



## MVAEC ARTS, LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND ELDERS ROUNDTABLE

Our goal is to have a vibrant Urban Indigenous Community filled with our Indigenous Arts, Cultures and Languages guided through the teachings of our Elders. Our Elders must continue to be a central part of all of our services. Our funding strategies need to reflect these goals to turn them into reality.

Our objectives to bring arts, language, culture, and elders to life include the following list as a start.

### Elders

- How many elders do you have?
- Are elders with oral histories and language being being paid equitably for the gifts they share with us?

### Youth

- How can we provide youth with the financial literacy to live in the increasingly unaffordable world we live in?
- How can arts, language, culture, and elders be brought together to prepare youth for these challenges?

### Visual Story

- How can MVAEC promote the visual storytelling methods of the Urban Indigenous community to demonstrate the richness of all our relationships?

### Reconciliation through Reconnection

- Funders and allies need to understand reconciliation is an ongoing process. How can we work together to continue to reconnect Indigenous people with culture?

The Urban Indigenous executive community is a strong leader of Indigenous culture, but we can take for granted how much we practice our culture. Making it difficult to translate the knowledge of how we practice our culture, how often, and where into communication tools that further strengthen the practice of leaders in the sector. This part of our community is largely misunderstood in the executive community. At first, it begs more questions than strategies. The following actions can help us realign our values.

**Action #1:** Decolonize information gathering with arts, language, and culture leaders to reflect the sectors way of knowing and being in the world, while bridging the relationship with the Urban Indigenous executive community.

**Action #2:** Survey MVAEC roundtables to better understand how many elders the MVAEC community is working with. Determine if elders are being paid equitably for their knowledge and experience. Keeping in mind that they continuously guide our community and work.

**Action #3:** Engage with artists and storytellers to re-vision how the Urban Indigenous community is represented.

**Action #4:** MVAEC needs a definitive strategy to bolster each part of arts, language, culture, and elders. The ongoing risk is in overlooking what each part has to offer us. For example, how many different Indigenous languages are spoken across Metro Vancouver? Language is a human right, how can we leverage our leadership abilities to contribute to the maintenance of our languages, and continuously increase our number of fluent speakers.