

CFPD Grant Helps Women of Mother Earth Network Greatly Impact Community

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Women of Mother Earth Network

The Women of Mother Earth Network is a local grassroots-level peer support group founded by local community activist and Elder Angela Roulette. The group meets bi-weekly for ceremony, friendship, education, and activity, with the Medicine Wheel teaching of Spiritual, Emotional, Mental, and Physical wellness underscoring all that they do. While the group is Indigenous-led, with traditional



cultural teachings and activities underpinning much of what they do, women from any cultural background or heritage are welcome to join the group.

CFPD Grant Supports Impactful Activity

The Women of Mother Earth Network was the recipient of a \$4730 Women Who Care Fund Grant in the Spring of 2025, which has allowed the group to expand their activities and how

they serve the community. For example, sewing machines, fabric, and supplies were purchased so that members could learn the tradition and teachings of making these items from other women—allowing them to have their own ceremonial dress, but also to be able to provide them to others in the community, including local students from Fort la Reine School. The grant also made four traditional seasonal feasts possible, something very important in Indigenous culture as a way of strengthening community bonds as they celebrate the changing seasons, connect with the spirit world, and give thanks to Mother Earth. Moreover, an art class was provided to members where they learned to produce original paintings, but also enjoy an afternoon full of laughter, socializing, and connection.

Opening Doors and Transforming Lives

In 2025 alone, at least 190 women benefitted from the existence of this group, in addition to the countless beneficiaries of gifts and teachings. In addition to the aforementioned sewing circles, feasts, and art classes provided by the CFPD grant, the Women of Mother Earth Network also took excursions to harvest sweetgrass and sage to use in cultural cleansing ceremonies; participated in Powwows; volunteered at local soup kitchens; provided outreach and clothing for those in need; supported evacuees of the Manitoba wildfires; fostered reconciliation between

various cultural groups; spearheaded sharing circles at Portage Library; and many more activities. A new area of focus for the group is bringing attention to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Men and Boys movement (which has a day of awareness on June 6 and is counterpart to 'Red Dress Day' for Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls). They also advocate for the less fortunate in our community, by speaking out against homelessness and poverty.

Become Involved—Support Your Community

If you wish to support local organizations and the people they serve, to help improve life in your community, please consider becoming involved with CFPD—either by starting your own fund or by donating to an existing one. To learn more about the various options, visit <https://www.cfpdi.ca/waystogive>.



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Thanks to the ongoing support from Southport, the Community Foundation of Portage & District is able to share this story and show how your donations make an impact on Portage la Prairie & area.