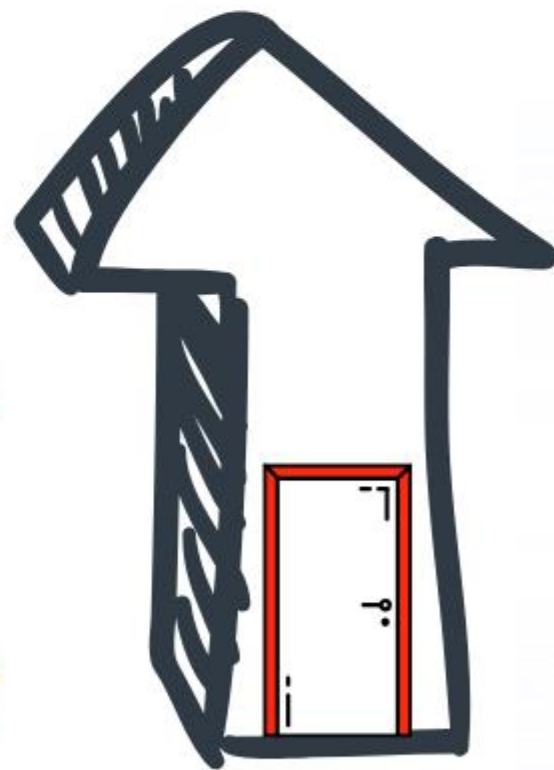





**BUILDING
UP**
from



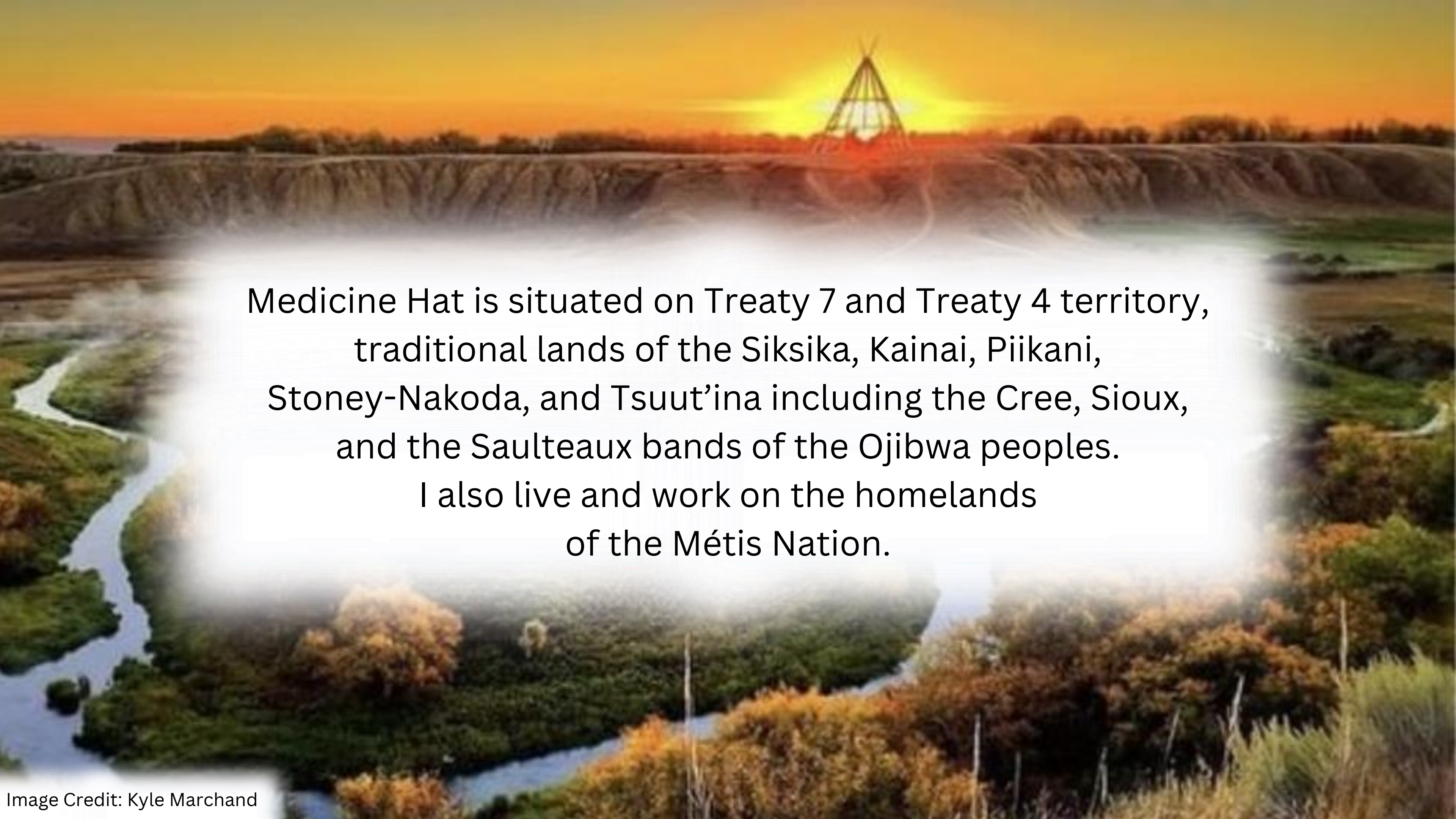
**BUILT
FOR
ZERO**
CANADA



Johynn
Parenteau



I am honoured to be a visitor
here in Kjipuktuk, “the great harbour”,
Halifax, in Mi'kma'ki,
the ancestral and unceded territory
of the Mi'kmaq People



Medicine Hat is situated on Treaty 7 and Treaty 4 territory,
traditional lands of the Siksika, Kainai, Piikani,
Stoney-Nakoda, and Tsuut'ina including the Cree, Sioux,
and the Saulteaux bands of the Ojibwa peoples.
I also live and work on the homelands
of the Métis Nation.



Peace River, AB



©2019 Google

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5520





Image Credit: Jalyce Thompson, MH Tourism



Image Credit: MH Chamber of Commerce

MIYWASIN CENTRE

517 3RD ST SE



REACHING HOME: CANADA'S HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

Coordinated Access System

Dedicated Funding Streams

- Indigenous Homelessness
- Designated Communities
- Rural & Remote Homelessness
- Territorial Homelessness

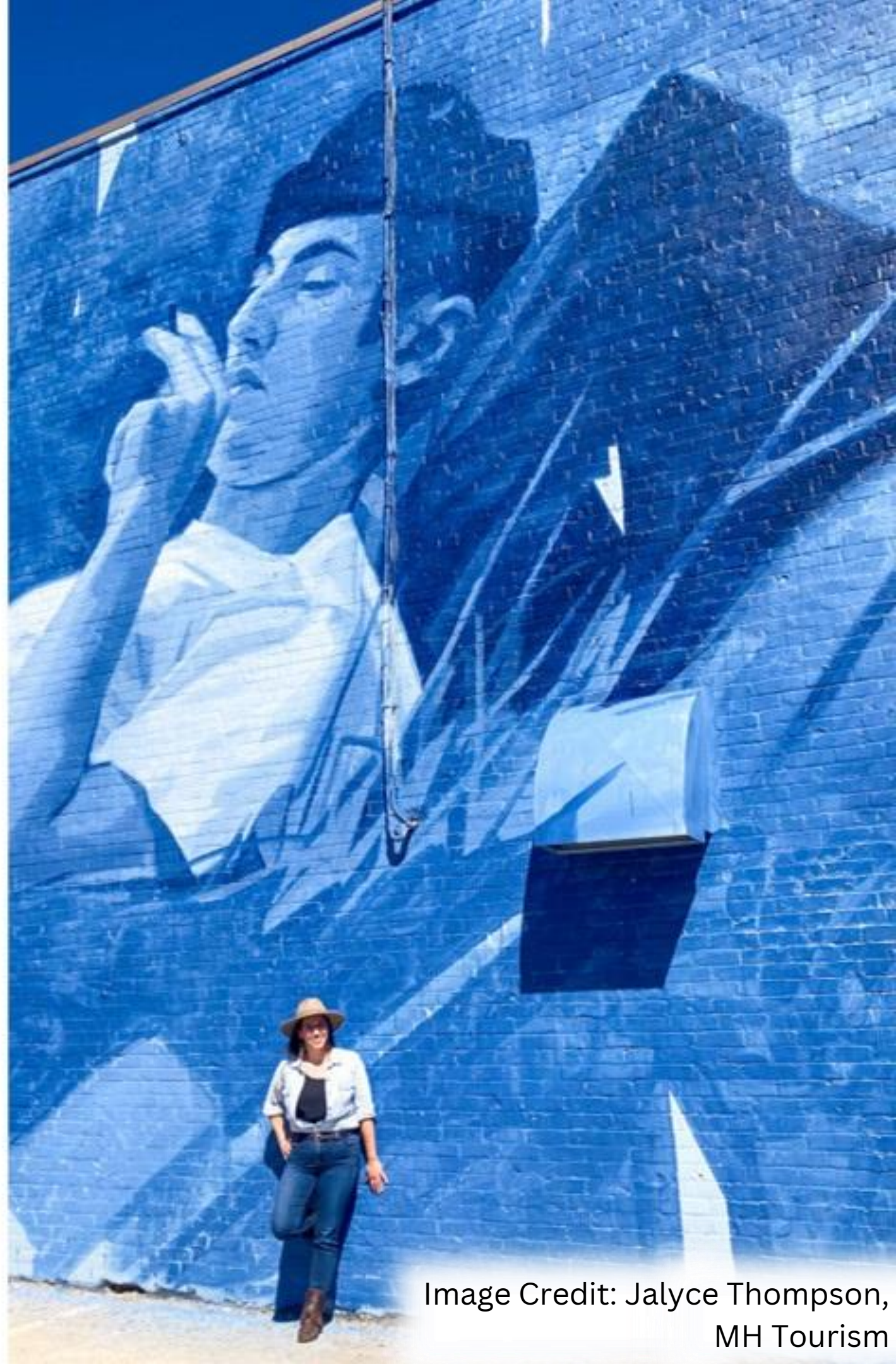
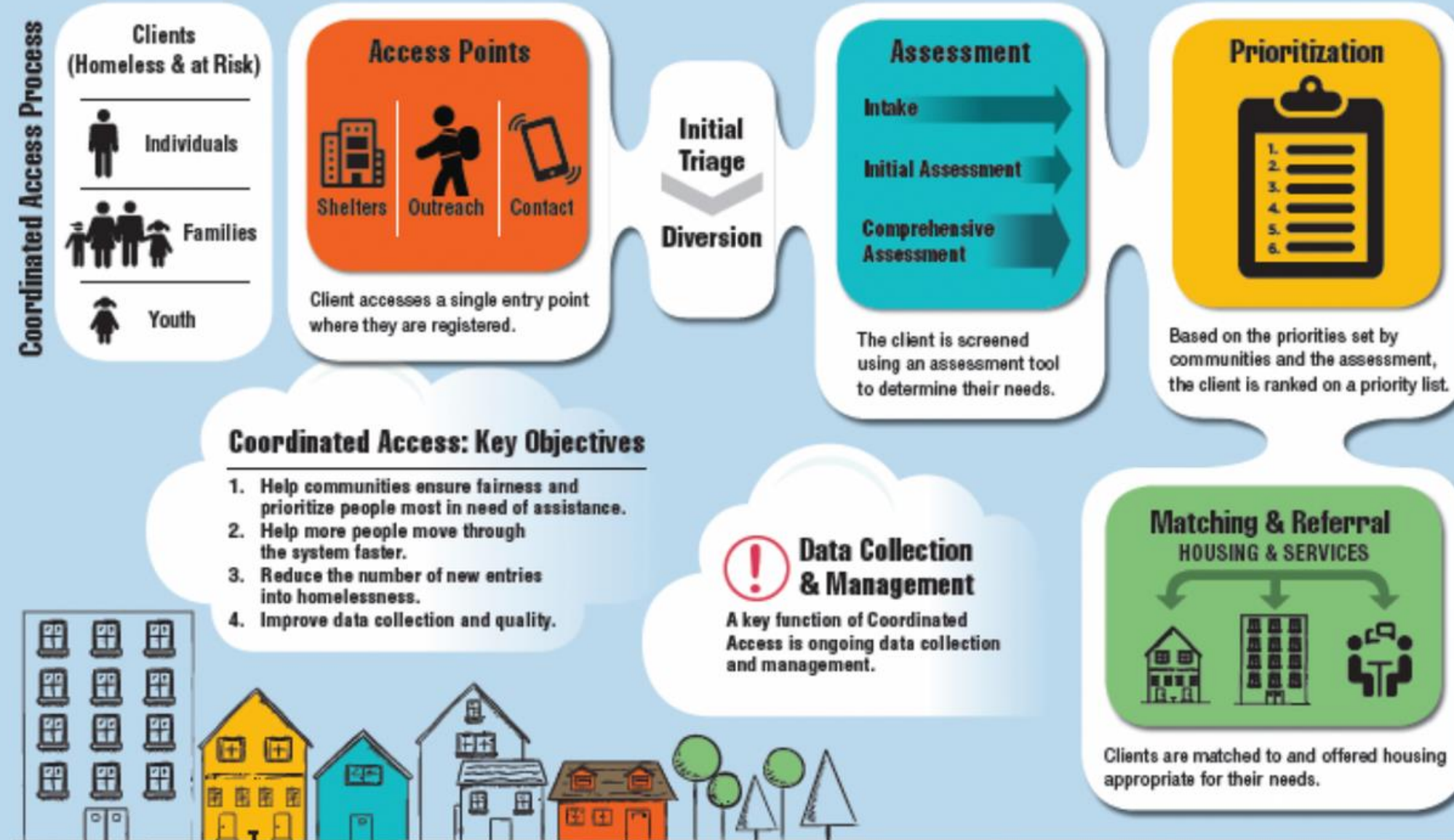


Image Credit: Jalyce Thompson,
MH Tourism

What is Coordinated Access?

Coordinated Access (CA) is a process through which individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, are provided access to housing and support services, based on a standardized set of procedures for client intake, assessment of need, and matching and referral to housing.



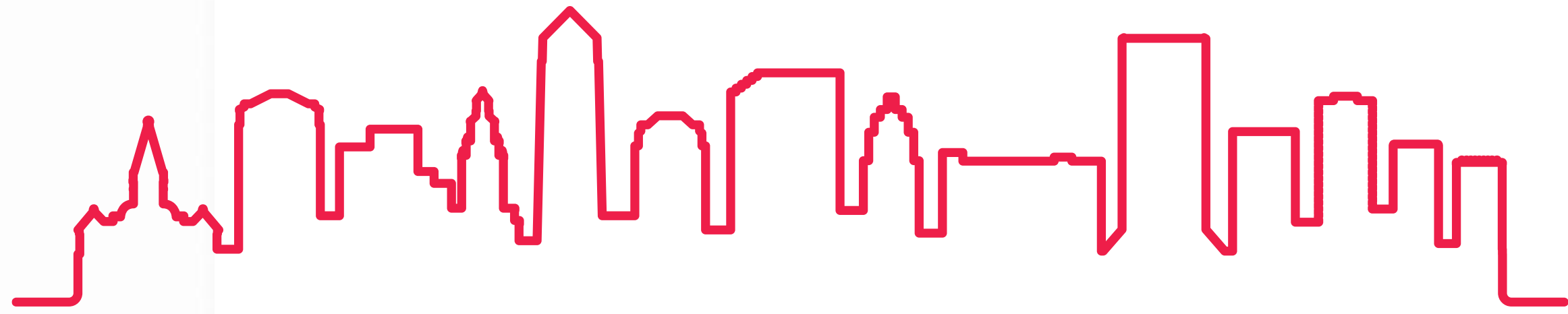
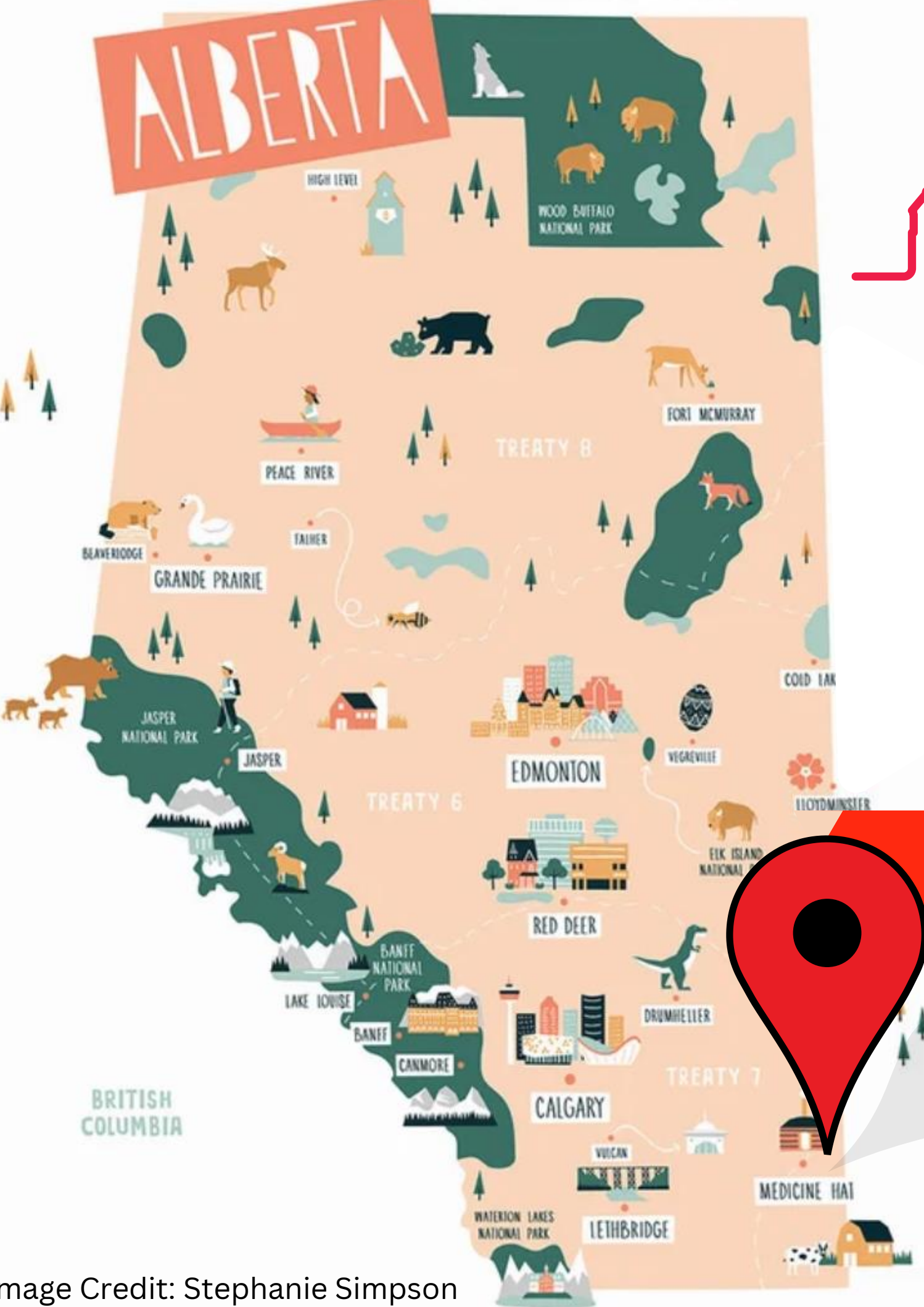
 Employment and Social Development Canada / Emploi et Développement social Canada



REACHING HOME: CANADA'S
HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY
WHAT IS COORDINATED ACCESS?

Graphic Source: Government of Canada (2020). *Reaching home: Canada's homelessness strategy directives*. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/homelessness/directives.html#h2.3-h3.4>

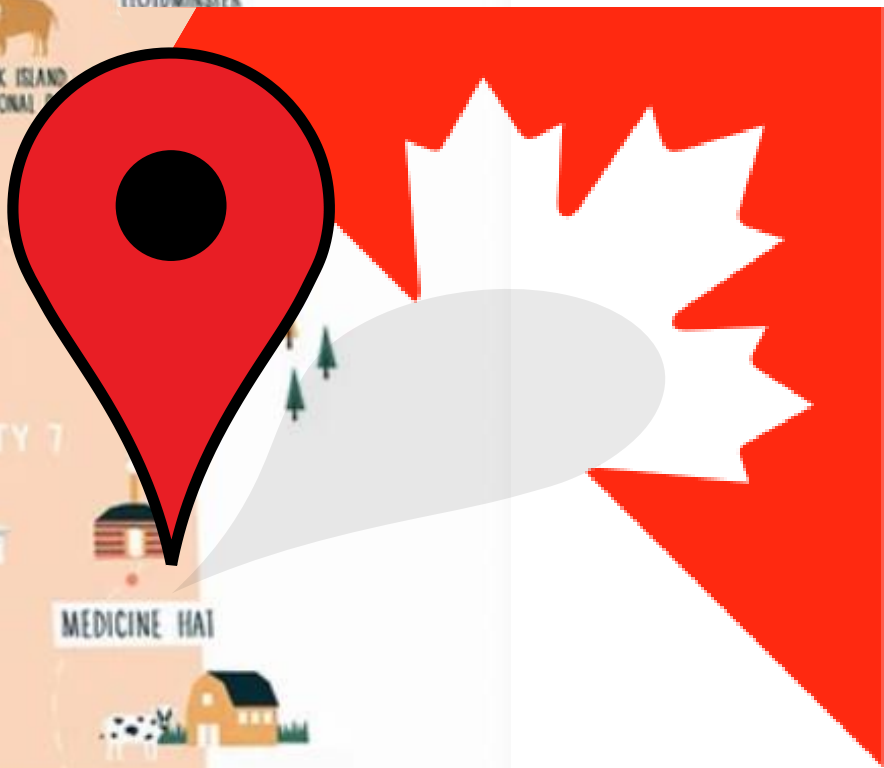
ALBERTA



MEDICINE HAT
**Community
Housing**
SOCIETY



7 cities
on housing
and homelessness



**BUILT
FOR
ZERO.**
CANADA

Program Planning

REACHING HOME:
NAATAMOOSKAKOWIN



INDIGENOUS
COORDINATED ACCESS



“Indigenous service providers offer a wholistic approach to service delivery and Coordinated Access that is based upon trust and relationship building.”
--
Canadian Observatory on Homelessness

MIYWASIN FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

Program Planning

REACHING HOME:
NAATAMOOSKAKOWIN



INDIGENOUS
COORDINATED ACCESS

Community Connection



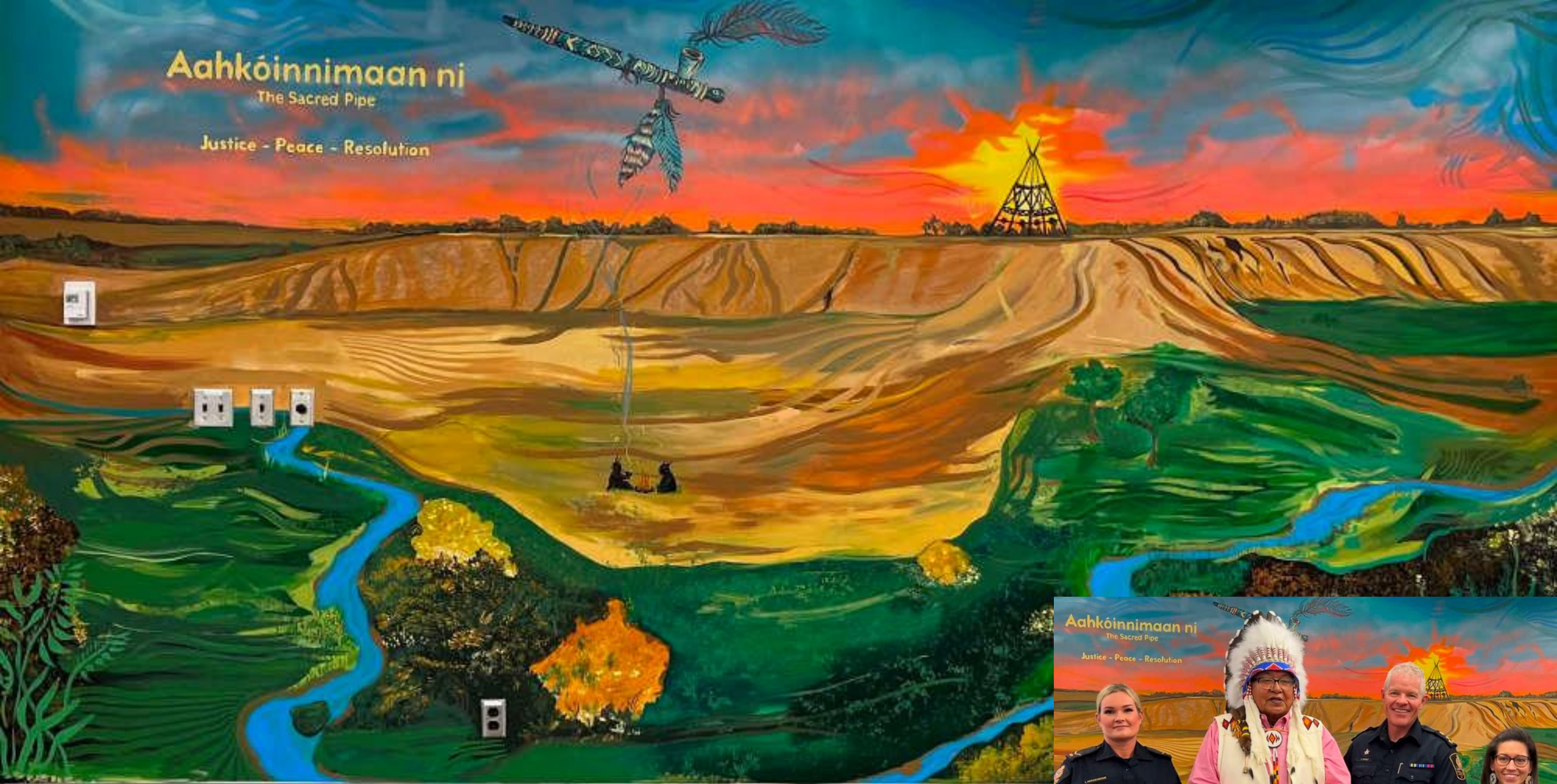
Access Point

Community Connection

Rental Secured

Access Point





Artist: Ray-Al Hochman

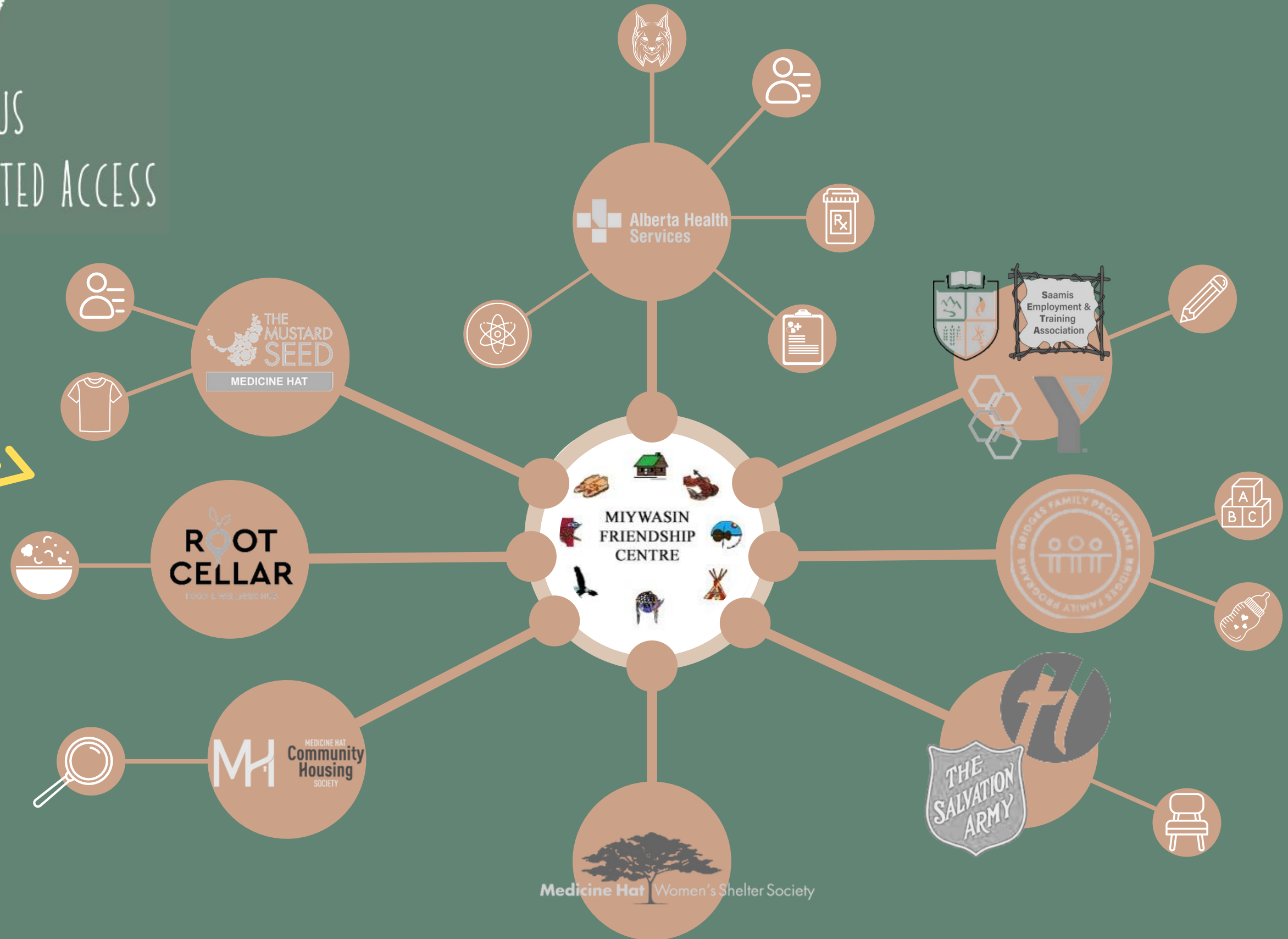
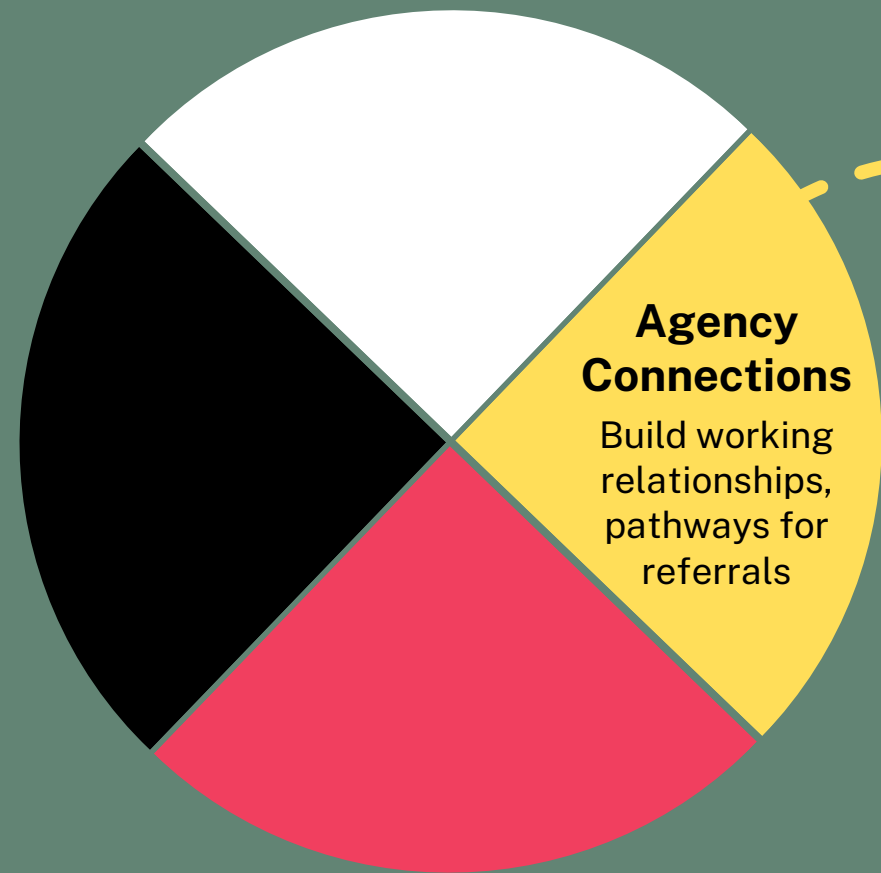
MIYWASIN FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

Program Planning

REACHING HOME:
NAATAMOOSKAKOWIN



INDIGENOUS
COORDINATED ACCESS





Program Planning

REACHING HOME:
NAATAMOOSKAKOWIN



INDIGENOUS
COORDINATED ACCESS

Naatamooskakowin

a Cree word meaning

“a place to come for help, shelter or resources”



Wikiwin

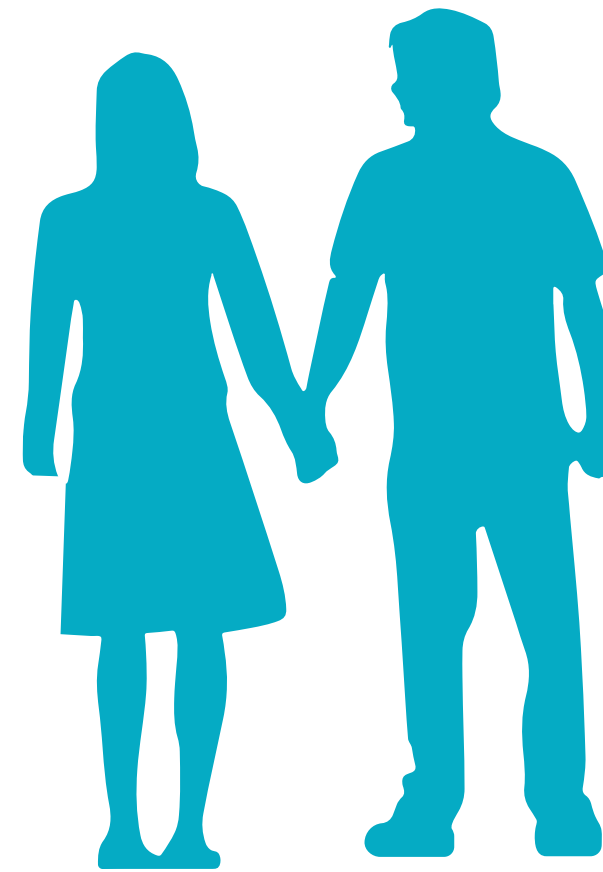
a Cree word meaning

“home, housing, a sense of belonging”

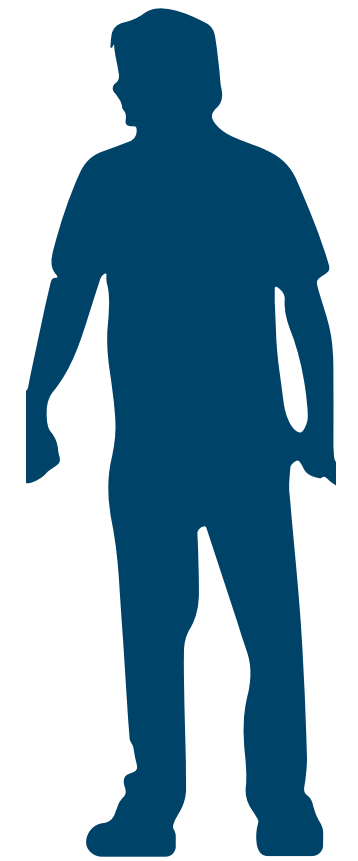
Who are we serving?



**Two-parent, Single-parent,
and multigenerational families**



Couples



Singles

**September 2021-
October 2023:**

50



5



43



“

I can't afford bus fare
to take my daughters
swimming.

Can you help?

”



Sponsorship Proposal

Transit For All

Connecting Families to Community

mht





Proposal Overview

Medicine Hat Transit sponsors bus passes to keep low-income families connected to community supports and programming



Goals

- Keeping Hatters connected to what matters most
- Supporting the health and wellness goals of families by providing clients with access to transportation to appointments and activities



Specifications

Pilot project for Miywasin FC clients with no other means of transportation



Metis Money Moves

Created by



Jolynn Parenteau

Hosted by



How does money make you feel?



Money is just
numbers in your account
and
a tool to pay for
the things you need...

...but it is also emotional.
What feelings come up for you
when you think about money?



@metismoneymoves



metismoneymoves@gmail.com

COVID CRISIS – Canadian Medical Association urges Alberta and Sask. to lock down – A2

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

www.medicinehatnews.com

\$1.43 plus GST (\$1.90 Friday – Saturday)

MEDICINE HAT NEWS

At Home With You Since 1885



Hatters take reconciliACTION



JoLynn Parenteau Miywasin Moment

"It is quite within the mark to say that fifty per cent of the children who passed through these schools did not live to benefit from the education which they had received therein."

begin to heal: to take reconciliACTION.

Our Elders tell us it will take another seven generations to be made whole. Survivors who left school in 1996 are in their forties now. Many have children of their own, among the first generation to be spared attending residential schools. These are our neighbours, our colleagues, frontline workers and community members. They are fellow Hatters.

Many Canadians are now learning about residential school history for the first time. Former Medicine Hat resident Whitney Ogle, 'Winyan Waste' (Good Woman), is a proud member of the Wood Mountain Lakota First Nation.

She is passionate about education, the 'new buffalo'.

"My teachings in this short life tell me that reconciliation is for our children: it is for the future. Creating a



Ribbon skirts stitch together tradition, hope



JoLynn Parenteau Miywasin Moment

"We are waking up. We're learning to sew, bead, quilt, paint, sing, dance, everything again."

— Tala Tootoosis, motivational speaker of Nakota Sioux, Plains Cree and Mohawk heritage



PHOTO BY JOLYNN PARENTEAU

Youth and young adults gathered at Miywasin Friendship Centre on Saturday for a traditional ribbon skirt sewing workshop.

On an otherwise quiet afternoon in downtown Medicine Hat, Miywasin Friendship Centre on Third Street was a hub of activity this past Saturday. A small number of youth and young adults gathered together to share a memorable experience.

Made possible by a recent grant from the Community Foundation of Southeastern Alberta, seven new sewing machines and a serger were purchased to host ribbon skirt sewing workshops. Attendees received traditional teachings about the history of the ribbon skirt, a sacred clothing item that carries great weight in Indigenous culture.

Prior to European contact, Indigenous People handmade their clothing from animal hides, furs, and used natural dyes for decoration. With the introduction of trade goods from Europe, women's skirts shifted to being made of cotton and ribbons. This new style of skirts carried on the historical teachings of the original hide skirts.

Miywasin youth development coordinator Carol Syrette explains that the silhouette of a skirt represents the outline of the tipi.

"It was women who cared for the home fire in the tipi. Skirts are traditionally long so as to touch Mother Earth. It has that spiritual connection," explains Syrette.

With guidance from Syrette and Miywasin staff Chasity Cairns and Carlee EaglePlume, workshop participants each got to try their hand at using a sewing machine, many for the first time.

Sixth graders Katie, Lucious, Rava

and Rosa, and eighth grader Keona all enjoyed the experience of making their first skirts. All agreed they looked forward to wearing their skirts at summer powwows and future Miywasin events.

Fabrics and ribbon colours are a personal choice for each individual. Rosa, 12, chose a geometric fabric and ribbons with blues, purples and white. Keona, 13, selected a fabric with a colourful feather pattern and added rainbow ribbons.

Eleven-year-old Katie found a floral fabric in her favourite colour, red.

"The flowers remind me of nature, so I chose brown and red ribbon to match," she explained. "I've sewn many times before with my aunt, but this is my first time making my own ribbon skirt. I'm going to wear it in free time at my house."

Rava, 11, added a galloping horse trim to a black dragonfly patterned fabric.

"It just suits me," she quipped. "The dragonflies fabric stuck out to me, and I have a connection to horses."

Lucious, 11, explained he enjoys being a part of the Miywasin Youth Program because of the knowledge he gains, and to make friends. Lucious chose a bold floral rainbow fabric.

"I added green and pink ribbons because they are my favourite colours. I like bright colours because I'm always happy, kind, and caring. When my friends are down I help them through their anxiety and depression."

Rae-Ann Godfrey, Miywasin's cri-

sis intervention support worker, also joined the class. A member of the Miywasin Singers traditional drumming group, Godfrey has been borrowing a skirt from EaglePlume. Now she'll have a skirt of her own for performances.

"It was absolutely amazing to discover the confidence I had in myself to create something so meaningful," shared Godfrey. "Being there to watch the confidence unfold in the youth was extremely emotional for me. It was beautiful."

Syrette says having a skirt of their own "is important so these youth can be proud of who they are, to not be ashamed to be Indigenous. Through this class we're hoping to increase visibility, awareness and knowledge about ribbon skirts. We're bringing back our culture and reclaiming our identity."

Godfrey is grateful to have taken part in the workshop.

"I feel so privileged to have access to traditional teachings at the Miywasin Friendship Centre and to work among strong women who are doing an amazing job to ensure these teachings and traditions are not forgotten and lost."

"When you are making your first ribbon skirt, you are forgiving your own mistakes," Cairns told the class. "Be kind to yourself. You are wearing a work of art."

JoLynn Parenteau is a Métis writer out of Miywasin Friendship Centre. Column feedback can be sent to jolynn.parenteau@gmail.com



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MAKING YOUR
IMPACT

With JoLynn Parenteau



International Women's Day:
Inspirational Métis Women



JoLynn Parenteau

Photographer: Kristy Pomrenke

*Community
Spirit*
AWARDS



**NATIONAL
NEWSPAPER
AWARDS**

**2023 MÉTIS
RECOGNITION
AWARDS**





Image Credit: Cruisin' Christine



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