

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
YEAR IN REVIEW

2017





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Change leader  
gathering in Toronto –  
sharing skills, insights,  
and project ideas.



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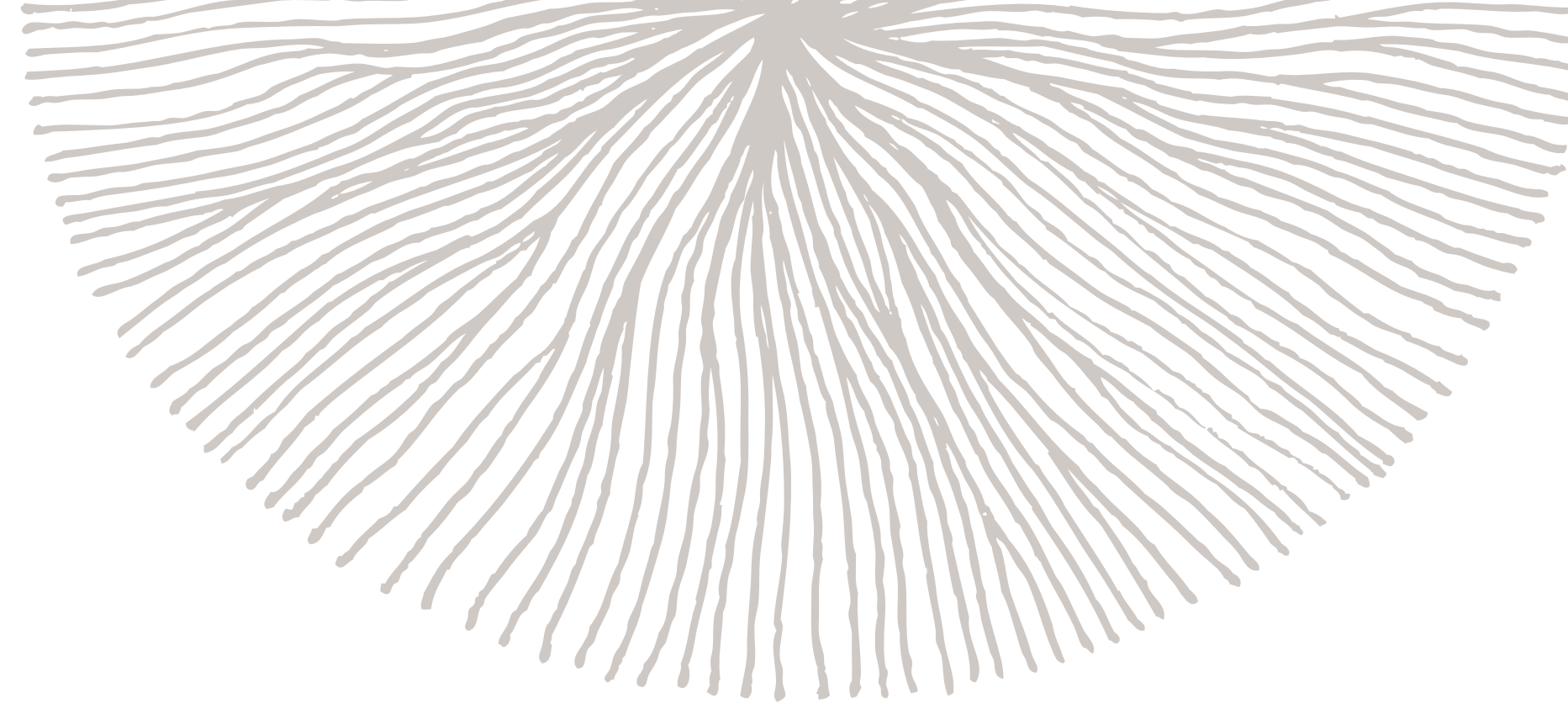
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## OUR VISION

We envision a more inclusive and pluralist Canada where our differences are valued and engaged, and everyone has an equal opportunity to thrive both socially and economically.

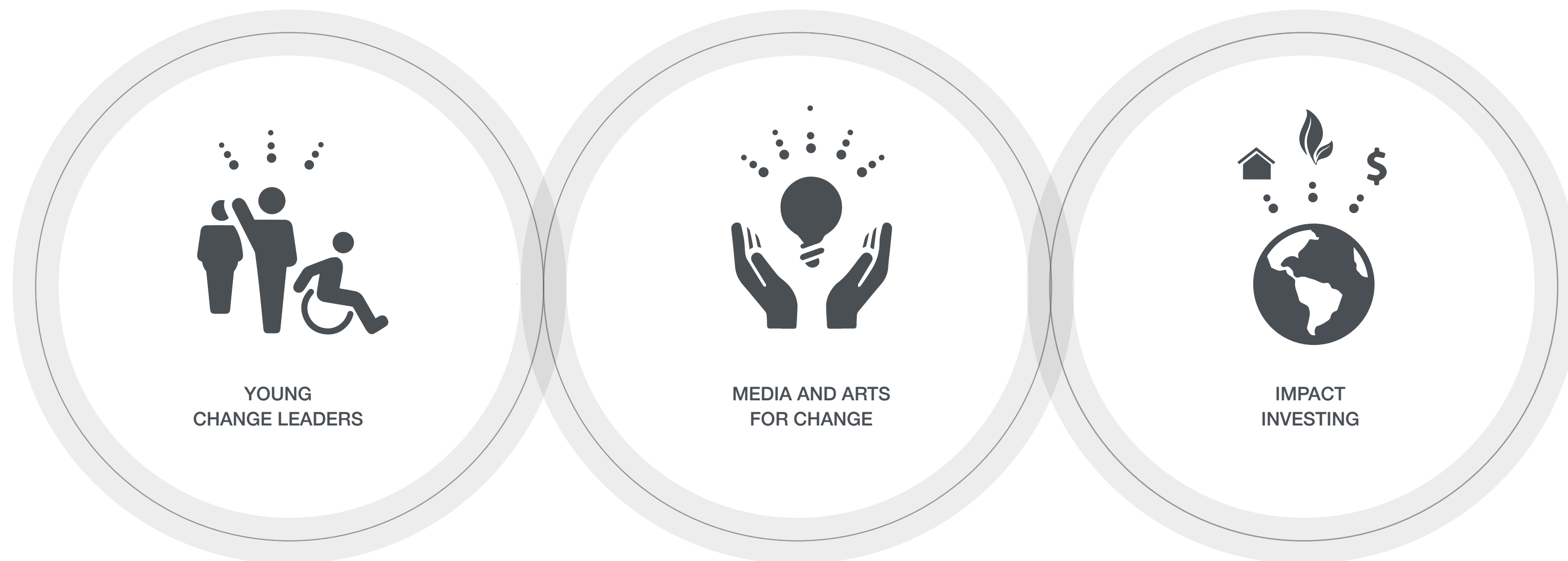
## OUR MISSION

We work to promote inclusion and pluralism through media and arts, support for young change leaders and impact investing—specifically addressing discrimination based on ethnicity, race and religion.



# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

We believe that by supporting the next generation of change leaders, leveraging media and arts for change, and impact investing, we will create a virtuous cycle that contributes to greater social inclusion.





# MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR + PRESIDENT

## Dear Friends,

Twenty-seventeen was the second year of Inspirit's current five-year strategic plan. We've been building on what we've learned, honing our granting streams, and enhancing our relationships. We are making measurable progress on the five pillars laid out in our strategic plan: advancing social change through media and arts, championing effective change leaders, growing as an inclusion leader and catalyst, increasing impact through community deep dives, and aligning our investment approach with our mission.

Through our granting streams, we were able to support over forty projects and initiatives in 2017,

each unique and inspiring. Several of these projects will be profiled in this annual report. You will learn about Media and Arts Impact grantee, This is Worldtown (TIWT), a digital hub featuring the first person expression of Indigenous and racialized women across storytelling platforms. You'll also read about creative solutions-focused projects led by change leaders, such as Black Lives Matter Toronto's Freedom School and Waywayseecappo First Nation's Showing Our True Colours.

After many years of planning, we also successfully piloted a new granting stream this past year: the Doc Impact Fund, which supports documentary outreach and engagement campaigns. In 2017, it was awarded to *The Long Way Home*, *Waniska*, and

*Colonization Road*. We believe these films will build understanding of underrepresented perspectives and catalyze action on social change goals, especially related to advancing reconciliation and addressing Islamophobia.

While a few organizations have a slated mandate to work with Indigenous communities, Inspirit is one of very few non-Muslim organizations in Canada with an explicit focus on countering Islamophobia. It is especially important for us to build relationships with Muslim change leaders and Muslim-led organizations responding to this growing form of discrimination. This year, we deepened our efforts on this front with our Fostering Relationships with Muslim Communities strategy.



With a series of gatherings and consultations that began in 2017, we sought to learn more about the unique ways Islamophobia manifests in different parts of the country; to identify actors, champions, and key influencers working to dismantle Islamophobia; and to understand how Inspirit could best support community efforts. This strategy will continue into 2018.

In 2018, we will also be advancing our Deep Dive strategy, which focuses on supporting Indigenous youth in Thunder Bay, a city where the devastating effects of colonization and the residential school system are experienced daily through systemic, institutional and interpersonal racism. In 2017,

we began this work with organizations such as The United Way Thunder Bay, and look forward to continuing to build trust and shared efforts with organizations and young people in the region.

Impact investing remains a key strategy for Inspirit Foundation. In 2017, we published our Investment Policy Statement and continued investing our resources in organizations aligned with our values. We closed the year with 49% of our assets invested for impact, which means we are on track to fulfilling our commitment of having a 100% impact portfolio by the end of 2020. You'll learn more about one of our new investments, New Commons Development, in this report.

We face 2018 with humility, gratitude and determination. We see the effects of historical and present inequities in our society, as well as the strength and brilliance in those demanding more, and reimagining systems. There is an opportunity and necessity for us as individuals, as organizations, and as a country to be better.



Andrea Nemtin  
President & CEO



Peter Lyman  
Board Chair



# OUR TEAM

## BOARD

Peter Lyman, Board Chair  
Barbara Hall, Vice-Chair  
Laurence Ginsberg, Secretary & Treasurer  
Alexandra McCann, Director  
Caro Loutfi, Director  
Ginger Gosnell-Myers, Director  
Mitchell Anderson, Director  
Mohamed Huque, Director  
Paul Harding Stewart, Director  
Robert Ottenhoff, Director  
Salima Ebrahim, Director  
Susan Millican, Director  
Tim Brodhead, Director  
Wendell Adjetey, Director

## STAFF

Andrea Nemtin, CEO & President  
Chris Lee, Manager of Grants & Media Impact Funding  
Gwen Joy, Director of Grants & Evaluation  
Hannah Nguyen, Executive Assistant  
Jory Cohen, Director of Social Finance & Investment  
Kate Leuschen Millar, Finance & Administration Manager  
Rudayna Bahubeshi, Manager of Stakeholder Engagement & Communications  
Sanjeev Timana, Research & Evaluation Coordinator  
Shazlin Rahman, Stakeholder Engagement Specialist



# OUR PRIORITY ISSUE AREAS

## RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is both a goal and a process by which Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples are repairing and building relationships to realize social and economic inclusion for all people living in Canada.

ADVANCING <b>RECONCILIATION</b>	
\$383,500 committed in 2017	NINETEEN initiatives supported

THIRTY-ONE  
INDIGENOUS  
change leaders directly supported

## ISLAMOPHOBIA

Islamophobia is a prejudice against the Islamic faith and/or Muslims, which often reinforces fear of “the other” and generates discriminatory attitudes.

ADDRESSING <b>ISLAMOPHOBIA</b>	
\$191,600 committed in 2017	TWELVE initiatives supported

THIRTY-FIVE  
MUSLIM  
change leaders directly supported



# ADVANCE SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH MEDIA + ARTS

## CHANGE Pathway

**IF** we support and amplify media and arts initiatives that illuminate and promote inclusion and pluralism or challenge discrimination and exclusion,

**THEN** individual understanding, empathy and desire to embrace difference will grow,

**THEN** connections, relationships and partnerships between diverse communities will be stronger,

**THEN** discourse, attitudes and behaviours will shift toward building a more inclusive and pluralist Canada.

## Media and Arts Impact Grants

Grantees produced projects that use media and/or arts-based strategies to promote inclusion and pluralism and to challenge discrimination and exclusion.

**TOTAL AWARDED:** Five Projects – \$280,000 Media and Arts Impact Grants

## Doc Impact Grants

Grantees developed outreach and engagement campaigns connected to social issue documentaries.

**TOTAL AWARDED:** Three Projects – \$75,000

➔ To read more about our Media and Arts projects go to: [addendums page 28](#).



**MEDIA + ARTS SPOTLIGHT**

# BEHIND THE DUST

Behind The Dust is a mentorship program for emerging media makers created by This is Worldtown (TIWT), a digital hub featuring Indigenous and racialized women. This program was supported with Inspirit's Media and Arts Impact Grant of \$40,000.

Using different mediums such as photography, film, writing and through in-person events, TIWT brings new perspectives to issues of migration, politics, race, culture and more. TIWT is a response to a media landscape that has often undervalued the contributions of Indigenous and racialized women, and limited their ability to bring full nuance to their stories.

Behind the Dust is supporting six participants, including four Muslim women. Sana Malik, co-founder and Creative Director of TIWT, believes investing in Indigenous, racialized, and Muslim women is critical to helping develop fuller portrayals of their communities in the media and creating more representational media.



ARCHVRMX, a  
This is Worldtown  
(TIWT) event.



*Behind the Dust* participants are mentored by established women media makers on how to navigate the creative industry, develop their voice, and build fundamental skills, including grant writing and visual story development. The program amplifies participants' work through exhibits and other live events that bring their work to new audiences.

One of these events, ARCHV RMX, showcased program participants' work in its early stages. Watch some highlights and learn more about *Behind the Dust* and TIWT [here](#).



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This is Worldtown (TIWT) event. *Behind the Dust* participants and TIWT founder Sana Malik (middle).



**DOC IMACT SPOTLIGHT**

# COLONIZATION ROAD

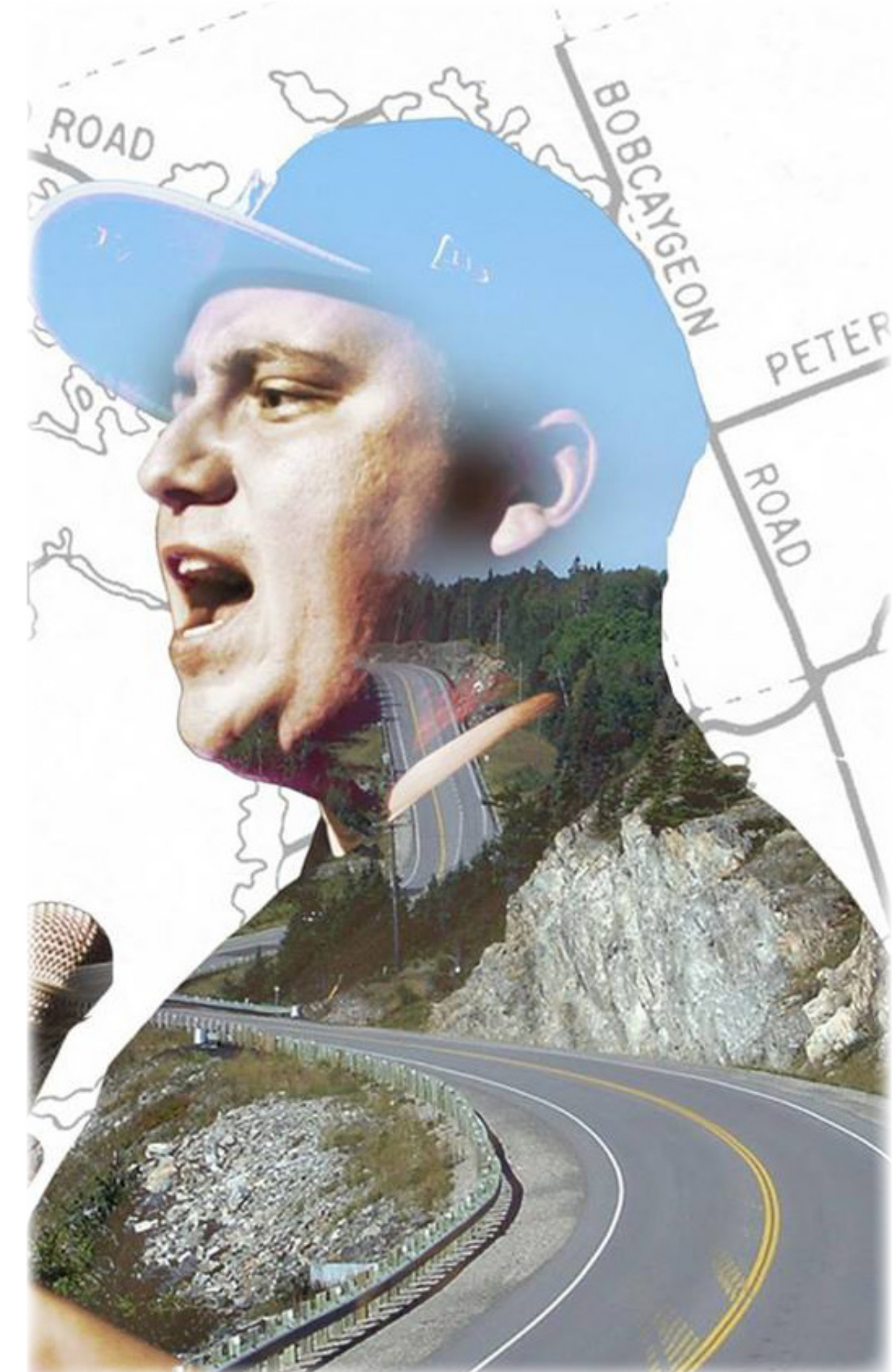
Hosted by Anishinaabe comedian and activist Ryan McMahon, *Colonization Road* explores routes that remind us of colonization and the displacement of First Nations peoples. Since Europeans arrived on these lands, roads have been built to connect settlers to resources, industry, and infrastructure. Some of these roads were named Colonization Road and still exist today. Focusing on such roads in northern Ontario and Manitoba, this film engages Indigenous leaders and settlers to revisit public places and raises significant questions about reconciliation and what it means to decolonize.

For *Colonization Road's* director Michelle St. John, the film was particularly important because little scholarship exists on the history and impact of these roads.

This film was one of three grantees in 2017 for our inaugural Doc Impact Fund. The fund supports social issue documentary outreach campaigns that aim to build inclusion and address issues of racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination. It seeks to support films that build understanding of underrepresented perspectives, and catalyze action towards social change goals, especially those related to advancing reconciliation or addressing Islamophobia.

St. John, McMahon and their team will be working with schools to use the film and a study guide as a teaching tool. They are also planning to tour the film to First Nations communities and nearby border towns.

You can watch the trailer for *Colonization Road* [here](#).



Promotional poster for *Colonization Road*, a Doc Impact Fund grantee.



# CHAMPION EFFECTIVE CHANGE LEADERS

## CHANGE Pathway

**IF** we support and connect diverse young people who promote inclusion by actively working to address prejudice and discrimination,

**THEN** they will be more networked, more effective, more influential and more recognized for their work,

**THEN** they will create deeper impact in their communities, conversations and the systems with which they engage,

**THEN** they will collectively build a more inclusive and pluralist Canada.

## ChangeUp Grants

Change leaders aged 18-34 led solutions-focused projects that address issues of discrimination and prejudice in their local communities.

**TOTAL AWARDED:** Seventeen Projects – \$172,000

## Learning Opportunities

In 2017, this granting stream allowed change leaders to participate in conferences and access training to build their skills and networks.

**TOTAL AWARDED:** Four Projects – \$37,500

➔ To read more about change leaders and their projects go to: [addendums page 30.](#)



**CHANGEUP SPOTLIGHT****FREEDOM SCHOOL**

Black students in Toronto face many systemic barriers to academic success, including disproportionately severe disciplinary action and what has been highlighted by Freedom School as “a lack of humanizing, self-affirming, and queer positive educational opportunities.”

Inspired by the Oakland Community School, Freedom School’s three-week arts-based summer

program aims to create an affirming space where Black students can see themselves reflected in resources, lessons, and their educators.

Focused on children aged four to ten, this program nurtures students’ artistic and media literacy skills and fosters their passion for social justice. Led by activists and educators from the Black Lives Matter movement, the program’s

curriculum was developed in collaboration with illustrators, digital animators, game designers, printmakers, researchers, sculptors, and graphic designers. Over the course of the program, students are exposed to Black Canadian and diasporic histories not typically found in mainstream curricula, histories that affirm a key tenet of Freedom School: Black lives matter.





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ChangeUP grantee  
2017. Freedom  
School's students  
and educators on  
a field trip.



**CHANGEUP SPOTLIGHT**

# SHOWING OUR TRUE COLOURS

Access to mentorship and positive role models are critical to building confidence among young people, and particularly Indigenous youth who often experience racism and marginalization. Showing Our True Colours, a media-based project developed by Chantel Wilson from Waywayseecappo First Nation, provides that access and gives youth from her community an opportunity to build skills

and become role models. Through a series of workshops, mentorship and training sessions, youth from Waywayseecappo learned to conduct on-camera interviews with community leaders they admire, including Manitoba NDP leader Wab Kinew, former Miss Universe Ashley Callingbull, and Nu-Media founder Jordan Molaro. These videos highlight personal stories, experiences of racism

and discrimination, and how community leaders persevered and built inspiring careers in areas such as journalism, sports and politics. The youth team gave presentations at local schools, and in their words, “showcased our leaders, our youth, and our First Nations people in a positive light.”

You can watch their video [here](#).

# IMPACT INVESTING

**CHANGE Pathway**

**IF** we develop and demonstrate an investment approach that is aligned with our mission and beliefs,

**THEN** our capital and strategies will yield both financial and social returns,

**THEN** an understanding of how capital investments can contribute to social and economic inclusion will increase,

**THEN** more capital will flow to investments that increase livelihoods; support climate change solutions; increase access to arts, culture, and services; and build community infrastructure,

**THEN** we will contribute to building a more inclusive and pluralist society.

Inspirit Foundation is committed to a 100% impact portfolio and in 2017 we published our [Investment Policy Statement](#).

New investments made in 2017 included New Commons Development, SolarShare, and additional investments in Community Power Capital.

➔ To read more about our investments go to: [addendums page 37](#).





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New Commons  
Development  
employees at  
Woodgreen  
Community Housing  
Inc; affordable  
housing for seniors.



**IMPACT INVESTMENT SPOTLIGHT**

# NEW COMMONS DEVELOPMENT

New Commons Development is an organization that works with community-based non-profits, cooperatives, government agencies and public and private developers to create and preserve community assets, with a focus on affordable housing. Canada's shortage in affordable housing disproportionately affects Indigenous, racialized, and other historically marginalized communities, so the opportunity to invest in New Commons was a strong fit for Inspirit's impact investing strategy.

By repurposing and investing in idle assets, New Commons seeks to keep assets within

the community and out of the hands of private developers. They bring together technical resources, and access to private and public capital to support community partners in realizing their goals. New Commons works with strong community partners by sharing the project risk and helping to build an asset base.

Inspirit invested in the limited partnership debt fund offered by New Commons. The fund has a five-year term, with two possible one-year extensions. The capital raised by the fund will support projects in Canada, with a focus on Vancouver and Toronto.

As outlined in our Investment Policy Statement, Inspirit's investments contribute to four primary objectives: increasing livelihoods; supporting climate change solutions; increasing access to arts, culture, and services; and building community infrastructure. For Inspirit, a primary focus of the final objective is contributing to adequate and affordable housing for all.

# INCREASE IMPACT THROUGH COMMUNITY DEEP DIVE

## CHANGE Pathway

**IF** we support media and arts for change initiatives that open minds, shape conversations and build good relations,

**AND** we support young change leaders working in community to help lead inclusive and positive change,

**AND** we develop and implement investment strategies that glean social, environmental, and economic returns,

**THEN** we will help create sustainable change and more inclusive conditions in a community.

Through the Community Deep Dive strategy, Inspirit funds learning opportunities, strategic collaborations, and media and arts initiatives.

**TOTAL AWARDED:** One Project – \$50,000

➔ To read more about the Community Deep Dive go to: [addendums page 36.](#)



**DEEP DIVE SPOTLIGHT**

## UNITED WAY THUNDER BAY

Diversity Counts is a community engagement project aimed at building relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and youth-focused organizations in Thunder Bay. This initiative builds on the organization's *Community Report on Racism and Discrimination*, which highlighted the severity of racism, and especially anti-Indigenous racism, in the city.

United Way Thunder Bay is Inspirit Foundation's first Community Deep Dive grantee, and received \$50,000 to develop an action plan with short and long-term goals to foster inclusion. With this

grant, United Way Thunder Bay will also provide micro-grants to projects driven by young people and adult mentors.

In 2017, and for the remainder of the strategic plan, Thunder Bay will be the sole focus for Inspirit's Deep Dive strategy. This decision was made following thorough research beginning in 2015 that highlighted the deep social and economic exclusion faced by the city's Indigenous youth due to the legacy of historical inequity and racism. Through relationships we built with key stakeholders, Inspirit saw an opportunity to

collaboratively address barriers facing young Indigenous people in the city.

In 2017, we focused on building deep and trusting relationships with organizations invested in Indigenous youth well-being and change leaders leading the call for change in the city.



# GROW AS AN INCLUSION LEADER + CATALYST

## CHANGE Pathway

**IF** we build our own capacity to learn and lead through service,

**THEN** we can help catalyze collective action with other social inclusion leaders,

**THEN** we can help shift more attitudes and contribute to systemic change,

**THEN** we will have more capacity to support a network of more effective and influential change leaders.



Connecting with  
guests at an Inspirit  
Eid Dinner.



## Fostering Relationships with Muslim Communities

Muslim communities are diverse, and experiences of Islamophobia vary greatly based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, ability, and geographical location. In 2017 and into 2018, we worked on building relationships with various Muslim communities in cities across the country to understand distinct local challenges, solutions, and opportunities for support. We've learned about the rise of right-wing white supremacist groups in Edmonton, and how unemployment, anti-Black racism and Islamophobia create social and economic isolation in Hamilton.

Inspirit's work relies on strong, trusting partnerships and expanding our networks to engage Muslim stakeholders who are boldly creating change across Canada. In 2017, we hosted a day-long gathering with Muslims in Edmonton in collaboration with the Islamic Social Services Association, The Green Room, and the Alberta Muslim Public Affairs Council. Members from a cross-section of Muslim communities attended.

Our goals are to:

1. Learn how Islamophobia manifests in different regions
2. Identify champions, and key influencers working to dismantle Islamophobia in select communities
3. Explore how Inspirit may support this work

We are committed to supporting Muslim-led initiatives and Muslim communities developing innovative solutions to address Islamophobia and build their communities' capacities.







# OTHER COLLABORATIONS

## TOTAL AWARDED: \$161,600

Strategic collaborations supported short-term projects from change leaders or co-funded initiatives by organizations. In both cases, these were projects that contributed to our mandate of creating a more inclusive Canada.

➔ To read more about other collaborations go to: [addendums page 34.](#)



# ADDENDUMS

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Grants, Strategic Collaborations + New Investments



# MEDIA + ARTS IMPACT GRANTS

## TOTAL AWARDED: \$280,000

This granting stream supported projects employing media and/or arts-based strategies to promote inclusion and challenge discrimination. In 2017, we closed this granting stream.

### → **Behind the Dust | This is Worldtown, Toronto, \$40,000**

This is Worldtown, a digital hub featuring Indigenous and racialized women media makers, supported six women to develop multimedia projects exploring and portraying their experiences. They were supported through mentorship and learning opportunities.

### → **šxʷʔam̓ət (home) | Theatre for the Living, Vancouver, \$40,000**

šxʷʔam̓ət (pronounced shwa-ah-met), “home,” is a play by Theatre for the Living. The production used forum theatre and multimedia platforms to engage audiences around themes of truth and reconciliation in communities across British Columbia and Alberta, as well as internationally, via live webcast.

### → **Reclaiming Place, A Squamish Media Arts Project: “Wenaxws ten Syawan” | Kwi Awt Stelmexw Cultural Society, Vancouver, \$60,000**

Reclaiming Place is a three-year interactive art project designed to engage the public in investigating and re-examining their relationship to Skwxw̓ ú7mesh (Squamish), Coast Salish territory.

## MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS FROM 2016:

### → **Centre for Aboriginal Media (imagineNATIVE) film and video tour, National, \$40,000**

### → **C4C Canada, Challenge for Change, National, \$100,000**



# DOC IMPACT FUND

## TOTAL AWARDED: \$75,000

The Doc Impact Fund supports social issue documentary film outreach and engagement campaigns that aim to build inclusion and pluralism and address issues of racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination.

### ➔ **Long Way Home**, Montreal, \$25,000

Aisha Jamal and Ariel Nasr's short film, *The Long Way Home* is a poignant reminder about the fragility of citizenship rights, and dives into issues of race, Islamophobia, and state security. The national impact campaign for this film had a special focus on Quebec and mobilized participants to raise awareness and develop skills to counter Islamophobia.

### ➔ **Colonization Road**, Toronto, \$25,000

With host Ryan McMahon's humorous and biting guidance, Michelle St. John's *Colonization Road* explores the impact of colonization roads built by European settlers across Ontario and Manitoba in the mid 1800s. The filmmakers worked with educators to share this film alongside a study guide. They also did screenings in several communities in and around Treaty three territory.

### ➔ **Waniska**, Toronto, \$25,000

Co-directed by the Kehte-ayak Council of First Nations University and Andree Cazabon, *Waniska* is an inspiring reminder of the resilience of Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island. This campaign raised awareness about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the 94 Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC).

It provided tool kits and engagement strategies to advance reconciliation and elevate Indigenous knowledge systems and culture.



# CHANGEUP GRANTS

## TOTAL AWARDED: \$172,000

This granting stream creates opportunities for change leaders to initiate creative, solutions-focused projects that address issues of discrimination and prejudice in their local communities.

→ **Healing our heARTs: Racialized Resistance & Resilience | Vancouver Status of Women, Vancouver, \$10,000**

Healing our heARTs created safe and accessible space for racialized youth to connect, learn, heal, and build solidarity through zines, poetry and other forms of creative expression. The project also included workshops and storytelling events led by and for racialized women.

→ **Project Heartwork: Critical Arts Engagement and Wellness for Muslimahs | Oxum Creative Collective, Toronto, \$10,000**

This critical arts engagement series explored mixed-media arts for Muslimah changemakers to connect communities with their stories, and inspire cross-cultural and interfaith understanding. Participants attended a retreat focused

on exploring artistic engagement, wellness, different art forms, community organizing, and self-care. This project culminated in an exhibit, allowing participants to share their stories with the public.

→ **Medicine Wheel Warriors: Creating Indigenous Superhero Action Figures | Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth (USAY), Calgary, \$10,000**

Indigenous participants aged 18 to 25 researched heroes in their community, reimagined themselves as superheroes and used 3D/laser scanning and printing to create action figures based on their own identities.

→ **Honouring Two-Spirit Resilience | Springtide Resources Inc., Toronto, \$10,000**

Focused on two-spirit youth and elders, this project

focused on community-building, healing, reclaiming, and developing resources. Participants crafted their own stories and produced a community colouring book with stories and images of two-spirit peoples, along with their history, traditions, knowledge, and resilience.

→ **The Young Queens Effect (YQ Effect) | Young Queens Collective, Waterloo, \$10,000**

The YQ Effect focused on cultivating community for racialized young women to express their experiences of marginalization, isolation, and inequality, while developing the personal and professional networks needed to overcome these barriers. This project focused on promoting confidence and skills development.



→ **Connect the Land | Inuvik Youth Centre Society, Inuvik, \$10,000**

Connect the Land participants created a community mural in Inuvik, Northwest Territories about how land connects us across cultures.

→ **Race Talks, Eh? Deconstructing Race and Racism in Canada Film Series | Anti-Racism Online Coalition, Toronto, \$10,000**

This project explored and deconstructed race and racism through a series of short videos. These videos featured young racialized organizers and advocates and were created as teaching tools to be used in classrooms and on social media platforms.

→ **The Gathering | Black Girl Magic, Edmonton, \$10,000**

The Gathering is a multidisciplinary performance art piece exploring themes that arise when Black women connect spirituality, Indigineity, sexuality, and racism through dance, poetry, music and theatre.

→ **River Rocks, Sudbury & Manitoulin Island, \$10,000**

Focused on hip-hop and pow wow dancing, River Rocks hosted a series of workshops that use dance to foster confidence, healing, and deep connections between participants. These dance workshops focused on Indigenous girls and young mothers.

→ **Repainting Perceptions | Art Ignite/ North York Arts, Toronto, \$10,000**

This project consisted of a series of portrait painting workshops, culminating in an exhibit engaging the public. The workshops provided space for Muslims and non-Muslims living in Flemingdon and Thorncliffe Park in Toronto to share stories, challenge religious stereotypes, and break through social isolation.

→ **Project Reclaim | Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, Victoria, \$10,000**

Project Reclaim was a youth-driven, land-based project that engaged Tsartlip Nation youth to lead their community in healing, resisting, and preventing violence through land

restoration to create healthier community spaces and culturally-relevant sexual violence prevention curricula in schools.

→ **Walking Gottingen | North End Community Health Centre, Halifax, \$10,000**

Walking Gottingen used storytelling and natural sound to provide a complete immersive experience for listeners as they walked down Gottingen Street in Halifax's north end. Listeners heard stories from residents who experienced anti-Black racism, Islamophobia, and colonial attitudes in a neighbourhood undergoing gentrification.

→ **Freedom School | Black Lives Matter, Toronto, \$10,000**

This was a three-week youth-led arts and media program for Black children in Toronto. Freedom School fostered their intellectual development and addressed root causes of high Toronto District School Board dropout and suspension rates by developing alternative educational resources and advocating for Black-affirmative education.



➔ **The Rivers Speak Community Play | Thinking Rock Community Arts, Thessalon, \$10,000**

This community play was the first project in rural Thessalon using theatre to bring together people of Indigenous and non-Indigenous descent to hear one another’s stories and create understanding. More than 40+ community members participated in the performance and production of this piece, and it reached more than 600 people.

➔ **paksehnamohk | Sparking Language Revival, Edmonton, \$10,000**

The paksehnamohk: Sparking Language Revival project celebrated Cree language and identity in Edmonton and surrounding areas. Through the creation of digital media and student workshops, the project connected teachers and students to Indigenous language rights.

➔ **BadAss Muslimah Web Series | Muslimahs Making Media, Toronto, \$12,000\***

This project was a series of workshops and public panels that supported 25 young Muslim women to create a three-part web series. The series will be shared in 2018 through an online media campaign and mini-screenings around the country with the support of national partners.

*\*After an overwhelming response to their call for applications, BadAss Muslimah’s team sought an additional \$2,000 to welcome more applicants.*

➔ **Showing Our True Colors | Waywayseecappo First Nation, Waywayseecappo, Manitoba, \$10,000**

Youth from Waywayseecappo collaborated in producing a video featuring Indigenous leaders and role models in their community and across the province. The video was shared through social media platforms and Waywayseecappo youth delivered presentations in community schools as well as in non-Indigenous schools.

Participants were able to deepen their leadership skills, particularly around asserting their voices and raising awareness about racism and fostering accountability in their schools.



# LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

## TOTAL AWARDED: \$37,500

This granting stream supports change leaders to participate in conferences and other training to build their skills and networks.

### → **Media That Matters**, *Cortes Island*, \$10,000

A practical workshop for media-makers, mission-driven funders and activists, Media That Matters focused on best practices in documentary, digital content, and independent journalism that make a difference. With this partnership, Inspirit was able to support the travel and participation of four emerging leaders from across the country.

### → **Banff Forum**, *Banff*, \$10,000

The Banff Forum brought together emerging leaders and thinkers to discuss topics of national importance, invigorate public debate, and uncover ways to strengthen our country's social and economic fabric. Inspirit sponsored four change leaders to participate in this conference.

### → **Emerging 20 | Reelword**, *Toronto*, \$10,000

Reelworld's Emerging 20 Program (E20) provided emerging Indigenous and racialized media artists access to industry decision makers, skill building opportunities, and mentorship to develop and accelerate their social issue films and media projects.

### → **Progress Summit | Broadbent Institute**, *Ottawa*, \$7,500

Broadbent Institute's Progress Summit brought together leading international policy makers, elected officials, and movement builders to tackle issues shaping a progressive Canada. In collaboration with DawaNet, Inspirit supported the participation of more than fifteen Muslim change leaders to attend the summit.



# OTHER COLLABORATIONS

## TOTAL AWARDED: \$161,600

Strategic collaborations supported short-term projects from change leaders or co-funded initiatives by organizations. In both cases, these were projects that contributed to our mandate of creating a more inclusive Canada.

→ **Pathways and Protocols | ImagineNATIVE, National, \$15,000**

This project was aimed at ensuring First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples are depicted in ways that are respectful by developing a protocol on how non-Indigenous filmmakers and production companies can approach and receive consent from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities.

→ **Hoodstock, Montreal, \$10,000**

Developed by residents in Montreal North to challenge police violence and racial profiling, Hoodstock is a forum creating dialogue on subjects such as health, housing, and systemic racism.

→ **Walking With Our Sisters (WWOS), Toronto, \$5,000**

WWOS is a commemorative art installation featuring

over 1,900 unfinished moccasins honouring the lives of thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women and children. This installation was open to the public in Toronto in October 2017 and is traveling across Turtle Island for seven years.

→ **River Rocks, Six Nations of the Grand River, Ontario, \$5,000**

Under the leadership of artist Krystal Riverz and in collaboration with other hip-hop and pow wow dancers, this project brought a series of dance workshops to youth and young women within the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. This program used dance to build collaboration, self-awareness, body positivity, and healing.

→ **iAM | JAYU, Toronto, \$5,000**

In 2017, iAM mentored and trained nine Indigenous

youth in photography to develop their skills, networks, and confidence. Inspirit's funding supported an exhibition at the end of the series where the photography was displayed and celebrated.

→ **Hamilton Hustle | NGen, Hamilton, \$55,000**

In collaboration with Inspirit Foundation, NGen trained a group of youth community researchers to develop a report investigating the unique barriers in accessing employment faced by Indigenous, Muslim and racialized youth in the city.

→ **Hot Docs, Toronto, \$5,000**

Produced as a collaboration between Hot Docs and imagineNATIVE, the 2017 Doc Summit showcased success stories of organizations, programs, films, and filmmakers working collaboratively with Indigenous



peoples and stories, with the goal of growing knowledge in the sector. Inspirit's grant supported this session and the participation of six emerging filmmakers in the festival.

→ **YOUth Matter | Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvik NWT, \$10,000**

Starting in 2016, the Gwich'in Tribal Council has held annual conferences focused on youth wellbeing. With this Inspirit grant, the council held a YOUth Matter conference in Fort McPherson bringing together young people from the community, as well as from Inuvik and Aklavik. This three-day conference focused on understanding and addressing the intergenerational effects of residential schools.

→ **Muslim Women Media-Makers Fight Back | This is Worldtown (TIWT), Toronto, \$1,200**

This is Worldtown is a digital hub featuring the first person expression of Indigenous and racialized women globally and across storytelling mediums. In 2017, Inspirit supported TIWT's first event, a panel and conversation space called Muslim Women Media-Makers Fight Back.

→ **BIWOC Create New Media Realities | This is Worldtown (TIWT), Toronto, \$1,000**

In the spring, TIWT was able to leverage the momentum from their first event to host a second event titled BIWOC (Black, Indigenous, and Women of Colour) Create New Media Realities.

→ **Moose Hide Campaign, National, \$3,500**

The Moose Hide Campaign is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men who are taking a stance against violence towards Indigenous women and children. This grant supported Moose Hide's annual event, which included a fast, healing circles, speeches and a feast.

→ **Highlighting the Margins—Violence Against Women in Leadership | Young Women's Leadership Network (YWLN), Toronto, \$900**

YWLN is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering young women's civic and political leadership. In November, Inspirit supported a YWLN event, which sought to diversify the discourse around women's civic engagement and understand how racialization and discrimination affects women's experiences in politics.

→ **National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM), National, \$5,000**

The National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that protects

Canadian human rights and civil liberties, challenges discrimination and Islamophobia, builds mutual understanding, and advocates for the public concerns of Canadian Muslims. This grant supported the organization in strategic stakeholder engagement activities.

→ **Ontario Indigenous Youth Partnership Project (OIYPP), Ontario, \$20,000**

OIYPP is a collaborative platform supporting Indigenous youth to create solutions to community challenges by providing direct financial support, mentorship and capacity-building opportunities. This grant was used to increase support to youth leading projects to better understand their needs, and to create opportunities for them to influence current and future funding programs.

→ **The Circle on Philanthropy and Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, National, \$20,000**

The Circle is a network promoting giving, sharing, and philanthropy in Indigenous communities across the country with a vision to building a strong and healthy future for First Nations, Inuit, and Métis nations, communities, and individuals. This grant supported the organization's philanthropic stakeholder engagement activities.



# COMMUNITY DEEP DIVE

## TOTAL AWARDED: \$50,000

This granting stream aims to address the need for long-term, multi-pronged, and localized strategies to address deep-seated discrimination in specific regions. This strategy is currently focused on Thunder Bay.

### ➔ **Diversity Counts | United Way Thunder Bay,** *Thunder Bay, \$50,000*

After completing an in depth community report on racism, United Way sought funding to facilitate relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, so that they could develop new ideas and solutions for addressing racism in Thunder Bay.



# IMPACT INVESTMENTS

## TOTAL INVESTED: \$750,000

➔ **Community Power Capital, \$250,000**  
Community Power Capital (CPC) finances the construction of projects operated by SolarShare, a leader in clean energy in Canada. This was an existing investment for Inspirit that was increased in 2017.

➔ **New Commons Development, \$250,000**  
New Commons is a non-profit development company that brings together resources, expertise, and capital to create and preserve community assets, with a focus on affordable housing.

➔ **SolarShare, \$250,000**  
SolarShare is a leading clean energy co-op that develops and owns clean energy infrastructure in Ontario.



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