





Human Rights, Social Justice and Wellbeing

*“Two-eyed seeing” and the
importance of social work wisdom*



UN Convention of Genocide (1948)

Article 2(e) states:

-
- “forcibly transferring children of the group to another group”
 - constituted cultural genocide when the intent is to destroy a culture.

Protection of children of Indigenous Peoples was further enhanced by the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), Article 7 that states "Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group."

“Sixties Scoop”

The term “Sixties Scoop” refers to the period from 1961 through to the 1980s that saw an astounding number of Indigenous babies and children literally scooped from the arms of their parents and placed in boarding schools or the homes of middle-class Euro-Canadian families. This period of child apprehension arose in the wake of the closing of the Indian residential schools.

The Indian residential school system was designed to assimilate Indigenous children into Euro-Canadian culture by removing them from their families and homes and placing them in government and Christian run schools. These schools were considered an important instrument of the assimilation policy because it “...took [the Indigenous child] from the reserve and kept him in the constant circle of civilization, assured attendance, removed him from the “retarding influence of his parents ...” *Indian Act*- all of which was done to “help” Indigenous Peoples, and bring them forward into “civilized” society.

<https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/sixties-scoop-apprehension-indigenous-children-without-consent>



Thunderbird Partnership

- **The Thunderbird Partnership Foundation** is a non-profit organization that is committed to working with First Nations to further the capacity of communities to address substance use and addiction.
- Their top priority is developing a continuum of care that would be available to all Indigenous people in Canada.



Thunderbird Partnership

Thunderbird Partnership Foundation's strength based, holistic, trauma informed approach to social work practices that values culture, respect, community, and compassion.

Thunderbird's "two eyed seeing" approach of combining Indigenous knowledge and western knowledge

Indigenous peoples in Canada continue to experience ongoing issues which are a direct result of settler colonialism. This includes the effects of

- cultural genocide,
- intergenerational trauma,
- systemic racism,
- mass incarceration,
- lack of clean drinking water
- and a housing crisis on reserves,
- and missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and men (MMIWGM)



In relation to humanistic psychology, it's important to recognize the Blackfoot's teachings of innate self-actualization. We are born with innate actualized tendencies, and through community, we are able to express these and develop them further (Ravilochan et al., 2021)

Maslow's
Hierarchy of
Need



Hope, Belonging, Meaning, Purpose

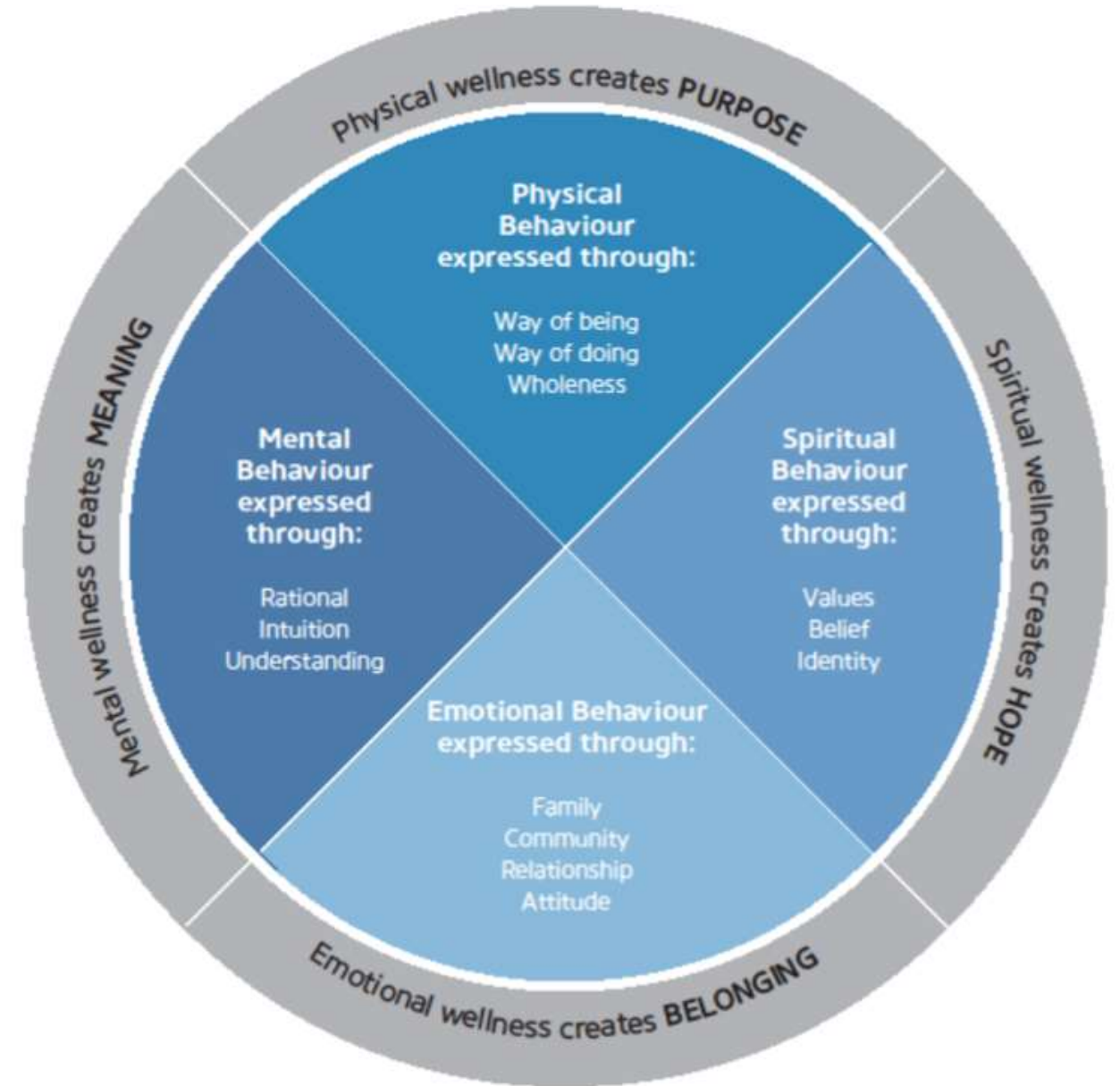
Mental wellness is a balance of the mental, physical, spiritual, and emotional. This balance is enriched as people have:

- **HOPE** for their future and those of their families that is grounded in a sense of identity, unique Indigenous values, and having a belief in spirit;
- a sense of **BELONGING** and connectedness within their families, to community, and to culture;
- **MEANING** and an understanding of how their lives and those of their families and communities are part of creation and a rich history
- and finally, a sense of **PURPOSE** in their daily lives whether it is through education, employment, care-giving activities, or cultural ways of being and doing;



Indigenous Wellness Framework

- The Indigenous Wellness Framework (IWF) is a foundational framework that was developed by Elders and Knowledge Keepers who shared their understanding of what wellness is from an Indigenous point of view.
- This framework aims to demonstrate the effectiveness of First Nations culture as a health intervention in addressing substance use and mental wellness issues, and support development of an Indigenous knowledge-based wellness assessment instrument.

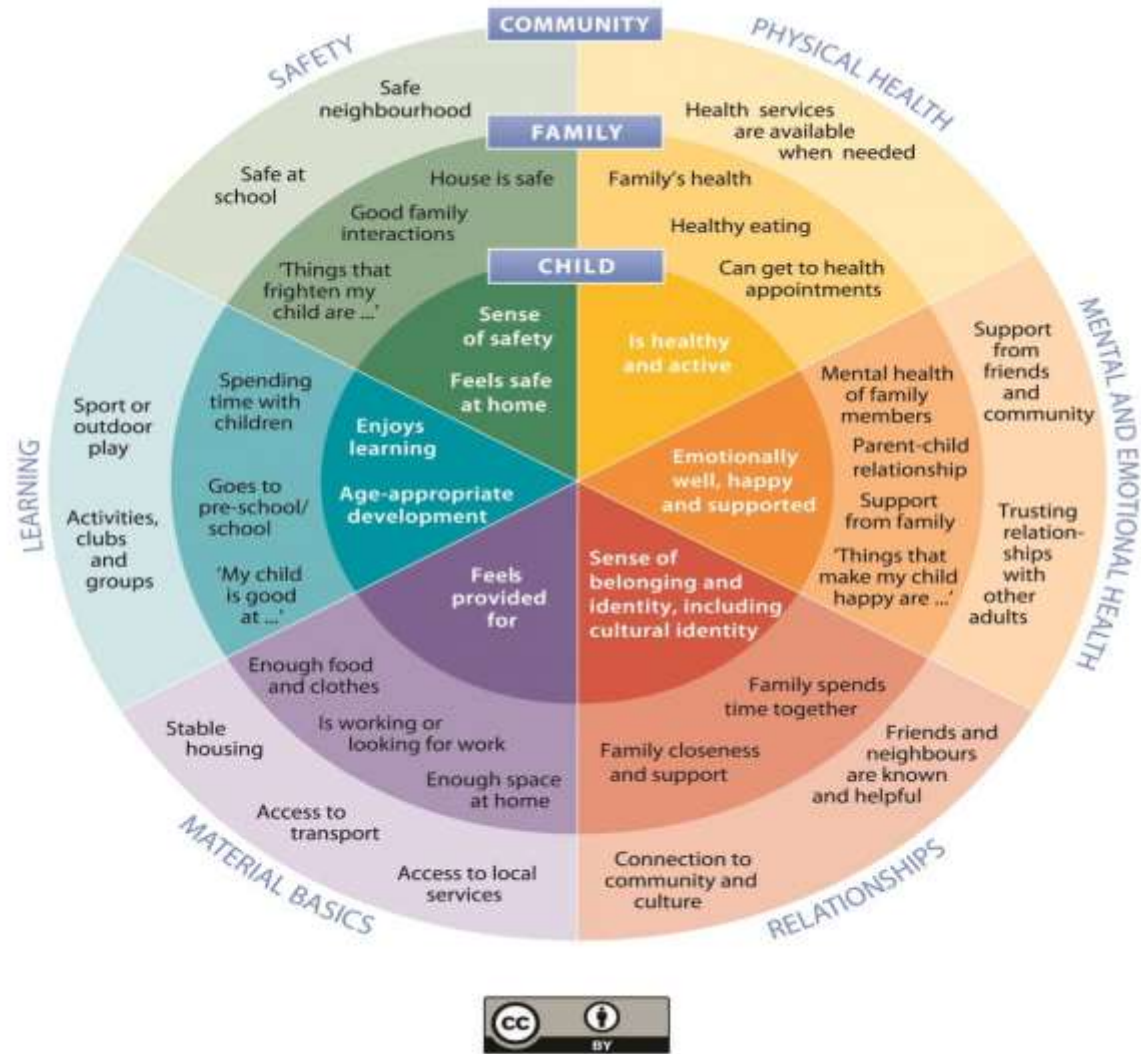


“Wellness from an Indigenous perspective is a whole and healthy person expressed through a sense of balance of spirit, emotion, mind and body. Central to wellness is belief in one’s connection to language, land, beings of creation, and ancestry, supported by a caring family and environment.”

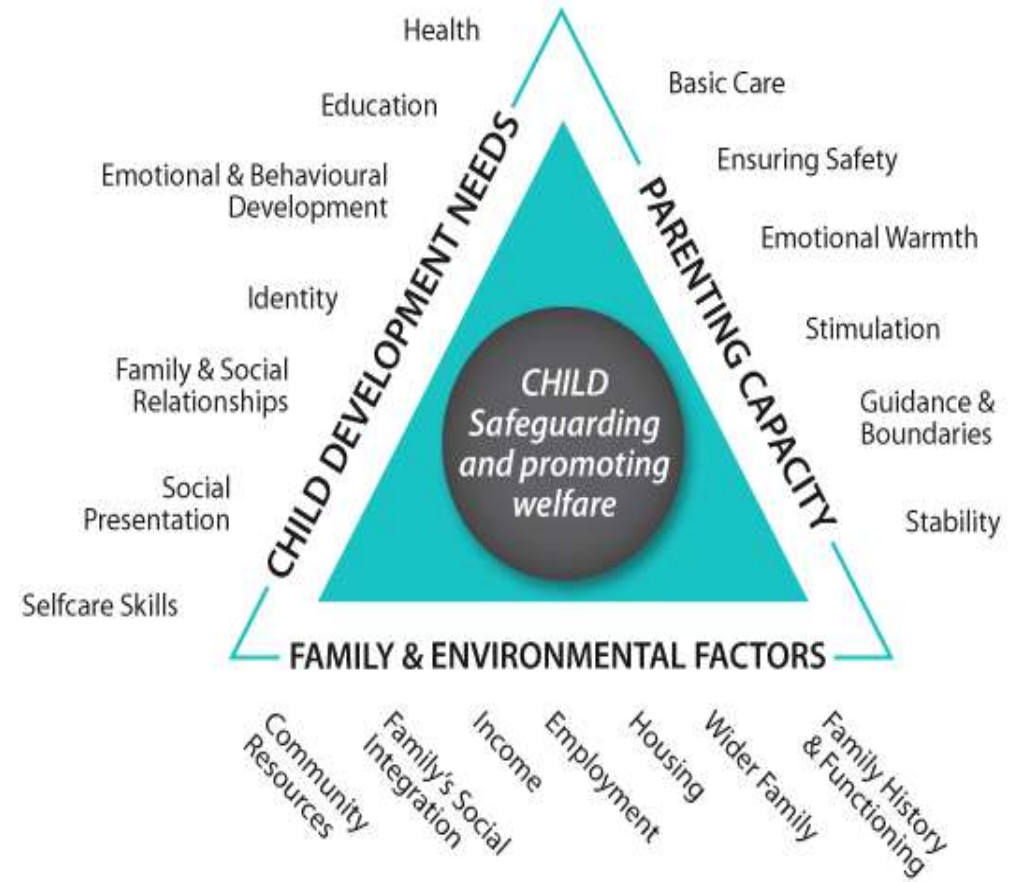
- Elder Jim Dumont, Definition of Wellness



Urie Bronfenbrenners ecological systems theory of child development



Assessment Framework

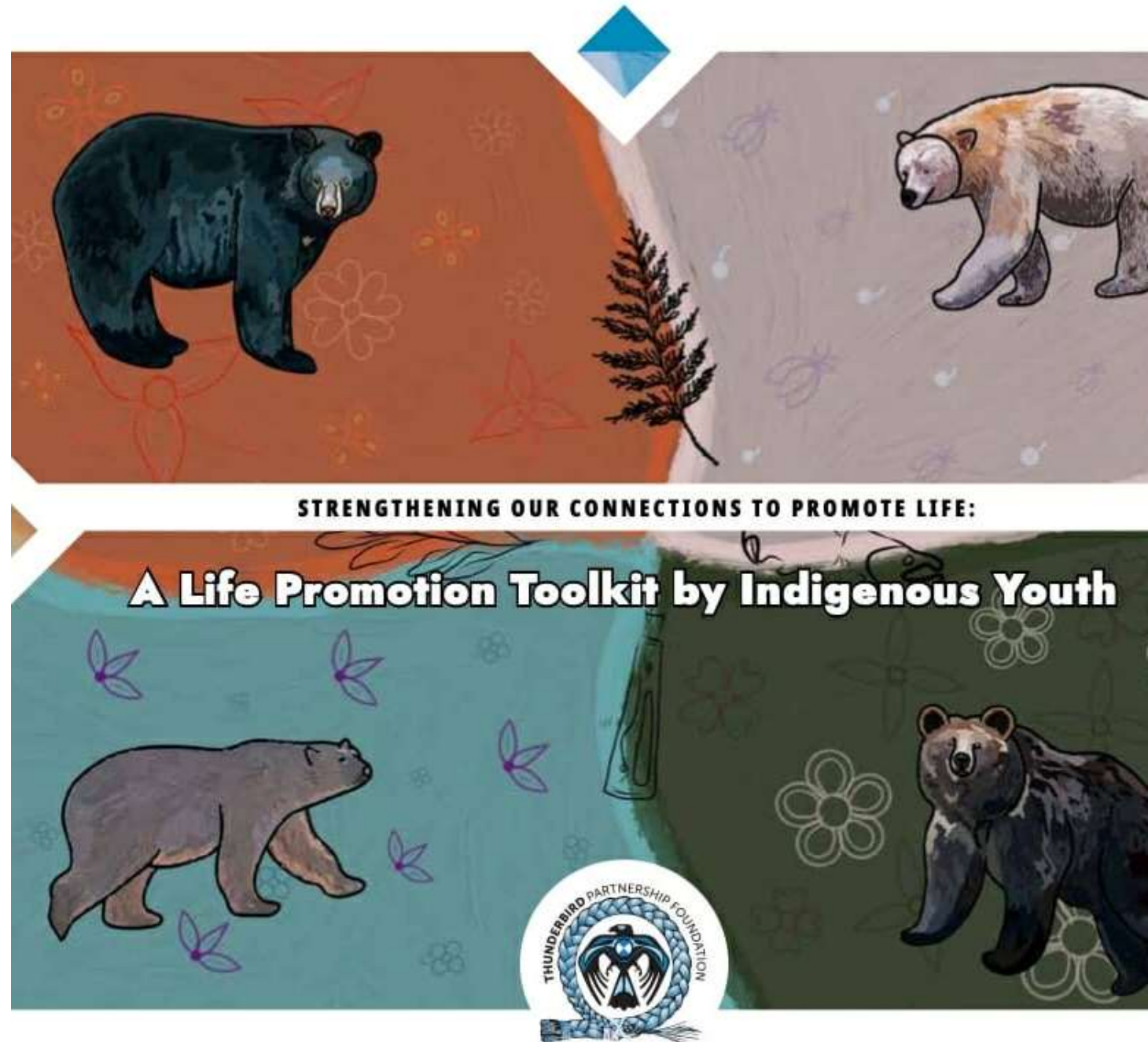


Resilience Framework and Care Leavers

Resilience Framework (Children & Young People) Oct 2012 – adapted from Hart & Blincow with Thomas 2007						
	BASICS	BELONGING	LEARNING	COPING	CORE SELF	
SPECIFIC APPROACHES	Good enough housing	Find somewhere for the child/YP to belong Help child/YP understand their place in the world	Make school/college life work as well as possible	Understanding boundaries and keeping within them	Instil a sense of hope	
	Enough money to live	Tap into good influences	Engage mentors for children/YP	Being brave	Support the child/YP to understand other people's feelings	
	Being safe	Keep relationships going		Solving problems		
	Access & transport	The more healthy relationships the better		Map out career or life plan	Putting on rose-tinted glasses	Help the child/YP to know themselves
		Take what you can from relationships where there is some hope			Fostering their interests	
	Healthy diet	Get together people the child/YP can count on		Help the child/YP to organise themselves	Calming down & self-soothing	Help the child/YP take responsibility for themselves
		Responsibilities & obligations				
	Exercise and fresh air	Focus on good times and places		Highlight achievements	Remember tomorrow is another day	Foster their talents
	Enough sleep Play & leisure	Make sense of where child/YP has come from			Lean on others when necessary	
		Being free from prejudice & discrimination	Predict a good experience of someone or something new		Develop life skills	Have a laugh
Make friends and mix with other children/YPs						
NOBLE TRUTHS						
	ACCEPTING	CONSERVING	COMMITMENT	ENLISTING		

A Life Promotion Toolkit by Indigenous Youth

As asked for by Indigenous youth, this toolkit delivers information aimed at promoting life through a strength-based Indigenous lens focused on health and healing, rather than focusing on preventing death. It aims to serve Indigenous youth and Indigenous populations, but non-youth and non-Indigenous people are also welcome to use it. This toolkit is needs-based and people who use it can look for what will help them.





“Where there is Hope, there is Healing”

- The Nimkee NupiGawagan Healing Centre (NNHC) is a residential solvent and substance abuse centre for First Nation and Indigenous youth and is committed to empowering Indigenous youth, families, and communities through culturally based holistic treatment services.
- The holistic treatment program provides land-based education, life skills and nutrition education, health care, and aftercare planning.
- Staff place an emphasis on listening to youth, showing love and kindness, and creating a safe / brave space.

Safer Opioid Supply (SOS) Program outstanding results

Program flexibility

Low-barrier, client-centred design

**Ability to provide pharmaceuticals that
meet people's needs**

Community-centred approach

<https://www.nss-aps.ca>

- Prescribed hydromorphone is not contributing to drug-related deaths
- Reduced risk of death and/or overdose
- Engagement and retention in programs and care Improvements in physical and mental health
- Fewer emergency department visits and hospitalizations
- Decrease in hospitalizations for infectious complications:
- Reduced use of drugs from the unregulated street supply
- Improved control over drug use
- Improvements in social well-being and stability
- Decline in health care costs

Dr Andrea Sereda Sereda MD, CCFP(EM)

Secondary Vicarious Trauma

Workplace Wellbeing

Social Worker Wellbeing and Working Conditions:
Good Practice Toolkit (2020)

<https://swu-union.org.uk/social-worker-wellbeing-and-working-conditions-good-practice-toolkit-2020>

Social Worker
Wellbeing and
Working Conditions:

Good Practice Toolkit

Version 1.2 – November 2020



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BASW
The professional association for
social work and social workers

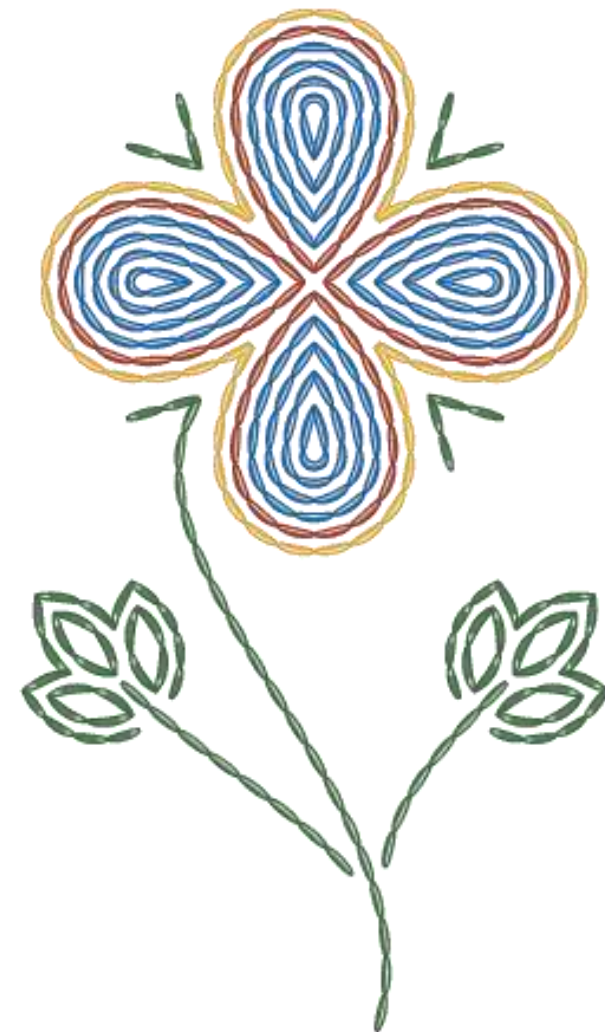
SWU
Social
Workers
Union

Thank you to our generous hosts at the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation who shared Indigenous knowledge and culture, social work practices, reflections, organised site visits, and provided us with nourishing food each day.

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Ma'na | čěčhatanapeč | gilakas'la | Mēduh | ?uuščakšił?ic
Woliwoni | Niá:wen | Huy ch q'ú | Gùnèłchīsh | Miigwetch
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thunderbirdpf.org



All social change begins
with a conversation.

Margaret J. Wheatley

Now it's your turn...