

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly**

**Gi-Zoongigaabomin  
We Are Standing Strong**



**Manitoba Moon Voices Inc.**

## **Table of Contents**

1. Code of Honour
2. Board of Directors Message
3. Executive Director Message
4. 2023/2024 Activity Report
5. Gwen Cook Award
6. Indigenous Skills and Education Training (ISET) Program Report
7. Raising Moon, Raising Voice Program Report
8. Communications Program Report
9. Taking the Next Steps in our Journey Program Report
10. Tea with Kookum Program Report
11. Reclaiming our Power and Place (ROPAP) Program Report
12. Funders

## **CODE OF HONOR**

The traditional concepts of respect and sharing that form the foundation of the Indigenous way of life are fashioned around the Seven Natural Laws or Sacred Teachings. These guiding principles form the basis for MMVI. They honor the basic virtues intrinsic to a full and healthy life.

### **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 peoples 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.

## Board of Director Co-Chair Message

First, we want to thank Kookum Beverley Courchene for providing us with the name and theme of Manitoba Moon Voices Inc's 2024 Annual General Assembly:

### **Gi-Zoongigaabomin We Are Standing Strong**

It has been our experience that we as Indigenous women, 2-spirit and gender diverse individuals stand strong and are resilient against oppression due to our connection to our cultures, our traditions and our communities. Despite centuries of colonization, violence, and systemic discrimination, we continue to lead movements for justice, protect the lands and the people and preserve our languages and knowledge. We do this by drawing strength from our ancestors and through a commitment to future generations.

“As a new board member, I had to familiarize myself with the business of MMVI. But after being invited to the table of the Native Women’s Association of Canada (NWAC) and becoming a NWAC board member, I truly felt like I was able to provide leadership. I've had the privilege of being invited by NWAC to attend events in Ottawa and Montreal. And to attend a United Nations event in New York City.” –Cheryl Alexander

Looking ahead to the next fiscal year, we are excited about plans to gradually implement new initiatives and expand programs. As Board Co-Chairs, we have had the opportunity to sit at various tables and meet influential people. We are really grateful for this opportunity. Our hope is to see MMVI continue contributing to community-led strategies that help Indigenous women, 2-spirit and gender diverse individuals thrive.

-Cheryl Alexander  
MMVI Co-Chair

-Diandre Thomas-Hart  
MMVI Co-Chair



## Executive Director Message

I would like to welcome everyone to our 10th Annual General Assembly. It has been my great pleasure to walk along this journey with you, the membership - our relatives for the past 8 years.

I want to begin by acknowledging the staff and board volunteers for their hard work and dedication, the good work we have completed in 2023/24 has always been a team effort and we all take pride in our heart work. Because of my teams hard work, this past fiscal year we added approximately 200 new members.

Our mission at Manitoba Moon Voices Inc. (MMVI) is to support and empower Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals has let us continue with our programs like the Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program (ISET), Reclaiming Our Power and Place Program (ROPAP) Raising Moon, Raising Voices and Taking the Next Step in our Journey.

As part of the empowering piece, I too have had the wonderful opportunity to take training with AFOA Canada, this has allowed me to gain the vital skills to continually work for the community.

In addition, MMVI has been able to secure an additional \$60,000 for programming; Tea with Kokum and \$50,000 from the Canadian Government to provide educational resources on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (UNDRIP). We look forward to seeing you at the workshops starting this fall.

I'm also very proud that we were the recipient of the Community Builder Award, by SEED Winnipeg Inc at their Annual Report to the Community



We have overcome many obstacles this past year, with continued support from community. We will continue to strive to ensure that this coming year will be another stellar year for MMVI.

-Shannon Hoskie

## **Activity Highlights (2023 – 2024)**

### **April 2023**

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc's Co-Chair attended the 22nd United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues with the Native Women's Association of Canada

### **May 2023**

At the beginning of May, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc published a Media Statement supporting the call for a National State of Emergency by the Gaganaawenimaanaanig MMIWG2S+ Implementation Committee.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc proudly produced its first newsletter: DIBIKI GIIZIS DIBAAJIMOWINAN (Moon Telling Stories). Kathy Boulanger-Budd, MMVI administrative assistant, was offered tobacco to come up with the name of the newsletter.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc started advertising for a Taking the Next Steps in our Journey Project Coordinator. Taking the Next Steps in our Journey is a new program that MMVI developed that would start in the Fall.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc, with other community partners, sponsored the 2Spirit Honor Dance Special at the Manito Ahbee Festival Pow Wow.

We also sponsored the Sisters in Spirit Annual Mother's Day Walk, Honoring MMIWG2S+.

We attended a land blessing and feast to honor the naming of a Winnipeg park after local warrior Leslie Spillett and her grand-daughter Izzy. The name of the park is Giizhigooweyaabikwe Park. Board Director Gayle Pruden danced at the event.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc staff attended the Portage and Main Round Dance to honor Red Dress Day.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc was able to provide free tickets to its members to attend the Winnipeg Comedy Festival at the Burton Cummings Theatre.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc hosted two Drum Making Workshops in May.

At the end of May, we started another cohort of the Reclaiming our Power and Place Program.



## June 2023

Kookum Gloria Karen Lalman was honored at Keeping the Fires Burning. Manitoba Moon Voices Inc was proud to be Gloria's sponsor organization. Gloria is a member of Peguis First Nation. She survived residential school and got her education. Gloria retired from government in 2015.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc was invited by 2Spirit Manitoba to have a table at the Indigi-Mall at the Pride Festival at The Forks. We were also a sponsor for 2Spirit Pride.

At the end of June a Taking the Next Steps in our Journey Project Coordinator was hired.

## August 2023

On August 4 Manitoba Moon Voices Inc published a Media Release calling on allies across Turtle Island to send us red dresses to honor the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit-Plus community, for an event/ceremony that would occur on August 27.

On August 16 and 17, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc held our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Healing Journey Video Project at the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre. The video vignettes produced from the August 16 and 17 story circles were being created to honor The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

On August 26, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc held its 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly. The theme and name of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly was Language is Healing.

On August 27, a Red Dress event was held at the Manitoba Legislative Building to honor the MMIWG2S+

## September 2023



At the beginning of September, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc held a one-day photoshoot with four MMIWG2S+ families. The annual project is called Honoring the Families of the MMIWG2S+. The images produced from the photoshoot are created to honor The Day of Action of the MMIWG2S+ on October 4.

In partnership with the Native Women's Association of Canada, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc had a Free Hospitality Training Program for on-reserve residents of Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and Norway House Cree Nation)

In partnership with the Native Women's Association of Canada, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc had a Free Child Care Assistant



Training Program for on-reserve residents of Brokenhead Ojibway Nation and Norway House Cree Nation.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc was proud to host, with other community partners, the 2023 Fall Feast for the Community.

To honor the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc proudly started publishing videos on our social media sites (Facebook and Instagram) from The Healing Journey Video Project: (1) The Survivors and Their Truth and (2) The Circle.

### **October 2023**

To Honor the National Day of Action for MMIWG2S+, we started publishing the images of the families who participated in Honoring the Families of the MMIWG2S+ project. The families included in the project are the Divas family, the Gerard Roussin family, the Harris family and the Myran family. In total, we published five images. Each image had a reference to a Call for Justice from the Final Report of the National Inquiry into the MMIWG2S+.

A new cohort of relatives started the Reclaiming our Power and Place Program.

The first cohort of youth started the Taking the Next Steps in our Journey Program.

The workshop Leather Mittens Making with Carol Frechette started. The workshop went on for five weeks.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc was honored with the Community Builder Award, by SEED Winnipeg Inc, at their Annual Report to the Community.

The workshop Beading With Lana started. The workshop went on for five weeks.

### **November 2023**

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc published a Community Callout, asking the community to light a candle in support of justice for Noreen Tait.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc was able to provide MMVI members with tickets to the opera: Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc was able to provide MMVI members with tickets to Cirque Musica: Holiday Wonderland, a magical musical journey at the Burton Cummings Theatre.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc, with other community organizations, held a sacred fire and feast to honor the Transgender Day of Remembrance

## December 2023

Amari Dion-Hart was the recipient of the 2023 Gwen Cook Award. The award was presented to Dion-Hart at our annual Christmas Open House. Dion-Hart is from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. She is studying Social Work at the University of Manitoba.



Manitoba Moon Voices Inc held our annual Christmas Open House. At the Open House four elders were invited to share stories/memories of the season. Storytellers included Albert McLeod, Joan Winning and Lucy Antsanan.

## January 2024

In partnership with the Native Women's Association of Canada, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc hosted a National Apprenticeship Program Information Session. Guest speakers included Victoria Tremblay and Angel Anderson.



Another cohort of relatives started the Reclaiming our Power and Place program.

The next cohort of youth started the Taking the Next Steps in our Journey program.

In January, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc hosted a Pop-up Vaccination Clinic with Bimaajihowan, Mobile Outreach Clinic, Aboriginal Health and Wellness.

## February 2024

In February, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc hired a Community Engagement Coordinator.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc published our second newsletter: Dibiki Giizi Dibaajimowinan (Moon Telling Stories).

Under the leadership of the Community Engagement Coordinator, we did a call-out for an Advisory Committee to guide the Raising Moon, Raising Voices project.

The Canadian Museum for Human Rights offered Manitoba Moon Voices Inc members Free Cree Teachings.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc provided the Women's Memorial March of Manitoba in Honor of MMIWG2S+ with red roses for the marchers.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc advertised, for its membership, a Job Starts Program. The program is a work readiness program for relatives that recently secured employment.

## March 2024

Angelina Perea-Rodallega, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc Board of Director Youth Representative, attended the 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations.



The Advisory Committee to guide the Raising Moon, Raising Voices project held its first meeting.

In partnership with community partners, Manitoba Moon Voices Inc held a Drop-in & Drag celebration at Klinik Community Health to honor the Trans Day of Visibility.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc hosted a Free CPR/First Aid Training which was open to MMVI members.

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc hosted a Spring Equinox Celebration at the Red River College PolyTechnic. The celebration was a knowledge sharing event that we held to honor MMVI relatives. At the celebration we surveyed the relatives on how we (MMVI) can

better serve the community.

## 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.

Amari Dion-Hart was the recipient of the 2023 Gwen Cook Award. The award was presented to Dion-Hart at our annual Christmas Open House. Dion-Hart is from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation. She is studying Social Work at the University of Manitoba.



## INDIGENOUS SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM

### ISET REPORT

I am happy to report to Indigenous Skills and Education Training Program had an exciting and successful year. Manitoba Moon Voices Inc (MMVI) sponsored 59 clients, 16 of which have completed their studies. 23 secured employment and 20 have returned for further education.

This year ISET is helping Indigenous women, girls, 2S, transgender, and gender-diverse individuals attain credentials in the following areas: Legal Assistant (1), Northern Social Work Program (1), Social Innovation and Community Development Program (1), Pathways to Health Program (2), Business Information and Technology Program (1), Justice Systems Certificate (1), Legal Assistant (1), Family Support Worker (7), Heavy-Duty Technician (1), Esthetics Diploma Program (1), Healthcare Aid Diploma Program (1), Business Administration Program (2), Healthcare Aid and Unit Clerk Program (1), Kinesiology (1), Environmental Technician (1), Social Service Worker Program (1), Bachelor of Education (1), Introduction to Trades Program (1), Medical Office Assistant Program (1), Education Assistant Program (1), Faculty of Law Program (1), Practical Nursing Program (1).

We provided Job Starts Assistance to 9 clients who received assistance with criminal record check, child abuse registry check, and vulnerable sector check, work clothing, transportation needs.

In addition, we hosted a First Aid and CPR Training facilitated by the First Aid Training Centre (Canadian Red Cross Training Partner). The training was delivered in person at our office. 10 women and gender-diverse individuals participated and completed the training. All clients were very thankful for the opportunity to take the training and the extra support that MMVI has assisted with. This training was very successful and has created a positive partnership with the First Aid Training Centre.

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

-Judy Cook, MMVI ISET Coordinator