

Joanne Pinnow

Calgary Alberta

PLANET
Youth®



PARTNER *Calgary*

Indigenous Parallel Journey

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

**INDIGENOUS ELDER TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE, INDIGENOUS YOUTH VOICE,
AND THE EFFORTS OF ALL OTHERS WHO ARE PART OF THE JOURNEY TO OUR “NEW CAMP”**



PARTNER *Calgary*

United Way of Calgary and Area

WHY PLANET YOUTH?

OUR ROLE



Why an Indigenous parallel

Need:

- Statistics – overrepresentation
- Imposition of western applied to Indigenous people ineffective
- Needs and wants of Indigenous youth

Opportunity:

- National and International Developments (TRC, UNDRIP)
- United Way – Akak'stiman Strategy
- Already served Indigenous people before Planet Youth Calgary was developed



OUR BLACKFOOT NAME



Planet Youth =
A'ssitapissksa'ahkóm

Ksa'ahkóm = Earth Being

A'ssitápi = Youth

OUR CREE NAME



Ka-wee-no = Little bee, little ones

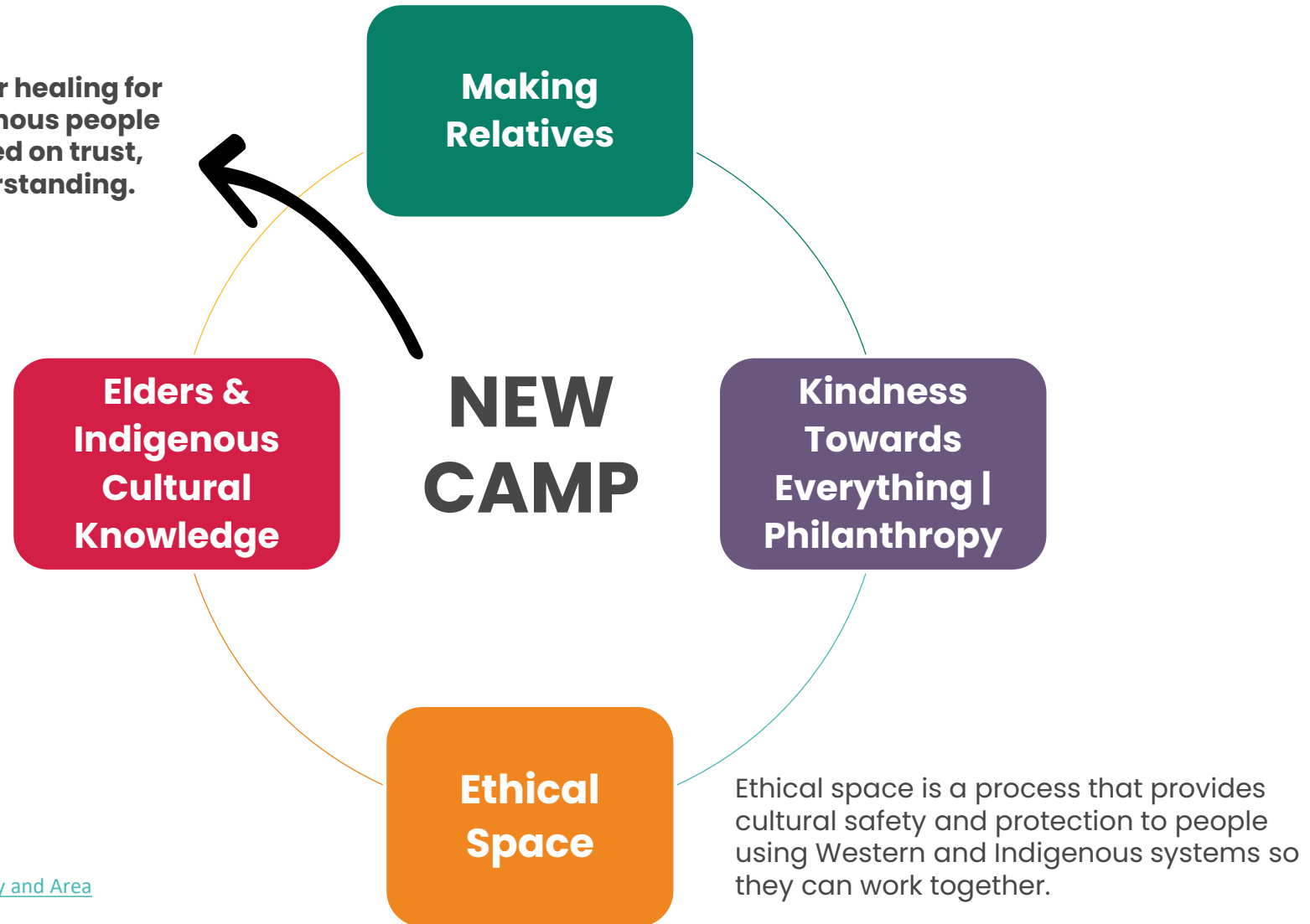
Askiy = land

Oskipmatsahk = youth people-
a process of becoming an adult

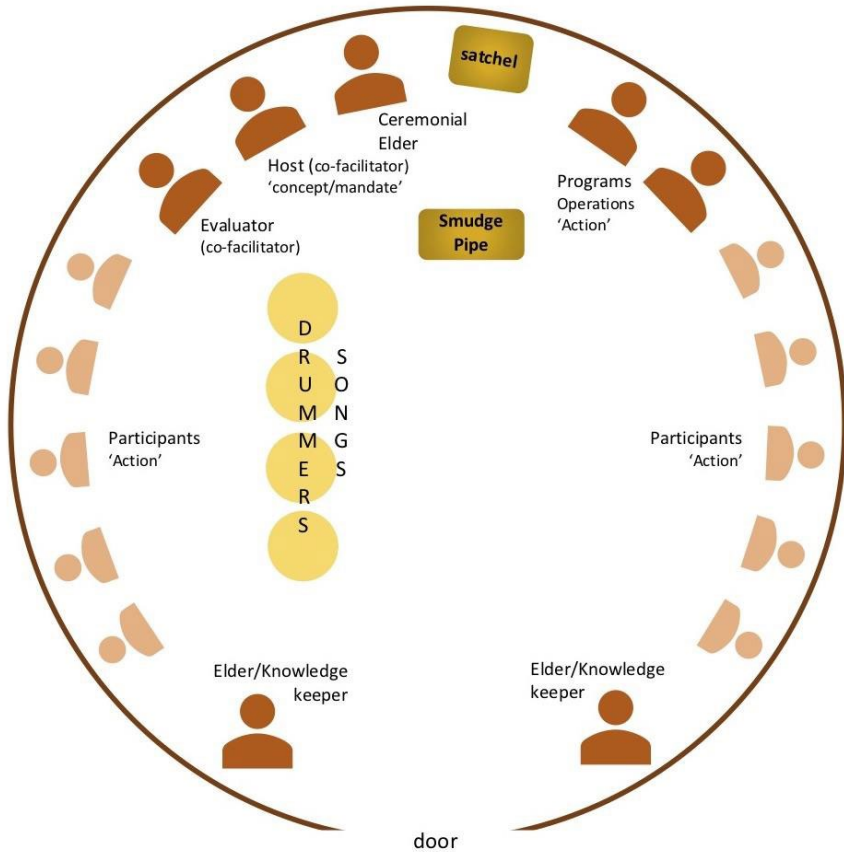
AKAK'STIMAN – “Creative Journey to Achieve Goals” INDIGENOUS STRATEGY



Reconciliation and a path for healing for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people through relationships based on trust, respect, and shared understanding.



WAHKOTIWIN FRAMEWORK



Step 1: Gathering the stories

Step 2: Validating the stories

Step 3: Finding new directions

Step 4: Setting up a new camp

Step 5: After the oral truthing: Closing the circle

ADAPTION OF PLANET YOUTH MODEL

OR IS IT NOT ADAPTING BUT RATHER IS IT SOMETHING ELSE?

- ✓ Sometimes, it is adaption: need to use paralleling (cultural translation)
 - Examples:
 - Indigenous Tea Dance Ceremony instead of a community consultation or newsletter to make announcement
 - Traditional Indigenous knowledge keepers (like Elders) instead of quantitative data and research
 - Oral Stories instead of Western-based written research

- ✓ Sometimes, it is leading with culture: Western PY may or may not do the same.
 - Examples:
 - PYC Indigenous Parallel Creation Story
 - Youth Elders

- ✓ Sometimes, it is a combination. **It is an ART, not a science or a formula.**



What is a “parallel”?

A WAY FOR TWO DIFFERENT SYSTEMS TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER AND WORK TOGETHER

- Recognizes the validity of Indigenous oral ways, practices, approaches. **The Western way is not the only valid way of doing things.**
- We can parallel each other’s approaches, practices. We are looking for similarities to build a common understanding and to communicate with each other better.
- Identifying parallels is about cultural translations of ideas, approaches, practices from the oral Indigenous ways to the Western ways (and conversely). It is also about leading with Culture
- Paralleling can be seen as a methodology or a way to build better understanding, respect and trust. It helps people to feel safe.
- Planet Youth’s Indigenous parallel is about who we serve, what we do, and HOW we do it



EXAMPLES OF PARALLELS TO ENGAGE IN ETHICAL SPACE



Western Ways

APPROACHES & PRACTICES

- Gavel
(call to order)
- Certificate
(documentation, completion, recognition)
- Written
(structure; has man-made authority)
- Legislation
- Linear process



Traditional Ways

APPROACHES & PRACTICES

- Smudging
(call to order)
 - Song
(documentation, approval,)
 - Oral
(structure, Natural laws)
 - Stories
(structure, narratives, experiences, research)
- Ceremony



ETHICAL SPACE: Safety and Trust

- Different approach is needed: Indigenous-informed, while getting the best from Planet Youth and Indigenous methodologies. Compatibility?
- Approach: paralleling – cultural translation
- A process of engagement is needed that provides cultural safety and protection to work together.
- Goal: Identify Ethical Space to work together...but how?
- A few people who are knowledgeable about Ethical Space:
 - Elder Dr. Reg Crowshoe – Blackfoot, Piikani Nation
 - Willie Ermine – Cree Elder, First Nations University of Canada (retired)
 - Danika Littlechild – Cree, Carlton University

Elder Reg Crowshoe

PARALLEL WAYS EXAMPLE

<https://youtu.be/1l5lo1HZXqQ?si=jczVoinCxt0Php6d>



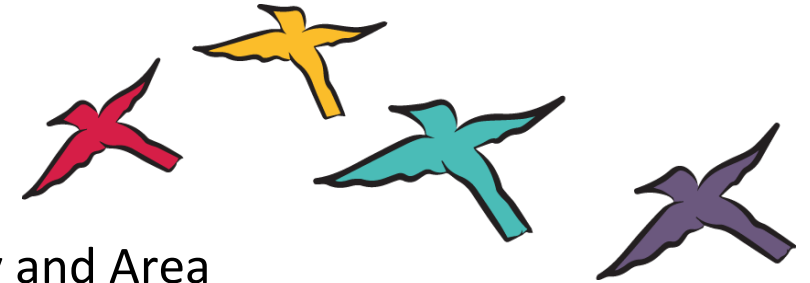


You need to know where you have been to know

take flight

little birds...

Contacts:



Geoff Couldrey, Chief Transformation Officer, United Way of Calgary and Area

- Geoff.Couldrey@calgaryunitedway.org

Jason Lidberg, Director, Planet Youth Calgary / United Way of Calgary and Area

- jason.lidberg@calgaryunitedway.org

Marla Kailly, Manager (Indigenous Lead), Planet Youth Calgary / United Way of Calgary and Area

- Marla.kailly@calgaryunitedway.org

Joanne Pinnow, Director, Akak'stiman, United Way of Calgary and Area

- joanne.pinnow@calgaryunitedway.org

Kirby Redwood, Lead Oskâpêwis (CEO), Miskanawah

- kredwood@miskanawah.ca