

## Esquao Cultural Art Preservation Program

### Project Call-out

Esquao, the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women, is launching the Esquao Cultural Art Preservation Program to promote emerging Indigenous artists. The purpose of the program is to showcase First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists from across the province who align with the values and mission of Esquao.

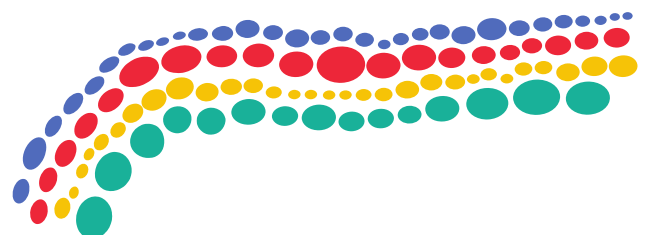
Eligible Alberta Indigenous artists, aged 18+, are welcome to participate in this program. Artworks purchased by Esquao will be showcased at the Esquao offices, as well as other venues, and possibly in our promotional materials.

Esquao is a non-profit organization that amplifies the voices of Indigenous women on the issues and challenges they face. We are a voice for change, a voice for healing, a voice for reconciliation, and a voice for Indigenous women everywhere.

### Our History

Esquao was founded by Muriel Stanley Venne in 1995. She had already built a reputation for advocating for Indigenous women who came to her for help, and people from other organizations would send women to Muriel for her to open (or bust down) doors.

Muriel created an organization that helped Indigenous women be heard and bring their issues to the forefront. She wanted to celebrate the spirit and resiliency of Indigenous women in Alberta, and wanted them to know there was an organization in Alberta and Canada that would stand up for them.



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## Our Vision

Indigenous women are recognized as strong contributors in Canadian society.

## Our Mission

We advocate for the rights and protection of Indigenous women and support Indigenous women with educational and self-development programs.

We honour the Angels Among Us – recognizing Indigenous women for significant accomplishments in their communities.

We support individuals and enterprises to improve economic self-reliance for Indigenous women.

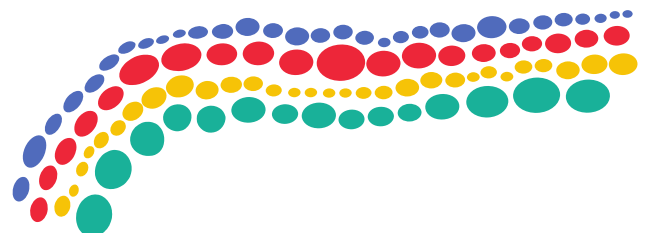
## Our Objectives

- Develop and deliver services that advance the individual capacity of Indigenous women, their families, and communities.
- Create opportunities to address discrimination against Indigenous women.
- Identify and promote opportunities for Indigenous women to participate in policy development and decision-making.
- Celebrate the strengths and achievements of Indigenous women.
- Establish forums and networks for Indigenous women to exchange information and experiences.

## Program Criteria

The Esquao Cultural Art Preservation Program is open to:

- New or early career Alberta Indigenous artists
- All Indigenous peoples
- Adult 18+





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## Mediums

Open to all disciplines: drawing, painting, printing, photography, digital art, sculpture, mixed media, sculpture, fibre arts, ceramics, mosaic, wood, glass, paper, metal.

Artists are responsible for their own supplies and material costs.

## Specs

- Artwork should be no larger than 4' x 6' (1.2 m x 1.8 m)
- Value of the artwork should be between \$200 and \$1,000 per piece

## Application Process

### 1. Please submit a Bio (120 words) that includes:

- Who you are
- Where you are currently based
- Your preferred art medium(s) and special techniques
- Your inspirations and what you are passionate about

### 2. Please include a Letter of Interest (500 words)

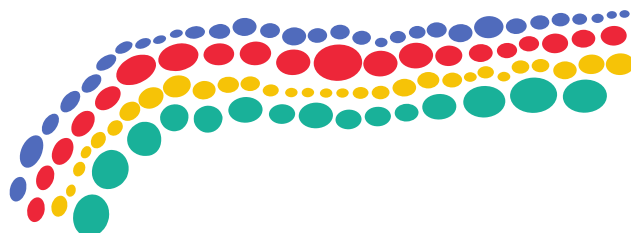
- Explain your interest in this project and how it relates to your current practice
- Explain why this project is meaningful for you.

### 3. Supporting Materials

Artists may submit new or existing artworks.

Artists are welcome to submit their artwork by theme, for example:

- Spirituality and culture - *Showing the connection between Indigenous women and Mother Earth and/or role of Indigenous women within a cultural context.*
- Community inclusion - *Highlighting the important roles of Indigenous women in the community.*





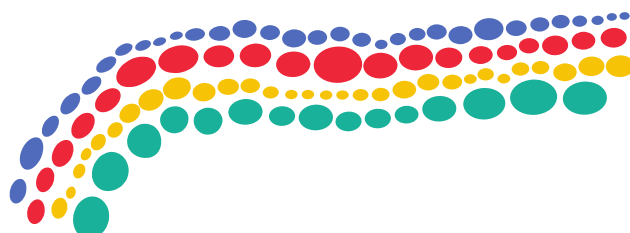
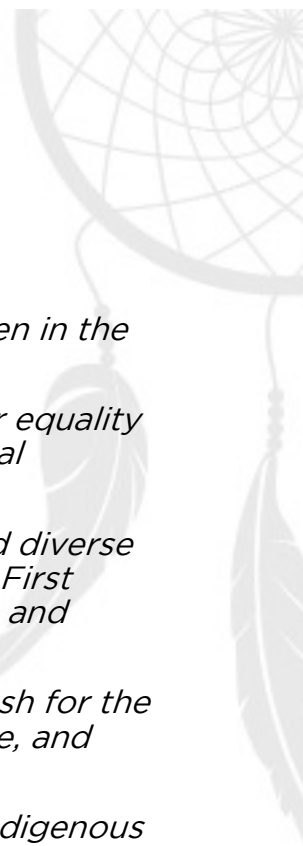
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- Family connections - *Showing the role of women in the family.*
- Indigenous feminism - *Highlighting the fight for equality and human rights against established patriarchal structures.*
- Truth and Reconciliation - *Showing the rich and diverse cultures, voices, experiences and stories of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples. What is Truth and Reconciliation to Indigenous peoples?*
- MMIWG2S - *Highlighting awareness and the push for the inquiry into MMIWG2S. Showing loss, love, hope, and healing.*
- Two Spirit - *Showing how this word includes Indigenous understandings of kinship, sexuality, and gender that are often more complex than mainstream perceptions of sexual orientation and gender.*
- Defying stereotypes and representations - *Showing how Indigenous women's actions are defying what historical and modern patriarchal systems have portrayed them as.*
- Indigenous woman as Matriarchs - *Highlighting Indigenous women who keep harmony and balance in their families and communities. Showing women who proudly embrace their culture and heritage.*
- Celebrating the essence of Esquao - *Showing how Esquao amplifies the voices of Indigenous women on the issues and challenges they face. Capturing the voice for change, a voice for healing, a voice for reconciliation, and a voice for Indigenous women everywhere.*





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Artists are required to **submit photos of their artwork** (a maximum of eight images).

*The photos should be labelled with the:*

- *Title*
- *Medium*
- *Size/dimensions/weight*
- *Price of artwork*

**The Esquao offices will not accept any original/physical artworks. All submissions must be sent to [iaaw@iaaw.ca](mailto:iaaw@iaaw.ca)**

### **Selection Committee**

The selection committee includes representation from subject matter experts such as Indigenous curators, gallery owners and managers, artists, and Esquao project team members. The selection committee will consider looking at a concept if an artist has already created a similar piece.

The Esquao Cultural Art Preservation Program opens for submissions on January 15, 2024. The deadline for submissions is midnight, February 14, 2024.

Please send your application to [iaaw@iaaw.ca](mailto:iaaw@iaaw.ca)

Esquao reserves the right to make the final decision on any selection. Successful candidates will be contacted by Esquao to discuss their art.

