

Raising Moon, Raising Voices

Program Report

Shelley Anderson, Manitoba Moon Voices, Inc.'s Community Engagement Coordinator started working at MMVI at the end of February 2024. Shelley's job is to create important connections and engages with community members, and with like-minded organizations that benefit Indigenous Women, Girls and Gender Diverse relatives in Manitoba.

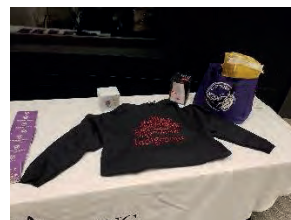
The Raising Moon, Raising Voices Project aims to address the generations of oppression and violence that robbed Indigenous Women, Girls, and Gender Diverse individuals of their voices, their power, and their position. The Raising Moon, Raising Voices Project will demonstrate that MMVI will be present in communities, listen to concerns and reflect the relative's voices in strategic planning and advocacy efforts.

Through the Raising Voices Project MMVI hosted a Spring Equinox Celebration event at the Manitou a bi Bii daziigae building at the Red River Polytech Exchange District Campus. The celebration provided the

opportunity for members, new members and potential members of MMVI to share a meal, learn more about the organization, and learn teachings from our grandmothers. The celebration also provided MMVI with the opportunity to connect with new members, and listen to the voices of our relatives in the Winnipeg area on where support is needed. To engage with community during the event, Shelley created a survey of 21 questions.



Community members had the option to fill out the survey through an online QR code, or paper copy. The initial survey questions consisted of asking their familiarity, membership, programming, and visibility of MMVI as an organization. The questions asked about existing programming that has benefitted them, programming ideas community would benefit from, challenges/barriers that Indigenous women, 2Spirit, and Gender Diverse relatives in Manitoba face, how MMVI can address these gaps/barriers, supports in Manitoba, access to cultural resources and events, and the 231 Calls for Justice. There was a total of 60 surveys completed and 34 community members joined MMVI membership.





Shelley started an Advisory Circle, and a second circle named the Giwiindamago Debwewin Circle which translates to “Speaking our Truth” in Anishinaabemowin. There was a lot of interest from community members, and organizations that wanted to be involved, which is why a second circle was formed. The Advisory Circle are representatives from organizations, and the Giwiindamago Debwewin Circle are community member representatives. Through

both circles, MMVI will receive recommendations and advice on safe ways to engage with community in Manitoba and Northern Manitoba. Each circle has an Elder, Youth, 2Spirit and Gender Diverse representative. Shelley held the first meeting for both circles on March 7th.

-Shelley Anderson, MMVI Community Engagement Coordinator

Communications Program Report

As the Communications Coordinator for Manitoba Moon Voices, Inc. (MMVI), I am responsible for keeping our members informed about our activities and encouraging participation in both our events and those happening in the broader community. For example, in June 2023, 2-Spirit Manitoba invited us to host a table at the Indigi-Mall during the 2023 Pride Festival at The Forks. At our table, we offered the community the opportunity to participate in a smudging ceremony and provided information about our organization. Since MMVI is still a small organization, we were incredibly grateful for the support of our volunteers, Donna Munro and Martha Paul.



One task I am particularly proud of is achieving a goal from our 2022-27 Strategic Plan: creating a newsletter for MMVI. In May 2023, we published the first edition, titled *DIBIKI GIIZIS DIBAAJIMOWINAN* (Moon Telling Stories). Earlier, Kathy Boulanger-Budd was offered tobacco and she provided us with the newsletter's name in Ojibwe. In February 2024, we released the second issue of *DIBIKI GIIZIS DIBAAJIMOWINAN* (Moon Telling Stories). Our goal is to continue publishing the newsletter every six months.



One of my key projects this year is the Healing Journey Video Project. This initiative brings together Residential School survivors and Indigenous youth to share stories and create short videos that we publish on our social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram, on Orange Shirt Day (September 30th). The "story circles," as we call them, took place over two days in August at the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre. On the first day, elder/survivors Barbara Nepinak and Jennifer Rocchio shared their experiences with five youth participants. On the second day, elder/survivors Ivy Cunard and Gina McKay joined us, with nine youth in attendance. The short videos produced by Nikawiy Productions turned out beautifully.



Another key project I worked on this year is *Honouring the Families of the MMIWG2S+*. This project was created to observe and honour the National Day of Action for MMIWG2S+, which takes place on October 4th. In September, we brought together four families who have been affected by MMIWG2S+ for a photoshoot. Each family posed with an image of their loved one. Recognizing the sacredness of this work, we approached it with great care, providing an Elder for trauma support if needed. I/we at MMVI would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Nikawiy Productions for their sensitive and compassionate work with the families.

On the National Day of Action for MMIWG2S+, the family images were shared on our social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram, overlaid with Calls to Justice from The Final Report of the National Inquiry into MMIWG2S+ that were specifically chosen by the families. The families who participated in the project are:

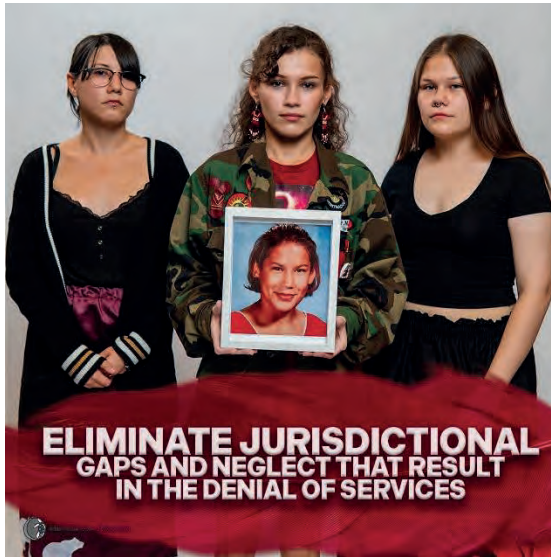
- The Boulanger Family



- The Gerard Roussin Family



- The Harris Family



- The Myran Family



I look forward to doing the two projects, *the Healing Journey Video Project* and *Honouring the Families of the MMIWG2S+*, in 2024.

-Darrell "Gav" Chippeway, MMVI Communications Coordinator

Taking the Next Steps in our Journey

Program Report

The genesis of the Taking the Next Steps in our Journey Program occurred the 2022/23 fiscal year, when we secured \$300,000.00 from the Department of Families, Government of Manitoba.

The goal of Taking the Next Steps in our Journey was to help participants, who are on Employment and Income Assistance, find their identity and path to assist them in moving them on to employment or education through life skills training, workshops and career exploration.

We started recruiting for the first cohort of participants for the Taking the Next Steps in our Journey in September 2023. The program started on October 2, 2023. The second cohort of program participants started January 30, 2024.

Taking the Next Steps in our Journey was open to Indigenous women, girls, 2-Spirit and gender diverse relatives, 18-29, in all stages of their life.

We advertised the program on our social media by noting the following: Taking the Next Steps in our Journey is a 12-week, three days a week, program of workshops and fun activities about spiritual growth and working towards a more enhanced and independent life.



Program Details:

- 12-weeks, three days a week, of information and workshops designed to add to the tools to the relatives Bundle as they take the next steps in your journey
- The program provided information on cultural practices and cultural teachings
- There will be wellness workshops about self-care, self-compassion, kinship and building healthy working relationships with future employers and co-workers
- The program will connect participants to their spirit
- We utilized community resources and so the relatives will discover the importance of building bundles for furthering their education and/or finding work
- Guest speakers/presenters were invited which allowed the relatives to expand their professional network
- Upon completion relatives received a certification of completion and certificates on some of the workshops and activities in the program

By the end of the program the relatives (participants) had an increased sense of access to resources and they were better equipped with their bundle to start the next step in their journey towards meaningful employment and/or education.

Tea with Kookum Program Report

The Tea with Kookum program is a series of workshops specifically designed for MMVI members, offering them valuable cultural training. The workshops aimed to strengthen cultural connections and provide participants with a deeper understanding of their traditions. Through engaging sessions led by experienced Elders/Knowledge Keepers, participants gain insights into traditional practices, stories, and teachings, that fostered a sense of community and cultural pride. Some events/works include were:

Leather Mittens Making with Carole Frechette



Join us for **Leather Mittens Making with Carole Frechette**

Register Now

Tuesdays & Sundays for 5 weeks
all materials provided

Dates:	Dates:
Tues, Oct 24 (5-7)	Sun, Oct 29 (12-2)
Thurs, Nov 2 (5-7)	Sun, Nov 5 (12-2)
Tues, Nov 7 (5-7)	Sun, Nov 12 (12-2)
Tues, Nov 14 (5-7)	Sun, Nov 19 (12-2)
Tues, Nov 21 (5-7)	Sun, Nov 26 (12-2)



 Manitoba Moon Voices, Inc.

Beading with Lana



Beading with Lana
Thurs, Oct 19, 2023
(5-7pm)



REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

 Manitoba Moon Voices, Inc.

At our Annual Christmas Open House, Elders/Knowledge shared stories

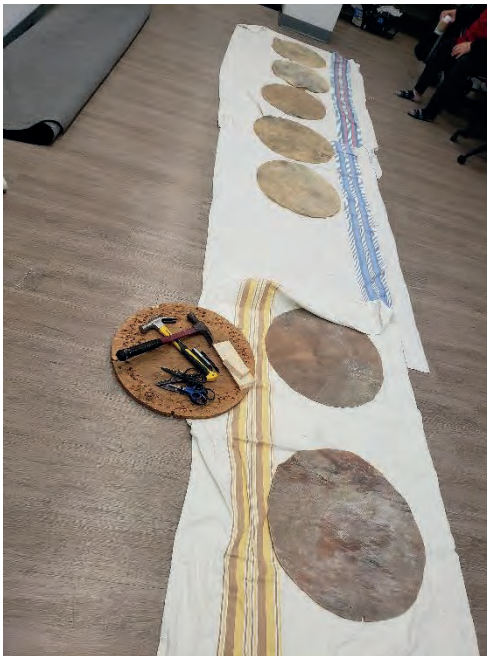


Reclaiming our Power and Place

ROPAP Program Report

Manitoba Moon Voices Inc proudly continued our Reclaiming Our Power and Place (ROPAP) program with three cohorts for the 2023/24 fiscal year. The first cohort started May 2023, the next cohort started October 2023 and our final cohort of the fiscal year started January 2024.

The ROPAP initiative is a low-barrier, 12-week program that meets twice a week. ROPAP is designed to support Indigenous women and gender-diverse individuals who have experienced gender violence. The program aims to support participants in advancing their healing journey by equipping them with essential skills, connecting them with community resources, and re-establishing their cultural ties. Additionally, participants have access to a program Elder and receive ongoing support from the Program Coordinator, both during and outside of program sessions.



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