

# Indigenous Peoples Engagement and Reconciliation

**Sīhkimiwēwin**  
Encourage others

**Wēcihtāsok**  
Volunteer

**Mēkiwin**  
Donate



# Indigenous Peoples Engagement and Reconciliation

Inclusion of Indigenous people and respect for their culture, traditions and governance structures are fundamental values of United Way of Saskatoon and Area.

## A Journey Towards Authentic Engagement

Our community is strongest when everyone has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Indigenous people continue to be over-represented in statistics related to homelessness, poverty, school readiness, and experiences of racism and discrimination. In order for our city to improve the quality of life for everyone, we need to ensure that community services are designed and delivered with our local people and priorities in mind. By authentically engaging the Indigenous community in decision-making, United Way can become more responsive and effective towards achieving better outcomes in the areas of housing, employment, early years education, and health services.

## Highlights of United Way's Indigenous Relations Work

**Kitaskinaw (“our land”)** - United Way, in partnership with City of Saskatoon, Gabriel Dumont Institute and Saskatoon Health Region, released the Kitaskinaw Report: An Environmental Scan of Programs and Services Serving Aboriginal People in Saskatoon. The Kitaskinaw report continues to help guide and assist in the ongoing efforts of enhancing the well-being of the Indigenous community of Saskatoon.

**Wichitowin (“working together”)** - United Way and partner organizations – Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Saskatchewan, City of Saskatoon and Saskatoon Health Region, developed the Wichitowin Aboriginal Engagement Conference as an opportunity to enhance social planning, community collaboration, public awareness, and education and training to achieve greater impact and positive outcomes in our community.

Wichitowin is a platform for the community, business, non-profit, and health sectors to contribute to come together and learn from one another and provides resources that are helpful in:

- engaging Indigenous people as employees and volunteers;
- incorporating Indigenous values in service delivery settings; and,
- creating culturally safe and respectful organizations.

## We will Listen, Learn, Show up and Share for Reconciliation

United Way endorses the Truth & Reconciliation of Canada's Calls to Action and is committed to improving the quality of life for the most vulnerable people in Saskatoon. We will ensure we consider and incorporate the Calls to Action into our organizational structure, community impact strategies and strategic direction of our organization.

United Way will specifically focus on Calls to Action #57, #66 and #92.

### #57

Provide education on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

### #66

Establish multi-year funding for community-based youth organizations.

### #92

Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a reconciliation framework and to apply its principles, norms, and standards to corporate policy and core operational activities involving Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources.

