



# IndigenEYEZ

Annual Highlights  
2025

“Our vision is enriching people with tools and confidence—courage and capacity. We want to inspire people to feel like they can make change. Because they can!”



**ROOTING TO GROW:** Guided by responsibility to one another and the *tmix*™ or all living things, IndigenEYEZ helps increase the power of communities to come together and take positive action. We are now more than 10 years into this work and recognize that our trainings act as social healing, creating conditions where emerging leaders are empowered to disrupt the destructive colonial impacts that continue to harm our peoples.

With remarkable partners and far-sighted funders, the work at IndigenEYEZ is creating widespread ripple effects. It is with gratitude and commitment that we continue to foster values and skills that shift us back to the strengths of our ancestors. We are creating a foundation for generations to come by offering trainings that build capacity in our amazing participants in support of the vision of increasing the collective power of communities to act on the challenges of today in support of the people of tomorrow.

**KELLY TERBASKET**  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

## limləmt thank you

To each of you who make  
our work possible!

Funders large and small.  
Gifted facilitators.  
Diverse participants.  
The wisdom of the Aunties.

We honour and appreciate  
every contribution!

“

This is sacred  
space...

— 13 MOONS  
PARTICIPANT

“

I love the  
energy I receive  
each session.  
I feel more  
grounded and  
whole.

— EARTH SENSE  
PARTICIPANT

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# IN THE NEWS



IndigenEYEZ was honoured to be chosen as a 2024 recipient of the [Indigenous Innovation Initiative](#) focused on gender equality. Sponsored through Grand Challenges Canada, the initiative supports innovative and scalable Indigenous-led ideas that transform lives and drive inclusive growth, wellbeing and cultural revitalization—[READ MORE HERE](#)



Program Director Kelly Terbasket—together with other members of the Lower Similkameen Indian Band—completed a **Masters of Educational Leadership: Indigenous Resurgence** in October 2024 from Simon Fraser University—[READ KELLY'S THESIS HERE](#)

Kelly was featured in the University of Victoria Alumni Magazine—[READ THE ARTICLE HERE](#)

## Making Change, Together

Social Work alumna **Kelly Terbasket** helped create two organizations rooted in Indigenous beliefs to help challenge biases and fight the effects of colonization

BY STEPHANIE HARRINGTON, MFA '17



IndigenEYEZ speaks about the role of HOPE in our work and in building an inclusive and resilient society—[READ THE ARTICLE HERE](#)



This recent testimonial on LinkedIn speaks to the power of the kinSHIFT programs that IndigenEYEZ has developed as a social enterprise.

# EARTH SENSE

## Learning from the Land

**THE LAND IS OUR FIRST MOTHER:** In recent years, Indigenous communities have re-affirmed the role of the land in every aspect of our lives. Increasingly, community programs of all sorts are featuring land-based activities. New this year, Earth Sense provided supported opportunities to increase connectivity with the land, with self, and with others.

**BUILDING SKILLS:** Earth Sense offers participants a pathway for lifting their land-based skills to the next level, equipping them with new tools and understanding for supporting community members to engage more deeply with their particular territories. This hybrid training began with a land-based gathering before moving to online workshops.

**CLIMATE JUSTICE:** Exploring synergies between Indigenous resurgence and the struggle for environmental justice, Earth Sense was delivered in partnership with the University of British Columbia Centre for Climate Justice and the FEELed Lab, weaving a thread of increased commitment to the land and all our non-human relatives who are part of its ecology, and laying a foundation for land rights, food sovereignty, and climate change work.



“The space was energetic, embodied, generous, and as expansive as the *tmx<sup>w</sup>ula?x<sup>w</sup>* (land) and *siw<sup>tk</sup>w* (water).”

— EARTH SENSE PARTICIPANT





“Listening to Elders share stories and teachings brings me home to my heart.”

— EARTH SENSE PARTICIPANT



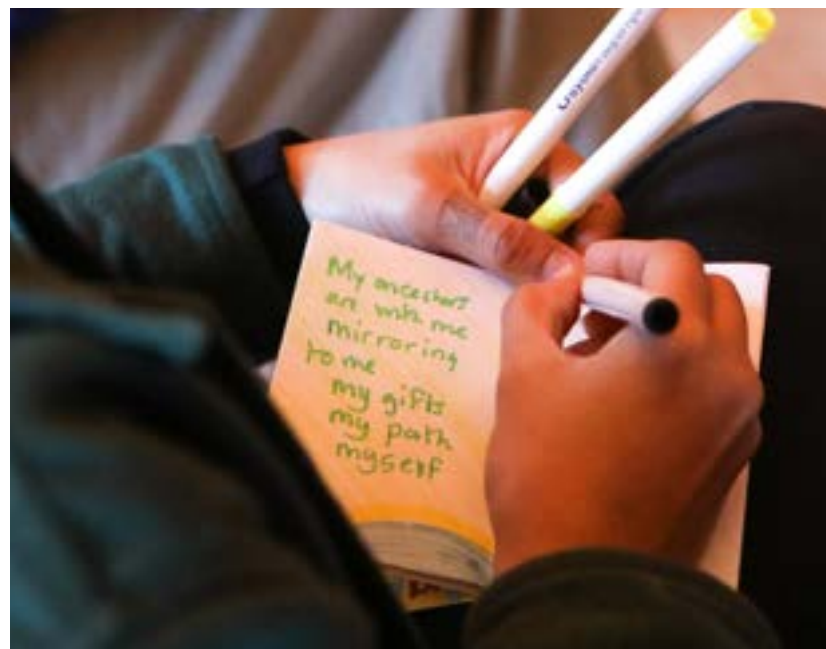
# HERON

## Standing Tall in Our Indigeneity

**MUCH NEEDED SUPPORT:** This is the 3rd year of this innovative program created for Indigenous peoples seeking constructive ways to respond to racism in personal and professional spaces. HERON had a record number of registrations—highlighting the need for support as more Indigenous peoples navigate roles in settler organizations.

**GROWING CONFIDENCE:** Participants engaged in discussions reflecting on power, privilege, colonization and how these show up in themselves and their environments. Through dialogue, creative expression, and the sharing of experiences, participants strengthened their skills for navigating the contemporary world, even as they grew in confidence in their own Indigenous ways of knowing.

**STRENGTHEN SPIRIT:** HERON continues to revitalize and uplift, increasing the capacity of participants to be true to their Indigenous identity amidst the challenges of today.





# SPARK

## Lifting Leaders of Tomorrow



These powerful workshops have been helping frontline workers across BC and beyond increase their skills for managing community-based work. Practices include deep listening, strength-based communication, and creative facilitation. SPARK continues to inspire and encourage participants, helping them discover their voices and build confidence in facilitating meaningful engagement with community members.

This year, facilitators introduced activities that encouraged shifting away from rigid, Western ways of being, showing participants that they can embrace creativity and self-expression to achieve positive group dynamics. Many participants noted how SPARK has had a positive impact on their work and in their own lives.

**COMING FALL 2025:** The current SPARK series will be joined by a new offering as IndigenEYEZ continues to refine our core offerings in response to community voices and our grounding in Indigenous principles.



“I found confidence in my voice  
and realized I have words that  
people want to hear.”

— SPARK PARTICIPANT





## 13 MOONS Celebrating Indigenous Women & 2Spirit+

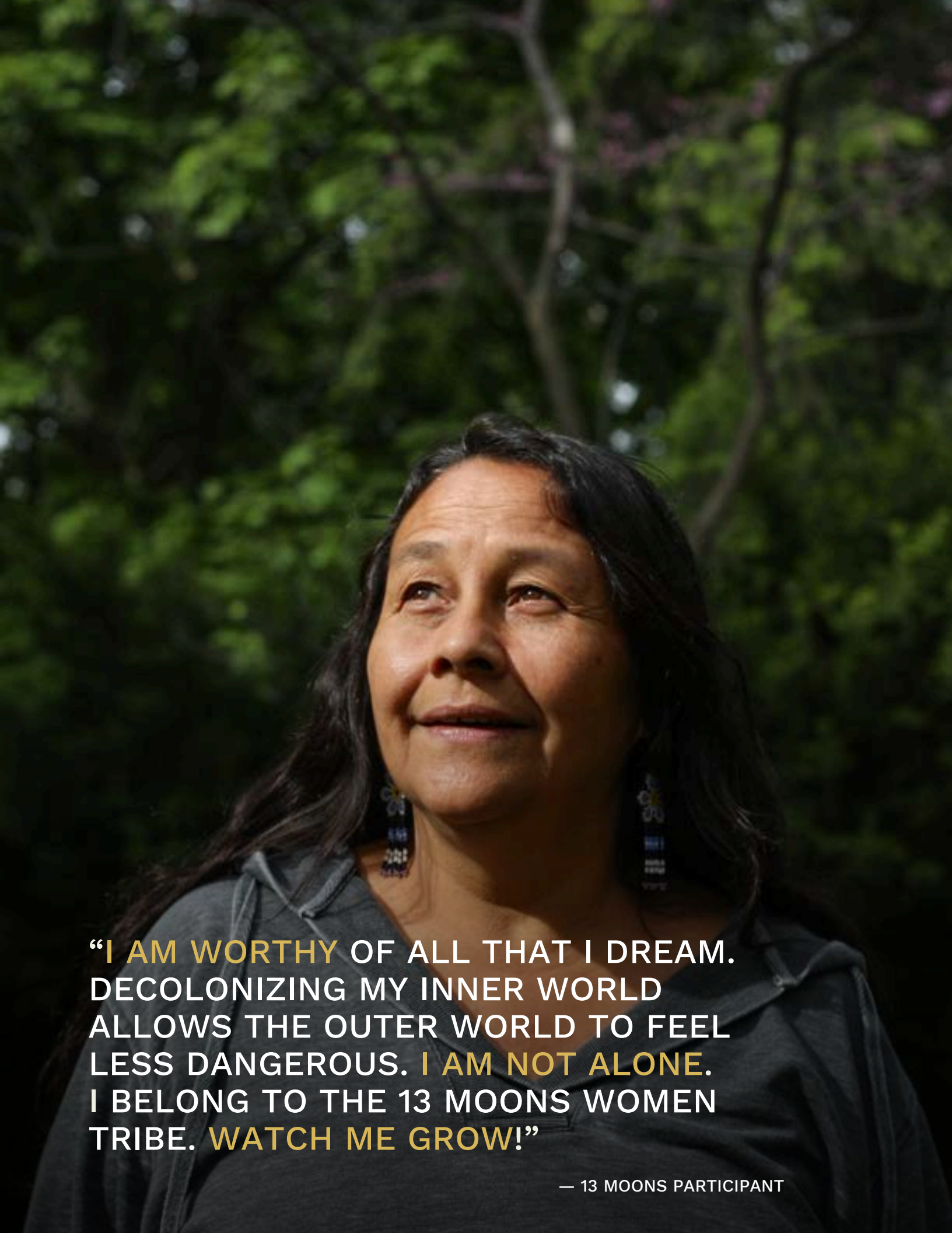
**WALKING TOGETHER:** Indigenous women and 2Spirit+ peoples move through the world carrying deep responsibilities—tending to others while holding layers of love, sorrow, and inherited struggle. The weight of intergenerational trauma is real, and resources can be stretched thin. Still, there's a fire within that doesn't fade. 13 Moons honors that continual fire—for community, kin, and the generations to come. We know that healing and transformation are possible, especially when we walk together.

**EVERYDAY LEADERSHIP:** That's why 13 Moons continues to be one of our most popular and impactful programs, inviting Indigenous women and 2Spirit+ peoples to reflect on the everyday ways we lead in our families, workplaces, and communities. Grounded in syilx teachings, this year's program offered 8 workshops to reconnect with inner wisdom, grow confidence, and strengthen relational practices. Themes included Indigenous theories of leadership, deep listening, story medicine, and moving from learning into action. The 13 Moons journey culminated in an in-person gathering where we braided the teachings together and celebrated our shared pathway.

“

This is an innovative and gentle program that creates a rare and much-needed opportunity for marginalized voices to be recognized.

— 13 MOONS PARTICIPANT

A woman with long dark hair is looking upwards and to the right. She is wearing a dark grey hoodie and large, colorful, beaded earrings. The background is a dense, out-of-focus green forest. The lighting is soft, suggesting natural light filtering through the trees.

**“I AM WORTHY** OF ALL THAT I DREAM.  
DECOLONIZING MY INNER WORLD  
ALLOWS THE OUTER WORLD TO FEEL  
LESS DANGEROUS. **I AM NOT ALONE.**  
I BELONG TO THE 13 MOONS WOMEN  
TRIBE. **WATCH ME GROW!”**

— 13 MOONS PARTICIPANT



# AUNTIES

## Growing the Circle of Support

We introduced the Auntie role into IndigenEYEZ workshops several years ago—a new addition to our programs, but far from new in Indigenous cultures and communities. Auntie is a term of deep respect and affection, describing someone who provides care, guidance, and wisdom across generations. In many Nations, Aunties, Uncles, and 2Spirit+ Unties are essential figures—attuned to the emotional and cultural needs of those around them.

**EVERY VOICE & EVERY HEART:** This year, we have been grateful for a strong and growing Auntie presence in our workshops, helping us create culturally grounded, emotionally safer spaces. IndigenEYEZ Aunties show up as experienced space holders, tuned into group dynamics, gently supporting participants, and providing real-time feedback for facilitators. Their presence reflects an Indigenous model of leadership that is relational, reciprocal, and rooted in care. Aunties help ensure every voice is valued, and every heart has room to speak.

“

Seeing the confidence and joy in the faces of every kin this year has been a true blessing. So many stories of strength and belonging, of finding the balm for their deepest aches. I look forward to being a helpful part of this as the years progress.

— INDIGENEYEZ AUNTIE





# SHAPE YOUR SYILX FUTURE

## **SUPPORTING SYILX SMARTS:**

Created with the syilx Okanagan Nation, this program provided syilx youth ages 18 to 30 with a supportive learning environment designed to build confidence in their ability to draw from their indigeneity and “syilx smarts” to forge an inspiring path forwards for themselves and their communities. We joined with local social incubator, and longtime ally, Purppl on this syilx-centered space where young community members could imagine futures where making a living is culturally rooted, community-serving, and personally fulfilling. Some arrived with ideas or a budding enterprise while others were seeking inspiration spending collaborative time with likeminded people.

“As a person who is just tapping my entrepreneurial side, I felt comfortable even though I don’t have a ton to work with yet.

IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE that introduced me to new connections and SPARKED A SENSE OF INSPIRATION THAT I’VE BEEN MISSING FOR A WHILE.”

— SHAPE YOUR SYILX FUTURE PARTICIPANT



“I’m truly honoured to be able to explore how my dreams and visions can align with my sqil<sup>w</sup>cawt (syilx ways of doing or being). It was so cool being around the language and hearing my peers converse.”

— SHAPE YOUR SYILX FUTURE PARTICIPANT

**READY TO LEAD:** The Shape Your Syilx Future weekend retreat was in response to growing calls for culturally relevant pathways into social entrepreneurship. Young adults in the community are navigating intergenerational trauma, economic instability, and the urgent task of cultural restoration. Many are ready to lead—but have lacked opportunities and culturally appropriate supports to begin.

IndigenEYEZ facilitators, skəkr̄xísaʔt Sofia Terbasket-Funmaker and x<sup>w</sup>acúʔ Allan Lindley brought in activities for critical reflection, self-awareness, and confidence-building through storytelling, art, somatic practices, and land-based teachings—all within a Syilx frameworks.

**COMING AGAIN FALL 2025:** Your Syilx Future has been approved for Phase 2!



# kinSHIFT

## Journey to Reconciliation

kinSHIFT programs are a gift from our Indigenous-led team to the curious and committed Canadians who have asked for our help in understanding better and working together in a good way. We regularly hear about the transformative impact of our kinSHIFT programs.

### CONTRIBUTING TO RESURGENCE

Revenue from kinSHIFT directly supports the IndigenEYEZ mission of equipping emerging Indigenous leaders with skills for making collective change and building a brighter future in our communities. As kinSHIFT continues to grow into a sustaining social enterprise, we are grateful for the diverse range of people and settler-led organizations joining us on the reconciliation journey.

### ELEMENTS OF TRUTH

Truth comes before reconciliation. This 4-part workshop series gives individual settlers—as well as staff from committed organizations—a way to illuminate the past and its impacts on the present.

### TABLE TALKS

Our newest offering is up and running! Table Talks is supporting settlers in courageous conversations with other settlers, working to deepen understanding about how our colonial history has impacted all of us—settlers, Indigenous peoples, the land, and all beings. Around the kitchen table—and around the boardroom table—this program is moving the needle on reconciliation.

**kinSHIFT SCHOOLS** continues to work with remarkable educators and staff from 5 schools in the Central Okanagan, developing an innovative—and powerful—team-based approach to indigenizing and decolonizing their classrooms and school cultures.



“If you’re looking for a meaningful starting point on your reconciliation journey, ELEMENTS OF TRUTH is the place to begin. The thoughtfully curated workshops create space for unlearning, learning, and reflection. Many months later, I still think about the experiences shared during those foundational workshops.”

— ELEMENTS OF TRUTH PARTICIPANT



# The Path Ahead

## IndigeRISE Institute



There is a word in our nsyilxcən language that speaks to the heart of our work at IndigenEYEZ.

*q'wítmi?st* means to pull our hearts and minds together to strengthen ourselves to face unknown challenges.

Our focus for the next year is sharing the fresh trainings that we have created within a new curriculum framework that builds on our decade of experience and close collaboration with community. These offerings move capacity to communities by training the people who live there. They embed ongoing supports in a wider community of practice with other emerging Indigenous leaders. They centre the land as a place of learning. Going forward, these trainings will be the core of our work as we support participants to develop their capacities to create the relational and systems changes that are so needed in their organizations and communities.

*For today—and for the generations to come.*



Artwork: Hazel Bell-Koski

We gratefully acknowledge that syilx knowledge and nsyilxcən language and translation has been shared by various knowledge holders and language speakers from within our syilx nation. Indigenous peoples of the syilx nation are the exclusive owners of our cultural and intellectual properties.



As a project on MakeWay's shared platform, IndigenEYEZ benefits from the governance, human resources, financial, and grant management oversight provided by MakeWay. Strategic direction and daily management of activities sits with the IndigenEYEZ team.



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