

WORKING TOWARDS RECONCILIATION

Pathways to Prosperity Conference
Nov 25, 2024



Regional Connections

IMMIGRANT SERVICES



Pembina Valley
Local Immigration
Partnership



REGIONAL CONNECTIONS IMMIGRANT SERVICES

- Vision: Building Community Together
- In-person services: 9 communities
- Online & remote services: additional communities
- Services: Settlement, RAP, Case Management, SWIS, HIPPY, Employment, Language (Assessment, LINC, Workplace), Childcare, Community Connections
- Indirect projects: Pembina Valley Local Immigration Partnership, Dauphin & Area Welcoming Communities Coalition, Manitoba Immigrant Employment Council



ONGOING

- Treaty acknowledgement poster
- Orange Hearts on Orange Shirt Day/T&R Day
- LINC curriculum
- Attending, meeting, learning, celebrating:
 - MVSD/ACC graduation pow wow
 - Roseau River Gathering of Friends
 - Multicultural events – Culture Fest, Tapestry
- Building relationships:
 - Local Immigration Partnerships (PVLIP, DAWCC)
 - Formal committees, events, cups of coffee
 - Red Road Compass, MMF Dauphin ECE training
 - Elder classroom visits

4 The Voice Thursday, February 2, 2023

Local teen creates treaty acknowledgement art for Regional Connections

By Ashleigh Viveiros

A new piece of artwork up on the walls of the offices of Regional Connections Immigrant Services serves not only to beautify the space but also as a colourful reminder of the land on which we all tread.

Last fall, Regional Connections commissioned Winkler Gr. 10 student Taylor Hildebrand to create a treaty acknowledgement poster recognizing the Pembina Valley as being part of Treaty 1 Territory.

Four framed copies of the finished product were unveiled last week, three of them slated to go up in the agency's offices in Winkler, Morden, and Altona while the fourth was gifted to Hildebrand, who also received ceremonial tobacco in thanks for her work.

"We wanted to put up a treaty acknowledgement because there wasn't one and we felt it was important," said Allan Jones, who heads up the Settlement Workers In Schools program. "It's one thing to have the words, but a picture really tells a story. "So we went looking for a local artist



PHOTO BY ASHLEIGH VIVEIROS/VOICE
Taylor Hildebrand (left) and Settlement Workers in School staff member Aubrey Krahn with the treaty acknowledgement Hildebrand created for display in the Regional Connections offices in Winkler, Morden, and Altona.

who could do it for us... we're so happy with how it turned out."

Hildebrand is no stranger to Regional Connections—her parents are current and former employees and she herself has been volunteering with the SWIS program the past few years. "I really like hanging out here," Hildebrand said, "so I've been with some art classes and especially during the summer CultureFest."

When she was invited to put her artistic skills to the task of creating an piece of Indigenous art for the agency, Hildebrand jumped at it.

"I feel really connected to my Indigenous heritage," she said, sharing her family's Métis background. "With my art, it's a great opportunity to connect with that side of my family and that side of my heritage."

"And getting to share that with other people is really awesome." She spent a few months this fall designing the image and then bringing it to life with pencil crayons, markers, and pastels.

Central to the piece is a bison, representing our province's mascot, decked out in colourful adornments. There are also prairie crocuses, the Northern Lights, a forest of trees, and several feathers representing Truth and Reconciliation.

"It's important to know the land that you're on and to know the history," Hildebrand said, explaining it fits right in with Regional Connections'



12TH ANNUAL MVSD & ACC
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
GRAND ENTRY 10:00AM

LOCATION: OUTSIDE ROTARY ARENA - DAUPHIN, MANITOBA
For more information contact: carole.shankaruk@mvvad.ca

GRADUATION
POW W O W

EVERYONE WELCOME!

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION FOR ALL

- **Plain English learning series for lower level EAL learners**
 - **Extended the invitation**
- **3-part series delivered in each of Altona, Dauphin, Morden, and Winkler**
 - **Beginning the Journey**
 - **Exploring the Realities of the Canadian Residential School System**
 - **Indigenous Traditional Knowledge/Medicine/Customs**
- **Grant project through Canadian Heritage**

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION FOR ALL



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FEEDBACK

“Shawn talked to us about Indigenous traditional knowledge, medicine, and customs. He introduced us to a number of traditional plant medicines. He also let us see, smell, and touch medicines and products from animals, such as bear fat and beaver castor oil. The session was informative and hands-on! We learned so much. Once again, participants enjoyed Shawn’s open and honest presentation style and left with a deeper understanding of the culture, knowledge, and history of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada.”

FEEDBACK

“Just want to say a thank you for allowing the presentation to our students. After Tuesday's sharing circle, my students were hyped because there were so many similar traditional remedies that they identified that their grandmas used. The pharmacy worker I have said they carried some of the items in their pharmacy in Ukraine. Bear fat was a popular item. One of my students found a connection and has ordered some bear fat for her dry skin. I noticed it seemed it worked well for my dry hands too. Bears beware!

I found my students note taking improved by the second presentation. I used their notes for listening and writing assessments. The timing actually turned out to be perfect as well. They understood more at this time of year.

Thanks again!”

CONTACT US

Website: www.regionalconnections.ca

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