



INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ABORIGINAL WOMEN

IAAW

- IAAW celebrates the achievements, successes, strengths and accomplishments of Indigenous women.
- IAAW identifies and promotes the leadership of Indigenous women and provides them opportunities for participation in decision making and policy development.
- IAAW develops and delivers advocacy programs and services that advance the capacity of Indigenous women, their families and communities.

Programs & Services

2021-2022

Building Our Bundle

This is a six-week online mental and spiritual health program to support Indigenous youth during COVID-19 social isolation. Grounded in Cree cultural teachings, participants explore creative ways to keep positive.

Esquao Youth Leadership Development

IAAW offers a youth leadership development program to build skills and confidence in young women aged 13-17 years old. Summer activities include overnight camps, exposure to leaders and career exposures.

Esquao Awards Gala

Since 1995, IAAW has coordinated a community recognition ceremony to honour the strength, resilience and beauty of First Nation, Metis and Inuit women in Alberta. Since 1995, nearly 500 women have been recognized from 93 communities.

Financial Literacy

IAAW's financial independence training (FIT) addresses poverty in a cultural context by building skills and confidence in women and girls. As part of the Empower U collaborative, participants' savings are matched to increase ability to learn, build or save.

Firekeepers

A safe space for our women to share their stories, learn traditional ways of healing, and experience the support of their peers and elders. Geared to women who are transitioning from correctional facilities, weekly sessions support women who are on a healing journey.

Alberta Women Guardian Angels

IAAW will develop, implement and evaluate a mechanism to hear the voices of Indigenous women in Alberta and build local solutions to address the root causes of gender-based violence. Through the development of a new communication pipeline via established women's groups across Alberta, IAAW will engage in conversations to listen to concerns and challenges and together identify a positive way forward to pandemic recovery. The IAAW will work with women and women's groups to identify priorities and build connections to services that advance the individual capacity of Indigenous women, their families and communities by implementing actions on employment/training, poverty reduction, violence prevention and mental health/wellness.

Healthy Relationships

Once a week, IAAW offers a 2-hour session to learn about mental, spiritual and cultural teachings to support new or existing relationships. Cultural and kinship teachings, how to build self-esteem, and historical trauma, are included in weekly topics.

Employment and Training

IAAW staff support Aboriginal women as they improve their skills, through training and education, and to find meaningful employment. The Employment and Training program includes funding for post secondary education, job readiness, employer wage subsidies and support while on the job for First Nation, Métis, Inuit, urban and non-affiliated Aboriginal women across Alberta who are 15 years of age or older.

Justice Initiatives

IAAW has extensive experience in collaborative action planning on reforms needed to improve outcomes for Aboriginal women accessing or involved in the justice system. Recent activities centre around the 231 Calls for Justice, starting with an engagement of family members of our missing or murdered in 2020.

System Navigators

A culturally relevant navigational and advocacy support service is provided in two cities; in Edmonton at the IAAW office, and in Calgary at the Awo Taan Healing Lodge. Services include advocacy and referral, court support, training & creating awareness on barriers for Indigenous women. Emotional support and local resources are provided, especially those who are victims and not able to access supports.

About Us

IAAW is a non-profit organization that recognizes the role, value and achievement of Aboriginal women in society. And raises awareness about the challenges and obstacles faced by Aboriginal women.

Contact Us

INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ABORIGINAL WOMEN

18104 - 102 Avenue NW | Edmonton | AB | T5S 1S7

PHONE 780-479-8195 | TOLL FREE 1-877-471-2171

WWW.IAAW.CA

STAY CONNECTED

 facebook.com/esquao

 instagram.com/iaaw_ab/