



Circle of Aunties

Honouring Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Women, Girls, Transgender
and Two-Spirit People

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Project Overview

“Circle of Aunties” is an educational toolkit which is designed by MMIWGT2S (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Transgender and Two-Spirit People) families to educate Canadian youth about violence against Indigenous women and girls and motivate violence prevention. MMIWGT2S families are at the centre of the process, with the goal of creating something which honours the life of their loved one while teaching the next generation.

Project Overview

This project will profoundly affect the MMIWGT2S community - families, loved ones and advocates. We are **centring the knowledge** and love of families who, by **sharing their journeys and looking to their lived experiences**, will create an educational experience which will teach the next generation about violence prevention.

This project comes in an important moment for MMIWGT2S families as, in the wake of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, it is vital that families **feel empowered to create the solutions they wish to see in our country**.

Toolkits

There will be **two toolkits**. One will be for grades 4&5 and the other will be for older classes/youth groups. Both will consists of four main elements:



1. Curriculum:
Students learn about MMIWGT2S and violence prevention



2. Stories: Students interact with story content created by MMIWGT2S Families about their loved ones



3. Who will you Honour?: After viewing stories, students will either create something to honour MMIWGT2S or someone they personally want to honour who has lost their life to violence



4. Community Gathering: Students hold their own community event to teach others about what they have learned

Guiding Bundles

The following bundles represent our values for this project. They guide and inform our goals and the impact we want to have.

1. Empower Families

2. Recognize Violence

3. Be Safety

4. Be Change

Guiding Bundles

1. Empower Families

- Address Systemic Violence against MMIWG2S Families
- Families own this project
- MMIWG Families teaching, guiding youth
- Designed From True & Lived Experience
- Share HISTORY
 - Where do stereotypes come from
 - Timeline: losing identity, patriarchy, status loss, colonization
- Teaching to understand bias, racism, judgement, privilege

3. Be Safety

- How can I safely and privately ask for help
- Build safety plan
- Who can they trust?
- Resource List, Hotline #
- How can I help others

2. Recognize Violence

- Teach all students what violence is
- Teach self awareness, boundaries
- Recognize Violence in all its forms
- Explain and Define Violence
- What is a healthy relationship?

4. Be Change

- Inspire Change
- Protect Our Women, Protect Each Other
- Create awareness, Engage with Community
- Build empathy and compassion
- We are responsible for each other

Circle of Aunties

The story of our core values

To treat each woman you meet like an “Auntie” means . . .

- Connection to all women, respect
- Responsibility for Aunties, to care
- Understanding Auntie as a powerful word

In the toolkit, this can look like . . .

- Youth from diverse backgrounds finding what the word Auntie in their language is
- Youth from diverse backgrounds talking about what Auntie means to them, in their community
- Activity: World map, youth place where their aunties are from on a world map that stays in the classroom - places the word in their language
- A way in which to communicate that all women deserve respect, love, care
- Establish Sense of Belonging and RESPONSIBILITY
- A way in which to keep Indigenous values central to the core of the toolkit
- An exercise to talk/think about who you trust - having your own circle of Aunties

Aunties are the women in our lives who we care for like family. We hold them in our hearts with respect and love. What if we understood all women to be Aunties? What if we felt responsibility for every woman as if she were our Auntie and understood her connection to others - as someone who is connected and loved?