

**ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES
OF PARTNERING AND FUNDING
INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS**

March 2024



International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) encourages the funding community to practice the 5Rs of Indigenous Philanthropy when partnering, supporting, and funding Indigenous Women's Organizations.



Recognize and respect Indigenous Peoples rights and worldviews. Seek to uphold the principles articulated in the UN Declaration of Rights for Indigenous People (UNDRIP). Respect and recognize Indigenous Women's rights by upholding CEDAW General recommendation No.39 on the rights of Indigenous Women and Girls. Work directly with Indigenous Women's Organizations to advance their rights and to gain understanding of their aspirations, solutions, and initiatives.

Respect for Indigenous Women is crucial to creating a more equitable and just society. **Indigenous Women play crucial roles in maintaining their cultures and have been guardians and providers for the land since time immemorial.**

1. Strengths-Based Philanthropic Structures that Recognize Indigenous Women's Existing Leadership - many funders and stakeholders have not fully acknowledged the central role that

Indigenous Women play in these struggles. Indigenous Women are essential to the advancing of Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Women's rights.

2. Avoiding Deficit-Based and Victimhood/Rescuer Approaches - Deficit-based approaches can lead to a narrow focus on problems and challenges, rather than on the assets and capacities that exist with Indigenous Women and their communities. This perpetuates disempowerment, cycles of poverty, and marginalization. Refocusing on the strengths and resilience of Indigenous Women can build on assets and capacities that exist within communities.

3. Countering Stereotypes, Racism/Discrimination and Colonialism Against Indigenous Women - Philanthropy can support advocacy efforts to address systemic racism and discrimination against Indigenous Women. This could include supporting legal challenges, policy advocacy, and community organizing efforts that promote equity and justice, including those relating to countering racism that contributes to sexual and domestic violence against Indigenous Women and Girls.

4. Acknowledging Individuals and Collective Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls - Philanthropy plays a crucial role in recognizing and respecting the inherent rights of Indigenous Women and Girls. This involves supporting initiatives that empower them on both individual and collective levels, such as education programs, economic opportunities, and community-led projects that reinforce the autonomy and self-determination of Indigenous Women and Girls within their communities.



Engage directly with Indigenous communities by understanding the nature of their relationships with Mother Earth, their culture, traditions and spirituality. Build and nurture relationships based on mutual respect and trust that eliminate the tendency to exert power over another through building long-term commitments and mutual learning.

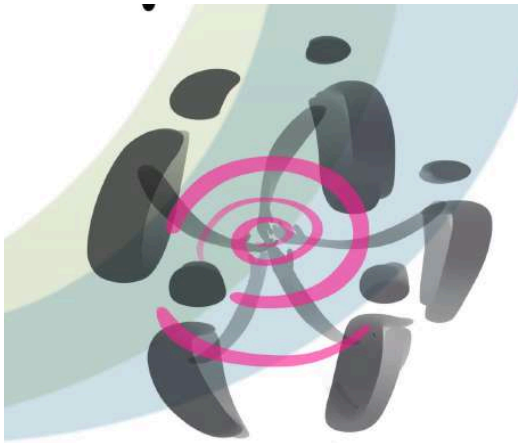
Philanthropy can be a powerful tool both for relationship building and for supporting positive relationships within communities. Positive relationship building requires active listening, support, and responsiveness. It is important for philanthropy to support both Indigenous Women and their web of kinship and relations within their communities:

1. Women and Intergenerational Transmission - Strengthening the intergenerational transmission of knowledge among Indigenous Women

yields profound and positive impacts. By providing support for capacity building, encouraging active participation in decision-making, and fostering leadership roles, we contribute towards the empowerment of Indigenous Women and youth and the preservation and enhancement of cultural knowledge. This support aligns with and bolsters ongoing community initiatives.

2. Honoring Indigenous Women's Relationships and Positionality within Indigenous Societies - Indigenous Women are vital nodes of kinship, resilience, and connection in the context of historical and present challenges. Indigenous Women hold pivotal positions in safeguarding lands, transmitting knowledge, caring for Elders, and preserving Indigenous wisdom. Supporting Indigenous Women is synonymous with supporting entire communities, spanning children and youth, Elders, men, ancestors, and future generations.

3. Organizing movement building and networking at all levels within Indigenous Women and all other women - Supporting and equitably resourcing initiatives that facilitate movement building and networking among Indigenous Women and diverse communities is crucial. By nurturing these connections, we enhance the impact of empowering Indigenous Women, foster collaboration, and address shared challenges effectively.

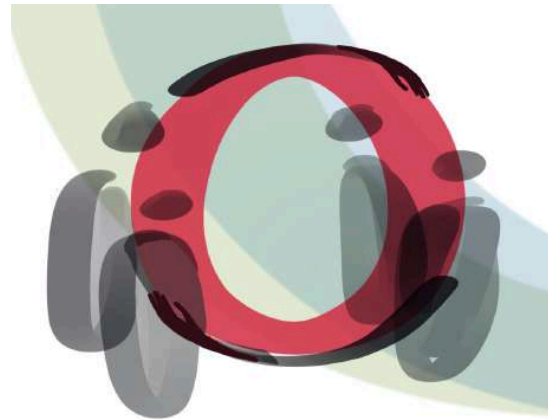


RESPONSIBILITY

Be accountable and transparent in ensuring the effective, meaningful, and intersectional representation and participation of Indigenous Peoples where critical decisions that affect them are made. Use funding processes and approaches that are accessible, adaptable, flexible, transparent, and accountable.

Responsibility to the Lands and Territories as Central to Indigenous Women's Justice.

1. Advocate, support, and fund the eradication of all forms of violence against Indigenous girls, women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and Indigenous women with disabilities. This commitment seeks to address and eliminate the unequal forms of violence disproportionately affecting these communities, promoting a safer and more inclusive environment for everyone.



RECIPROCITY

Practice the essence of Indigenous ways of living, giving, and sharing that connects people, their beliefs, and actions. Be open to learning, unlearning, and receiving. Giving and receiving from a place of mutual benefit and solidarity is also part of a virtuous circle of healing principles.

1. Strengths-Based Philanthropic Structures that Create New Opportunities for Indigenous Women's Leadership in All Sectors of Philanthropy - This seeks to empower and amplify the capabilities of Indigenous Women, recognizing and leveraging their unique strengths to drive positive change.

2. Recognition and acknowledgement of Indigenous Women's co-investment with tangible and intangible resources. This recognition emphasizes the significance of their multifaceted contributions, reinforcing the importance of equitable partnerships and collaborative efforts in philanthropy.



REDISTRIBUTION

Practice redistribution based on Indigenous Values and ways of living, sharing, and giving to shift towards a just and equitable world. Do this through building trust, ensuring Indigenous People are at the decision-making table, and directly funding Indigenous-led solutions, initiatives, and organizations worldwide.

1. Direct funding and co-investment for all Indigenous Women and their diversity of organizations. By fostering direct financial support, we aim to empower and amplify the impact of these diverse organizations, contributing to their autonomy and sustainability

2. Understanding the socio-political, cultural, and economic contexts of each region for just and equal redistribution - By recognizing the diverse socio-political, cultural, and economic landscapes in each region, we aim to achieve just and equal redistribution. This strategy ensures that interventions are culturally sensitive, socially relevant, and economically impactful, fostering sustainable change in diverse regions.

A Message to Readers

We ask readers to please cite this report and acknowledge the collective wisdom of the knowledge holders who contributed to this report. Please use the following citation:

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