
Voices
Inc.**



**11th Annual General Assembly
2024/2025 Annual Report**

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2024/2025



Manitoba Moon Voices Inc.

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CODE OF HONOR

Members will be part of a Circle, with many strengths, knowledge, and expertise from varied perspectives and experiences.

The work we do, the issues we are facing, the trauma we all continue to carry is ever present and impacting. To ensure we collectively move forward in a good way, we look to the seven teachings as our main guiding principles of action.

Respect

- If we truly wish to address violence, we must commit to our own healing path respecting first ourselves to ensure we also respect those surrounding and within our Circle
- Respecting ourselves individually as well as collectively as a larger Circle and community will help reduce lateral violence and model transformative and healing open dialogue and communication and actions that will support positive growth and development.
- All members must commit to the respectful acknowledgement that all people entering Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. carries valued purpose, gifts and strength that all may learn and benefit from.
- We commit to utilizing an innovative consensus - making process that will bring to bear knowledge and expertise from varied perspectives.

Honesty

- We commit to honestly knowing and speaking our intentions. We commit to ensure our intentions are not rooted in individual agendas but for the collective development and advancement of Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. and Indigenous women in Manitoba.

Courage

- We must courageously commit to challenging our colonized ways of thinking and doing. We commit to collectively supporting each other to decolonize ourselves in all that we do within Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. and our circle.
- We collectively share this journey seeking to incorporate our ancestors and grandmother's guidance.

Love

- We commit to honoring and valuing our differences and finding supportive ways to work together utilizing people's strengths and gifts. We will be our strongest in creating change and transformation, for our families to empower ourselves and the work we do.
- We will reconnect to spirit and the land.

Truth

- We commit to bringing the truth forward with our stories, experiences and reclamation of our voice collectively and inclusively.
- We commit to honoring our truth as Indigenous women, families, and Nations.

Humility

- We commit to modeling and acting with humility and integrity that honors the dignity and value in our families and each other.
- The work of Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. is guided by the value of reciprocity.

Wisdom

- All Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. members carry wisdom to contribute to our work. The greatest wisdom leading our journey is the teachings of our ancestors, the ways of our culture, and the sacredness of our ceremonies.
- We commit to ensuring our work is grounded in the wisdom of our culture, customs and ceremonies – while being open to and honoring the different ways of all nations.

These principles are found throughout the Nations of Turtle Island and are reflective of and model the teachings found in The Miishoomis Book by Edward Benton Banai.

Board of Directors Message

Cheryl Alexander travelled to the United Nations in April 2024 to participate in an Indigenous Peoples Conference. Cheryl met with youth and presenters from across Canada and from around the world. They met to discuss the various issues that we face and connect us. Cheryl also attended a Canadian Department of Women and Gender Equity (WAGE) meeting with the Native Women's Association of Canada President Carol McBride. At the meeting, Cheryl promoted MMVI and its programs like the Parents and Caregivers of Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals Group. Through out (the 2024/2025 fiscal year) Cheryl attended numerous rallies and gatherings in the community.

"I really appreciate the dedication of MMVI staff, as all the events and programs they organize are well planned and well attended. I am looking forward to another year of on the MMVI" Board of Directors." –Cheryl Alexander

Introduction:

I want to begin by thanking and recognizing the work and brilliance of our board, from our grandmothers as well to our staff that took on tremendous assignment in the past year of the organization. I want to recognize their efforts in our capacity building, supporting our membership and the lengths they went through to defend and promote the integrity of this organization, and the management of increased participation has showed success.

Strategic Presence at National Forums:

Our presence at national gatherings has been intentional and strategic. In September 2024, I attended the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) Annual General Assembly in person alongside our board and members, reaffirming our role as a Provincial Territorial Member Associate and engaging with national partners despite internal challenges within NWAC.

In December 2024, Corriene Chief and I represented Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa. These forums allowed us to promote our work, build relationships, and advocate for inclusive policies that reflect the lived realities of our communities.

Local Advocacy and Cultural Engagement

Throughout the year, MMVI has continued to advocate for justice and healing in our communities by supporting families, as well, I attended the police press release identifying Ashlee Shingoose (Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe, Buffalo Woman). In a moment of ceremony, I offered Premier Wab Kinew tobacco in recognition of the song he shared for Ashlee, honoring her spirit and the grief carried by her family, in the most sincere and deepest respect, MMVI extends our sympathies to her family and community. We continue to support families affected by this crisis.

Governance and Organizational Growth

As Co-Chair, I have helped lead in decision making and chairing meetings, ensuring our strategic direction remains aligned with community needs. I have promoted our work in everyday life, knowing that visibility and trust are built through consistent presence and meaningful relationships. I believe in the importance of a growing, marketable, mission-driven organization, one that offers real opportunities for employment, training, and empowerment. This year, we saw a notable increase in membership, reflecting growing recognition of our work and the trust we are building across Manitoba.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. will continue to:

- Advocate for culturally grounded harm reduction and gender-affirming care
- Expand partnerships and collaborations across sectors, including non-Indigenous partnerships that support Indigenous membership; Afro-Indigenous representation, alongside our Two Spirit and gender diverse relatives.
- Uphold our Self-Determination Policy with integrity
- Celebrate and uplift Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse voices
- Grow our membership and deepen our impact regionally

Closing Reflection

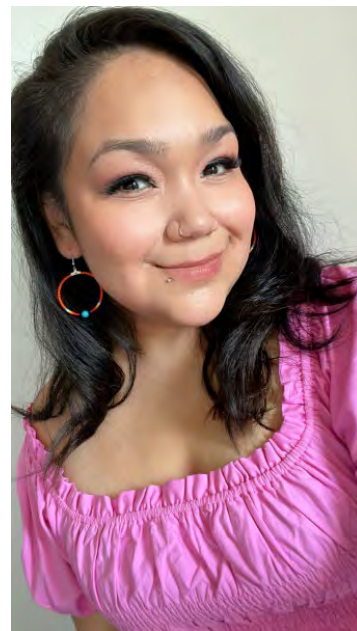
Leadership is not always loud, it is often quiet, relational, and rooted in ceremony. In all respects, I am proud of the work we have done this year, and even throughout the transition, I remain committed to walking alongside our communities with humility, strength, and vision. –Diandre Thomas-Hart

We wish you all the best, all my relations.

Cheryl Alexander,
MMVI Co-Chair



Diandre Thomas-Hart,
MMVI Co-Chair



Executive Director Message

Hello My Relatives

On behalf of Manitoba Moon Voice Inc's Board of Directors, staff and myself I want to say chi-miiqwetch to you all for attending our 11th Annual General Assembly.

In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, MMVI continued to host the Parents and Caregivers of Transgender and Gender Diverse Individuals Group. The group met on the first Wednesday of every month. I want to highlight this group because it creates a space of understanding, learning and connection that I deeply value.

The 2024/2025 fiscal year is bittersweet in part because we had two cohorts of the Reclaiming Our Power and Place Program; one being our last cohort. And we had the final cohort of the Taking the Next Steps in Our Journey Program. We are hopeful that we will be doing similar type programs in the future.

MMVI travelled to Brandon, Thompson and The Pas, connecting with the relatives to gauge the needs of the community MMVI serves.

We proudly sponsored the 2-Spirit Dance Special for the Manito Ahbee Festival. We honoured Kookum Beverley Courchene as a Grandmother at Ka Ni Kanichihk's 23rd Annual Keeping the Fires Burning.

Another project that I am proud of is our Annual Healing Journeys Video Project: Stories of Truth and Reconciliation. It was held at the Winnipeg Art Gallery. We were able to capture "Warrior Stories" from Ivy Chaske, Bev Courchene, Iris Lauzon and Sylvia James.

In September the board and I went to Ottawa, ON for the 50th Native Women's Association of Canada's Annual General Assembly. We are proud to continue working with NWAC on empowering Indigenous women, girls, 2Spirit and gender diverse individuals in Manitoba.

One of the more somber moments MMVI acknowledged this year was the passing of Grand Chief Kathy Merrick and the Honourable Murray Sinclair. We were honoured to recognize and reflect on their tremendous accomplishments through our social media platforms, paying tribute to the lasting impact of their leadership and advocacy.



Another annual project we do is the Honouring MMIWG2S+ Families Project. This year we recognized three families, posting pictures of the families with an image of their missing and/or murdered loved one, on the National Day of Action for MMIWG2S+ (October 4th). I am always moved by the bravery of the families who participate in the project.

As the fiscal year came to a close, one of the most meaningful things we were able to offer MMVI members was the opportunity to attend a series of *Tea With Kookum* workshops. The workshops included, but were not limited to: Red Dress Pin Beading with Gerri Pangman, Family Relationships with Elder Ivy Chaske, Cedar Bath Ceremonies with Sherry Flett, Traditional Medicines with Donna Kurt, 2-Spirit Teachings with Kookum Gayle Pruden and Storytelling with Jason Bone. Each of these workshops created space for learning, sharing and connection in ways that continue to strengthen our circle.

I also want to take this moment to express how proud I am of my staff. Shelley Anderson, MMVI's Community Engagement Coordinator, carried out numerous community engagements across Manitoba and organized many meaningful gatherings such as the UNDRIP Learning Circle Dinner. Darrell "Gav" Chippeway, MMVI's Communications Coordinator, worked diligently on drafting several grant applications that we hope will come to fruition in the new fiscal year. And finally, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Kathy Boulanger-Budd, MMVI's Administrative Assistant, for the many ways she continues to support and strengthen MMVI through her dedication and hard work.

Blessings to you, my relatives.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shelley Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

Activity Report (2024/2025)

April 2024

Parents and Caregivers of Transgender and Gender Diverse Group continued every first Wednesday of the month.

A cohort of *Reclaiming Our Power and Place Program* started.

MMVI sponsored, along with other local community organizations, the *Celebration of Life for Elder Velma Orvis*.

Monthly Full Moon Ceremony continued (occurred monthly).

The Board of Directors went on retreat to review MMVI's Strategic Plan.

May 2024

The last cohort of *Taking the Next Steps in our Journey Program* started.

Reclaiming Our Power and Place Program relatives went on a field trip to the Winnipeg Art Gallery (Qaumajuq).



MMVI attended a *Red Dress Day* event at the Oodena Celebration Circle, at The Forks.

In partnership with local community organizations, MMVI sponsored and attended the *Annual Mother's Day Memorial Walk*.

In partnership with *Go Ask Auntie (Brandon)*, MMVI sponsored a *Resource Fair* and *GANOONIDIWAG Gathering* in Brandon, MB.



June 2024

MMVI sponsored the *2Spirit Honour Dance Special* at the Manito Ahbee Festival.



MMVI hosted another *Ganoonidiwag Gathering* but this time in Thompson, MB. Indigenous woman, girls, 2Spirit and gender diverse relatives were invited to join us and learn about MMVI, share a meal together, come together as a community and share their knowledge with MMVI on what is needed in the community.

To honour *National Indigenous Peoples Day*, in partnership local community organizations, MMVI sponsored an event called *Hey Cuzzin*.

Nominated by MMVI, Beverley Courchene was honoured as a Grandmother at Ka Ni Kanichihk's *23rd Annual Keeping the Fires Burning*.



July 2024

MMVI members were offered free *CPR/1st Aid Training*.

MMVI members were offered free *Food Handlers Training*.

MMVI released a *Media Statement* on the verdict for the Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe / Buffalo Woman (now known to be Ashlee Shingoose).

A *Media Statement* was published on the disappearance and search for Leah Keeper.

August 2024

At the Winnipeg Art Gallery (Qaumajuq), MMVI hosted its *3rd Annual Healing Journeys Video Project: Stories of Truth and Reconciliation*.



MMVI hosted a *Youth Gathering* for MMVI members at The Radisson Hotel.

MMVI provided MMVI members with tickets to the Burton Cummings Block Party.

MMVI published a *Media Statement* on the Sentence Hearing in the case of the families of Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe / Buffalo Woman (now known to be Ashlee Shingoose).

September 2024

MMVI hosted its *10th Annual General Assembly* at the Winnipeg Art Gallery (Qaumajuq),

Shannon and some Board of Directors went to Ottawa, ON for a Native Women's Association of Canada event.

MMVI published a Statement to the Community of the tragic passing of Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Cathy Merrick.

MMVI sponsored the *MacKaylah Gerard-Roussin Memorial Walk*.

In partnership with local community organization, MMVI sponsored the first-ever *Chāpān Games and Teachings* at The Forks. The games are traditional Indigenous games that honoured those who did not return from Residential School. Chāpān is Cree for Great Grandparents.

October 2024

MMVI provided members with tickets to Chantal Kreviazuk.

To honour *National Day of Action for MMIWG2S+*, MMVI started posting images from the *Honouring MMIWG2S+ Families Project*.

The new ISET Coordinator started, Ardell Boubard.

MMVI was able to provide MMVI members with tickets to Sebastian Maniscalco.



November 2024

MMVI's Board of Directors went to South Beach for a Board of Directors meeting.

In partnership with local community organizations, MMVI hosted a *Trans Day of Remembrance* at the Oodena Celebration Circle, at The Forks.

The final cohort of the *Reclaiming Our Power and Place Program* started.

MMVI made a Statement to the Community of the passing of Honourable Murray Sinclair.

With several other community organizations, MMVI sponsored a Take Back the Night event.

MMVI provided MMVI members with tickets to Don Amero.

December 2024

In partnership with 2Spirit MB, MMVI hosted *Winter Solstice Celebration* at Sergeant Tommy Prince Place.

Representing MMVI, Diandre Thomas-Hart, Board of Director Co-Chair, went to Ottawa, ON to attend an Assembly of First Nations event, representing Indigenous women and gender diverse people of Manitoba.

In partnership with local community organizations, MMVI hosted the December *Full Moon Ceremony* at the Oodena Celebration Circle, The Forks.



Part of the Tea With Kookum program, MMVI invited members to attend *Beading With Lana*.

MMVI had its annual *Open House*.

January 2025

Board of Director Co-Chair, Cheryl Alexander and a Kookum from the Grandmother's Advisory Circle went to Ottawa for a NWAC Board of Directors meeting.

MMVI invited members to attend *Red Dress Pin Beading with Gerri Pangman*, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited to attend a *Pipe Ceremony* with Kookum Bev Courchene, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI invited members to *Beading With Lana*, a Tea With Kookum workshop

MMVI members were invited to *Family Relationships* with Elder Ivy Chaske, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI provided MMVI members with tickets to the *Motorsports Spectacular*.

MMVI members were invited to *Tote Bag Making* with Iris Lauzon, a Tea With Kookum workshop

MMVI members were invited to make an appointment for a *Cedar Bath Ceremony* with Sherry Flett, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

Kristin Worth was announced as the recipient of the *2024 Gwen Cook Award*.



February 2025

MMVI members were invited to attend a *Learning Circle on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

MMVI members were invited to *Traditional Medicines* with Donna Kurt, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited to *Drum Singing* with Blair Owere, a Tea With Kookum workshop which occurred weekly in February and March.

MMVI members were invited to *Turtle Rattle Making* with Janine Twoheart, a Tea With Kookum workshop.



MMVI members were invited to *2-Spirit Teachings* with Kookum Gayle Pruden, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

In partnership with local community organizations, MMVI sponsored the *Annual Women's Memorial March of Manitoba in Honour MMIWG2S+*.

MMVI members were invited to *Moon Lodge Teachings & Teachings for Helpers*, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited to *Traditional Bundle Teaching* with Allen Sutherland, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited to *Moccasin Making* with Carol Frechette, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited to *Ojibway Language Teachings* with Sophie Boulanger, a Tea With Kookum workshop. The *Ojibway Language Teachings* workshop occurred every Thursday in February and March.



MMVI members were invited to *Story Telling* with Jason Bone, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited to *Ancestral Ways of Life & Balance: Healing Our Spirit*, with Elders Floyd & Faylene Sutherland, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

March 2025

MMVI members were invited to *Drum Making* with Janine Twoheart, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited to an *UNDRIP Learning Circle*, with speaker Brenda L. Gunn.

MMVI members were invited to *Seven Ways of Healing* with Elder Bev Courchene, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited to *2-Spirit Leadership & Community Wellness*, with Elder Albert McLeod, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited *Healing with Reiki* with Connie Masson, a Tea With Kookum workshop.



MMVI members were invited to attend an UNDRIP Learning Circle, with speaker Pam Boulanger.

MMVI hosted *Gikendamowin Zoongan Women & 2Spirit Gathering*, at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

A *Media Statement* was published when a discovery was made at the Prairie Green Landfill relating to the Morgan Harris family.

MMVI members were invited to an *UNDRIP Learning Circle*, with speaker Elder Albert McLeod.

MMVI members were invited to *Healing with Culture & Spirituality*, with Myra Sinclair, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited to *Clan Teachings* with Knowledge Keeper Randy Thomas, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI members were invited to *Family Skills for Navigating CFS: Building Strength Through Knowledge* with Alba Lopez Gomez, a Tea With Kookum workshop.



A *Media Statement* was published demanding urgent action following the discovery of Mercedes Myran at the Prairie Green Landfill.

MMVI members were invited to make an appointment to get a *Massage* with Carrie Grouette, a Tea With Kookum workshop.

MMVI hosted an *Engagement Session* for the 2-Spirit and Trans relatives.

Are you a 2 Spirit or Trans
Relative accessing services?

We need to hear from you!

Thursday, March 27, 2025
1:00pm



Manitoba Moon Voices Inc.

TRANS RIGHTS
ARE
HUMAN RIGHTS

MMVI members were invited to *Bannock Making* with Gerri Lee Pangman, a *Tea With Kookum* workshop.

MMVI members were invited to make an appointment for a *Cedar Bath*, with Sherry Flett, a *Tea With Kookum* workshop.

MMVI hosted an *UNDRIP Learning Circle Dinner*, at the Radisson Hotel.



A *Media Statement* was published when Mashkode Bizihiki'lkwe (Buffalow Woman) was finally identified as Ashlee Shingoose.

MMVI sponsored an event for the *Trans Day of Visibility*.

Gwen Cook Award

The Gwen Cook Memorial Award was created to honour the memory of Gwen Cook (Bimosekwe) who was a founding grandmother of the Manitoba Moon Voices Inc's Grandmother Advisory Circle. Below is a message from Kristen Worth, the recipient of the 2024 Gwen Cook Award. Kristin Worth is from Berens River First Nation. She is taking Urban and Inner-City Studies at the University of Winnipeg.

*Dear Manitoba Moon Voices:
I want to thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the 2024 Gwen Cook Award. I am truly honored and grateful for this recognition.*

I also want to express my gratitude for allowing me to complete my community development and advocacy practicum with your organization. Everyone was so kind and welcoming and I learned a great deal from each person as they shared their unique insights into the important roles they play within the organization. The knowledge I gained about community development and engagement has been invaluable, and I will continue to apply what I've learned in both my academic and personal life.



I hope to stay involved with Manitoba Moon Voices as a volunteer. The organization is so important for empowering Indigenous women and gender diverse individuals and it provides a safe, inclusive and supportive space. Everything I learned here will continue to guide me as I move forward in my career.

My practicum experience has shown me how Indigenous knowledge and values shape community development in powerful ways. It has also strengthened my commitment to advocacy rooted in cultural understanding. I am truly grateful for this opportunity, as it has expanded my learning and deepened my commitment to supporting and uplifting our community.

Thank you again for this incredible opportunity.

*Respectfully,
Kristin Worth*

Raising Voices Program Report

Submitted By
Shelley Anderson
Community Engagement Coordinator

Summary

During the 2024/2025 fiscal year, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. held various engagements in the urban areas of Manitoba. These areas include Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson, and community outreach in The Pas.

The planning of these initial community engagements we're done by utilizing the Advisory Circle, and the Giwiindamago Debwewin Community Circle recommendations and knowledge. The planning of these events utilized local community organizations and partners collaborations, in first supporting MMVI creating these important connections and second to introduce MMVI to the urban areas of Manitoba where community members became aware of MMVI and had the opportunity to join MMVI membership. For the engagements held in Brandon, and Thompson, MMVI asked Elder Kathy Boulanger for a translation of "Raising Voices" in Ojibway, the name given was "Ganoonidiwag". A survey was carried out for each of these community engagements.

Activities 1: Community Engagements

Brandon Community Engagement Session/Ganoonidiwag Gathering

Date: May 22, 2024 Resource Fair &
May 23, 2024 Ganoonidiwag Gathering

MMVI partnered with the Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation – Ask Auntie Program for the Community Engagement Session/Ganoonidiwag Gathering, during the planning process and discussions with the Ask Auntie program, it was highlighted the need to bring all the resources together for Indigenous community members especially Indigenous Woman, 2Spirit and Trans relatives can access in the Brandon area and from Manitoba Moon Voices. MMVI and the Ask Auntie Program came together to plan a community resource fair, with 14 organizations, this created the opportunity for MMVI to connect with community in Brandon before the engagement session.





The Ganoonidiwag Gathering was successful in reaching urban Indigenous Woman, Girls, 2Spirit and Gender Diverse community members of Brandon. During the gathering a meal was shared, local youth dancers and drum group were present, a round dance, youth volunteers we're utilized, and community surveys were conducted. Community members we're not aware of Manitoba Moon Voices as an organization, Shelley gave a short presentation during the gathering on the organization and organizational information (pamphlets) we're distributed.

No. of community members present: 90 relatives

No. of new members: 38 members

Thompson Community Engagement Session/Ganoonidiwag Gathering

Date: June 25, 2024

The Ganoonidiwag Gathering in Thompson looked different then the previous engagements, with low attendance numbers for the event. Shelley approached more of an outreach community engagement in Thompson, by visiting and introducing MMVI as an organization to community members and local organizations in local settings. Shelley made important connections with YWCA and the Crisis Centre in Thompson.



No. of new members: 6

The Pas Community Engagement

MMVI visited The Pas on August 16th, 2024 to attend The Pas Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation Street Festival, where local community organizations come together to share resources. Shelley had the opportunity to meet with The Pas Friendship Centre.

Winnipeg Community Engagement 2/Winter Solstice Celebration

Date: December 19, 2024

The Winter Solstice each year is a sacred time for many nations across Turtle Island where ceremony and feasts take place. This year, Manitoba Moon Voices hosted a Winter Solstice Feast where our relatives gathered in ceremony and for a meal. MMVI facilitated surveys during this time and completed 33 completed surveys.

Winnipeg Community Engagement 3/Gikendamowin Zoongan Gathering

The Gikendamowin Zoongan Gathering was a time to empower each other and to reaffirm to our relatives the importance of using your voice. Invited relatives included MMVI membership, new members, MMIWG2S+ advocates, and strong Indigenous leaders/speakers. The invited guest speakers shared their stories and how they used those experiences to make an impact in their community and work.

2 Spirit Community Engagement Sessions

Date: March 2025

MMVI facilitated two sessions specifically for 2 Spirit and Trans People, it was important to engage with these relatives as during our surveying we learned that our 2 Spirit and Trans Relatives were experiencing systematic failure and neglect due to their gender identity.

Completed Surveys	
Gikendamowin Zoongan Gathering Winnipeg, MB March 21, 2025 No. of completed surveys	38
Winter Solstice Winnipeg, MB December 19th, 2024 No. of completed surveys	33
Thompson, MB June 2024 No. of completed surveys	29
Brandon, MB May 2024 No. of completed surveys	53
Winnipeg, MB March 2024 No. of completed surveys	28
Total	181

2 Spirit and Trans Relative Sessions	
March 2025 No. of participants	6
Total No. of Relatives engaged with	187

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, Manitoba Moon Voices Raising Voices project successfully engaged with 187 relatives from across the province. We were able to host Community Engagement Sessions in the City of Winnipeg, Thompson and Brandon. MMVI gathered valuable knowledge and feedback from relatives and had critical discussions regarding Gender-Based Violence, barriers when accessing community resources, the sharing of information about community resources, housing, public safety and the implementation and education of the 231 Calls to Justice.

Activities 2: Community Events & Memorial Walks

Shelley was involved in the planning of multiple community events throughout the year supporting Indigenous Women, Girls, 2Spirit and Gender Diverse relatives throughout the year. MMVI supported memorial walks in honour of MMIWG2S+ relatives listed below.

Indigenous Peoples Day – “Hey Cuzzin” Event

MMVI partnered with 11 organizations for Indigenous Peoples Day, and hosted an event named “Hey Cuzzin”. This was an important event for the 11 organizations to come together in spirit of reconciliation and to create a safe space for membership to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day and come together in ceremony. CTV Morning Live Winnipeg reached out to Shelley to hold interviews and exposure for Manitoba Moon Voices to be in the news. The estimated number of relatives attended was 400. During “Hey Cuzzin” a pipe ceremony was held, pow wow demonstrations, along with several Indigenous performers.



National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - Chāpān Games



MMVI partnered with the 11 partner organizations to host the Chāpān Games, the games are Traditional Indigenous games that those who did not return home would have learned from their Chāpān (Cree for Great Grandparents). Attending the event was to honour those young people who never returned home because of the erroneous government policies that removed them from their homes and sent them to live elsewhere and where many died - and to honor those who survived and suffered, many with debilitating effects that are still being felt today. This event included ceremony, and several Indigenous performers.

Memorial walks supported:

Annual Mother's Day Memorial Walk	May 2024
Mackaylah Gerard-Roussin Memorial Walk	September 2024
Take Back the Night	November 2024
Annual Women's Memorial March of MB in honour of MMIWG2S+	February 2025

Activities 3: Partnerships

MMVI created partnerships with several organizations throughout Manitoba.

2Spirit Manitoba Inc.
Anish Corp.
Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty 2 Territory (ANT2T)
Art City
Bear Clan Patrol
Blue Thunderbird Family Care Inc.
Brandon Friendship Centre
Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation – Ask Auntie Program
Brandon Off-Reserve Jordan's Principle
Brandon Pride
Brandon Urban Aboriginal Peoples' Council
Canadian Museum for Human Rights
Centre de Sante Saint-Boniface
City of Brandon
City of Winnipeg – Indigenous Relations Division
Crisis and Trauma Resource Institute
CTV Morning Live Winnipeg

Downtown Community Safety Partnership
Giganawenimaanaanig – MMIWG2S+ Implementation Committee
Jessie Home Inc.
Ka Ni Kanichihk
Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre
Manitoba Aboriginal Sports & Recreation Council Inc.
Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.
Manitoba Metis Federation – Metis Employment & Training
Neecheewam Inc.
Sakihwe Festival
Southern Chiefs Organization
The Pas Friendship Centre
The Pas Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
The Salvation Army
Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba
WAG-Quamajuq
Winnipeg Indigenous Executive Circle
Winnipeg Indigenous Friendship Centre
Women’s Health Clinic
Total: 37+

Activities 4: Membership

MMVI membership increased with the Community Engagement sessions held in all areas of Manitoba, events/outreach, and social media presence. Membership numbers have increased compared to the previous year.

	1-Apr	1-Jul	1-Oct	Jan 1/24
2023-2024	1st Qt	2nd Qt	3rd Qt	4th Qt
New:	24	31	44	77
			Total:	176

	1-Apr	1-Jul	1-Oct	Jan 1/25
2024-2025	1st Qt	2nd Qt	3rd Qt	4th Qt
New:	137	52	38	62
			Total:	289

Special Note: Manitoba Moon Voices refers to Community Members and Participants of our programs as Relatives. This is important to highlight as this practice is closely aligned with our values, mission statement and the project's description as well a practice that restores the position of our people, bringing them in and tethering them to purpose and belonging.



UNDRIP Program Report

Submitted By
Shelley Anderson
Community Engagement Coordinator

Summary

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. (MMVI) held various workshops, and events with local facilitators who have been champions on educating community and speaking on topics about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. membership we're invited to join the UNDRIP Learning Circle, and the various events held. This created a group of Indigenous Women, 2Spirit and Gender-Diverse relatives coming together to learn and expand their knowledge in a safe space. The learning circle also brought in new members to the organization. Initial surveys we're created to gauge the topics participants were most interested in learning about and a final survey to see how impactful the workshops and events were.

Activities:

Activity 1: UNDRIP Learning Circle Workshops

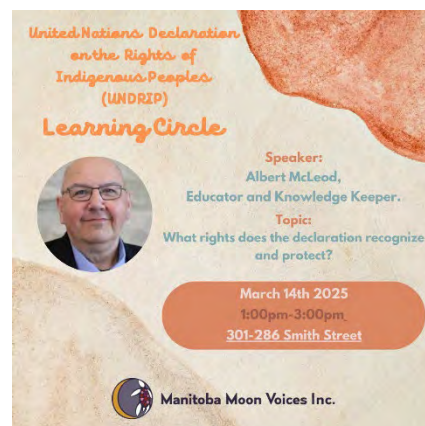
The UNDRIP Learning Circle workshops created a safe environment for participants to learn more about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Professor Brenda Gunn was a facilitator speaking on Aboriginal Law and the "Understanding and Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" an Introductory Handbook she created. MMVI printed copies of these handbooks and distributed them to participants of the workshops. The handbooks supported the participants in better understanding and more depth of information on the articles in the declaration.

Educator and Knowledge Keeper Pam Boulanger facilitated a session on Cultural Practices and Traditions in relation to UNDRIP. This gave participants the chance to make connections within their own culture practices and how it relates to UNDRIP.

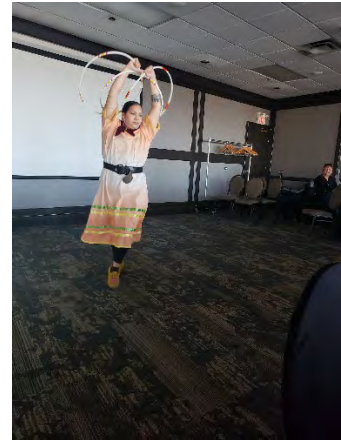
Dr. Albert McLeod facilitated a workshop on "What right's does the declaration recognize and protect?".

After each workshop concluded, the facilitator and participants had the opportunity to ask questions and have informal roundtable discussions on the workshop topic.



Activity 2: UNDRIP Learning Circle Dinner

MMVI hosted a final UNDRIP Learning Circle Dinner for all participants to wrap up the workshop series. Participants and facilitators came together for a final evening of learning with Elder Pam Boulanger and Dr. Tasha Spillett sharing their knowledge, and with some entertainment from Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers (Jig Dancers) and a traditional hoop dancer. Participants had the opportunity to receive cedar baths & massages.



Activity 3: UNDRIP Gathering

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. held the Gikendamowin Zoongan (Knowledge is Power) Women & 2Spirit Gathering at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights. The focus of one of the afternoon workshops was the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Gena Edwards, President of the BC Native Women's Association, joined the gathering as the workshop facilitator speaking on the implementation of UNDRIP in British Columbia, and the path moving forward on how Manitoba can implement the declarations.





Activity 4: Surveys

Surveys we've conducted in the beginning of the learning circle series and at the final dinner. This was a way to measure how impactful these workshops were for participants and how their knowledge increased throughout. This information is useful for Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. going forward to implementing the United Nation's declarations.

Outcomes:

In the beginning of the learning series, many participants knew about the declaration but not many knew a lot about it and the ways it effects Indigenous people in Manitoba. The workshops and events happening supported increasing their knowledge and understanding. Through the final survey, we saw an increased knowledge on the understanding of the declaration especially how it relates to Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender Diverse rights. The participants valued being able to learn in a safe environment and able to connect with facilitators that hold the knowledge to answer their questions and support their learning journeys.

No. of participants engaged: 72 participants

No. of UNDRIP pocketbooks distributed: 150 booklets

No. of UNDRIP introductory books *distributed: 80 books*



Communications Program Report

Submitted By
Darrell “Gav” Chippeway
Communications Coordinator

As Communications Coordinator at Manitoba Moon Voices Inc, I am responsible for keeping MMVI members informed about our activities while encouraging the relatives to participate in the programs and events we offer.

One of the more challenging and newly introduced responsibilities in my role has been writing grant applications and funding request letters to potential funders. This is a skill I am gradually developing, and I am hopeful that several of the grants we have applied for will come to fruition in the upcoming fiscal year.

There are two projects I am responsible for that I am especially proud of (1) The Healing Journey Video Project: Stories of Truth and Reconciliation; and (2) the Honouring MMIWG2S+ Families Project.

Healing Journey Video Project: Stories of Truth and Reconciliation

For the Healing Journey Video Project: Stories of Truth and Reconciliation, we invited four Indigenous Residential School Warriors (Ivy Chaske, Beverley Courchene, Iris Lauzon and Sylvia James) to share their residential school experience with Indigenous youth, in what we called a Story Circle. The Story Circle took place at the *Winnipeg Art Gallery: Qaumajuq* on August 16, 2024. The Story Circle was



video recorded. After the *WAG: Qaumajuq* event, it was the videographer’s job (Kevin Settee, from Home Street Productions) to bring the event together in short video vignettes that we would share on our social media platforms: *Facebook & Instagram* on Orange Shirt Day, September 30th. On Orange Shirt Day, we published one video called ***The Children Who Never Made It Home***. The following day we published the second video called ***Iris Lauzon’s Story***.

With respect to the video ***The Children Who Never Made It Home*** (1) our Facebook social media stats tell us that 39% of the views are non-followers; (2) the majority of views are “women” who are 25-34, 45-54 & 55-64; and, (3) we reached views from across Canada and the USA. On Instagram, the social media stats tell us that 36.9% of the views are non-followers. With respect to the video ***Iris Lauzon’s Story***, our Facebook social media stats tell us that 55% of the views are non-followers. On Instagram, the social media stats tell us that 39.9% of the views are non-followers. With respect to non-followers, this means that our “content is being shown to a wider audience through a ranking algorithm.”



Honouring MMIWG2S+ Families

The Honouring MMIWG2S+ Families Project is dedicated to bringing together families affected by the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, 2S and Gender Diverse individuals. As part of the project, each family is photographed by a professional photographer (Kevin Settee from Home Street Productions), holding an image of their missing and/or murdered loved one.

The project serves three key purposes:

1. Two canvas prints of each family portrait are created: one for the family and one for the MMVI.
2. The MMVI version of the canvas includes a Call for Justice, selected by the family, from *Reclaiming Our Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*.
3. Starting on October 4th, the National Day of Action to Honour MMIWG2S+, MMVI shares one image per day on its social media platforms (Facebook & Instagram), along with the corresponding Call for Justice.

To conclude the project, families are invited for a final Ceremony and Feast, held in their honour, to recognize their strength, stories, and participation.

The Honouring MMIWG2S+ Families Project brought three families together but created four images.

1. Elder Beverley Courchene holding an image of her daughter Leah Keeper. MMVI was especially honoured for Bev's participation in the project as Bev is MMVI Grandmother and Elder.

The Call for Justice Elder Beverley Courchene chose is 9.9, under Police Services:

"We call upon all levels of government and all police services for the establishment of a national task force, comprised of an independent, highly qualified, and specialized team of investigators, to review and, if required, to reinvestigate each case of all unresolved files of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people from across Canada. Further, this task force must disclose to families and to survivors all non-privileged information and findings."



2. The Dorie Family. The young man is holding an image of his mother, Crystal.

The Call for Justice Elsie Dorie chose is 9.6, under Police Services:

"We call upon all police services to establish an independent, special investigation unit for the investigation of incidents of failures to investigate, police misconduct, and all forms of discriminatory practices and mistreatment of Indigenous Peoples within their police service. This special investigation unit must be transparent in practice and report at least annually to Indigenous communities, leadership, and people in their jurisdiction."



3. The Hood Family (I). The young woman is holding an image of her mother.

The Call for Justice the Hood Family chose is 5.25, under Justice:

"We call upon all governments to resource research on men who commit violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people."



4. The Hood Family (II). Young girl poses with an image of her mother.



The Call for Justice chosen for the image is 3.7, under Health & Wellness:

"We call upon all governments to provide continual and accessible healing programs and support for all children of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people and their family members. Specifically, we call for the permanent establishment of a fund akin to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation and related funding. These funds and their administration must be independent from government and must be distinctions-based. There must be accessible and equitable allocation of specific monies within the fund for Inuit, Métis, and First Nations Peoples."

Ceremony/Feast



On Friday, March 28, 2025, to honour the families that participated in the project, MMVI had a Ceremony and Feast. The event occurred at The Forks Market, Event Space. We used this opportunity to present the Dorie family and the Hood family with a 20x20 canvas print of the image they took to recognize their loved-one for the *National Day of Action to Honour MMIWG2S+*, October 4, 2024. A Pipe Ceremony was led by Elders Floyd and Faylene Sutherland. Knowledge Keeper Gayle Pruden did a jingle dress dance to honour the families, with drumming done by Sage Smith. For the Feast, we had Bison stew, bannock and fresh fruit platters from Feast Café Bistro.





In April, six months after October 4th, the National Day of Action to Honour MMIWG2S+, we republish (reshare) the images from the project on our social media platforms (Facebook & Instagram). This increases (1) the visibility of the families who participated in the project, and (2) the visibility of the MMIWG2S+ crisis.

Tea With Kookum

Program Report

“The Tea with Kookum series of workshops was a good opportunity for MMVI members to connect with traditional teachings from Elders and get cultural teachings that heal their minds, bodies, spirits and emotions. For some participants the Tea with Kookum series of workshops was a way of reconnecting with their Indigenous heritage and learning about the gifts we all have.”

--Kathy Boulanger-Budd

Tea with Kookum is a series of workshops created for MMVI members, offering meaningful opportunities for cultural reclamation. The program was coordinated by Kathy Boulanger-Budd and supported through a grant from the Family Violence Prevention Program, Indigenous Services Canada. We believe the workshops and activities reflects a vital community priority.

Tea with Kookum is closely connected to gender-based violence prevention efforts that support Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQI+ relatives. It also aligns with *Call for Justice 2.3*, which urges governments to ensure Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQIA people have safe, barrier-free, permanent and meaningful access to their cultures and languages as a path to reclaiming and revitalizing identity.

Through its workshops and activities, Tea with Kookum strengthens cultural identity, pride, intergenerational connection and healing. And it fosters resilience, respect and healthier relationships that contribute to the prevention of family violence. Notably, MMVI also offered members workshops on Two-Spirit Teachings as well as Two-Spirit Leadership and Community Wellness, further expanding this circle of cultural knowledge and support.

Tea with Kookum Activities:

- *Red Dress Pin Beading with Gerri Pangman*
- *Pipe Ceremony with Kookum Bev Courchene*
- *Beading with Lana*
- *Family Relationships with Elder Ivy Chaske*
- *Tote Bag Making with Iris Lauzon*
- *Cedar Bath Ceremony with Sherry Flett*
- *Traditional Medicines with Donna Kurt*
- *Drum Singing with Blair Owere*



- *Turtle Rattle Making* with Janine Twoheart
- *2-Spirit Teachings* with Kookum Gayle Pruden
- *Moon Lodge Teachings & Teachings for Helpers*
- *Traditional Bundle Teaching* with Allen Sutherland



- *Moccasin Making* with Carol Frechette
- *Ojibway Language Teachings* with Sophie Boulanger
- *Story Telling* with Jason Bone
- *Ancestral Ways of Life & Balance: Healing Our Spirit*, with Elders Floyd & Faylene Sutherland
- *Drum Making* with Janine Twoheart
- *Seven Ways of Healing* with Elder Bev Courchene
- *2-Spirit Leadership & Community Wellness*, with Elder Albert McLeod
- *Healing with Reiki* with Connie Masson
- *Healing with Culture & Spirituality*, with Myra Sinclair
- *Clan Teachings* with Knowledge Keeper Randy Thomas
- *Family Skills for Navigating CFS: Building Strength Through Knowledge* with Alba Lopez Gomez
- *Massage* with Carrie Grouette
- *Bannock Making* with Gerri Lee Pangman
- *Cedar Bath Ceremony*, with Sherry Flett



Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program Report

This past fiscal year, we were saddened to have Judy Cook, ISET Program Coordinator, leave MMVI. Judy was a great asset to MMVI and a huge advocate for higher education for our relatives. Thank-you Judy for being a great supporter of MMVI. We miss you.

MMVI had the wonderful opportunity to and connect with the Native Women's Association of Canada ISET staff members and other Province and Territorial Member Associate ISET Coordinators from across Canada for various trainings on the ARMS database and a refresh of the ISET Program. We believe professional development is vital to being a good support to our relatives who utilize the ISET program. MMVI is thankful for the continued partnership and support from NWAC.



The fiscal year, 2024/2025, the ISET Program has helped Indigenous women, girls, 2S, transgender and gender-diverse individuals attain credentials in the following areas: Addictions and Mental Health Program, Faculty of Law Degree Program, Practical Nursing Program, Early Childhood Educator, Family Support Worker, Esthetics Diploma Program, Business Administration Program, Healthcare Aid and Unit Clerk Program, Social Service Worker Program, Education Assistant Program, Faculty of Law Program, Practical Nursing Program, Heal your life workshop facilitator, Community Support worker Program, Bachelor of Nursing, Applied Counselling

We also provided Job Start Assistance to our relatives who received assistance with work clothing, transportation needs and various checks (criminal record checks, child abuse registry checks and vulnerable sector checks)

It is a great honor to walk with our relatives as they empower themselves by obtaining post-secondary education.

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

Reclaiming our Power and Place

Program Report

Reclaiming our Power and Place is an Indigenous-led series of workshops and seminars that are culturally appropriate. ROPAP is directly linked to gendered-based-violence prevention services that help Indigenous women, girls 2-Spirit and gender diverse individuals.

ROPAP is a front-line service delivery program offering trauma-informed and culturally tailored support to Indigenous women, girls, 2-Spirit and gender diverse individuals. ROPAP teaches self-awareness by connecting Indigenous women, girls, 2-Spirit and gender diverse individuals to cultural activities, community groups and to Elders and Knowledge Keepers. The program also provides access to skills training, career counseling, and educational opportunities.



Taking the Next Steps in our Journey

Program Report

The goal of the *Taking the Next Steps in our Journey* Program is to help participating relatives identify a path moving towards employment or education. This report summarizes the *Next Step in our Journey* program delivery that ran three-cohorts between October 2023 through August 2024. The program consisted of three cohorts; each session ran three days per week for four hours per day. The final cohort of *Taking the Next Steps* ran from May 20024 to August 2024. Program participants needed to be on EIA and between 18-29 years of age. The May 20024 to August 2024 cohort consisted of seven and eight participants respectively, ranging in age from 18 to 27 years of age. Positive feedback was received from participants throughout the sessions regarding the workshops, cultural experiences and experiences leading to certificates, as well as the community connections built with peers and mentors including the group facilitator and an Elder. The program concluded with a celebration with friends, family, and community attending a ceremony, honouring completion of the program, where we came together to recognize participants' accomplishments.



Each session of *Taking the Next Steps in our Journey* included the following facilitator run workshops:

1. Goal setting workshop. This workshop included the following facilitated worksheet activities: group goal setting, finding my life purpose, SMART goal setting, growth mindset goal setting planning.
2. Life skills workshop. This workshop included the following facilitated worksheet activities: assertive communication, "I" statements, assertiveness tips, examples of assertive communication, traits of assertive communication.
3. Self-esteem workshop. This workshop included the following facilitated worksheet activities: about me, my mind matters, positive self-talk journal, self-esteem quiz, "I am...", friendship qualities inventory.
4. Understanding trauma and addiction workshop. This session included facilitated discussions about what trauma is, and connections between trauma and addiction, how trauma affects the brain, trauma types, how trauma is linked to addiction, connections between addiction and different types of traumas including adverse childhood experiences, PTSD, physical trauma and emotional trauma.
5. Stress, anger, and wellness workshop. Facilitated discussions included defining stress, what does stress feel like, what are the first steps in managing stress,

identifying if you are stressed, identifying stressors, identifying causes of stressors, identifying and applying appropriate stress management strategies; what causes anger, routes of anger, is stress always the cause of anger; what wellbeing involves, defining wellness, an exercise about coping and adapting to new situations, and Indigenous understanding of wellness, Indigenous beliefs about healing, Indigenous traditional healing, understanding wellness and resilience.

6. Communication and problem-solving skills. This workshop included the following facilitated worksheet activities: interpersonal skills exercises, just listen, don't listen, and type of communication styles.
7. Time management and teamwork. Facilitated discussion included defining what is time management, why time management skills are important, the consequences of poor time management. The group completed different exercises such as making a schedule, time schedule activity outlining daily activities to understand their daily time management.
8. Treaties and the impact of residential schools. Facilitated discussions about what the Treaties are, the impact of the Treaties, the creation of First Nations reserves, origins of the Indian Act, the White Paper.
9. Resumes, cover letters, and interview skills. Participants practiced answering common interview questions, and mock interviews.

Participants provided feedback formally and informally at regular intervals throughout the program. Through this feedback participants have met the goals as outlined in the program delivery agreements to and have achieved:

- more knowledge of how to set personal goals;
- increased knowledge of life skills;
- increased self-esteem;
- increased understanding of the broad historical and personal circumstances that impact their lives;
- an improved understanding of trauma and addictions;
- an improved tool kit of interpersonal skills that will reduce stress, decrease anger, and encourage wellness;
- improved communication and problem-solving skills;
- improved time management and teamwork skills;
- certifications to improve employability;
- have more tools to manage personal and workplace interactions;
- increased knowledge of how to produce a cover letter and resume;
- improved interview skills;
- a better understanding of how the ISET program can help them achieve their education goals;
- improved understanding of how workplaces function;
- improved understanding of how universities and colleges in Manitoba can help them achieve their goals.

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