

Our Project

The New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council is currently leading a project called Looking Out For Each Other: Assisting Aboriginal families and communities when an Aboriginal woman goes missing. A principal goal of this project is to organize **Sharing Circles** in collaboration with Aboriginal organizations across Eastern Canada. This process will provide opportunities for each voice to be heard, respected, and valued.

Our Goal

To provide a culturally sensitive atmosphere for people to share their stories and experiences in dealing with the law, media and justice systems when a loved one has experienced abuse, gone missing or was murdered. The information gathered at the Sharing Circles will be used to improve media, policing and justice system responses to missing Aboriginal women, girls and gender minorities and their families and friends.

The research is supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

Contact Us

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Community outreach is supported by Status of Women Canada.

Looking Out For Each Other

Sharing Circles for Families, Friends, and Communities of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women



Artist: Susan Sacobie

Your Role in a Sharing Circle



We are seeking your help. Please come and sit down with us. Share your wisdom.

You can be involved in various ways:

- As an individual
- As an organization
- As a resource/support person

As an Individual

You have ideas about how to make things better for families and friends when someone goes missing.

You are knowledgeable about your community, your culture and your history.

You may have experienced violence or know of people in your family or community who experienced violence.

You may even have had an experience with someone who has gone missing or has been murdered in your family or community.

You are INVITED!

We would like you to share your story one-on-one or in a group as part of a sharing circle.

You can share:

- Your experience interacting with police and the media
- Your experience navigating the justice system
- How the police responded to your situation
- If you experienced violence or victimization
- If you experienced barriers or gaps in services
- What services you feel are necessary or you would have liked made available to you

As An Organization

- You can offer to hold a sharing circle in your respective region/zone
- You may provide or direct us to resources
- You can tell us about your capacity to host a sharing circle
- Connect us with community members to participate in a sharing circle (Elders and facilitators)

As a Resource or Support Person

- Suggest resources for families, friends, researchers and professional responders involved in the sharing circles
- Be a support person during a sharing circle
- Offer support after a sharing circle

Our Guidelines

There are only a few guidelines for our Sharing Circle:

- Only one person speaks at a time
- Speak with honesty
- Listen with respect
- What is said in the circle remains between those who took part



This painting is for the missing and murdered Maliseet & Mi'kmak women that were almost forgotten. The five women in this piece represent knowledge, faith, wisdom, justice and peace. They are wearing our traditional peaked hats decorated with the double curve motifs. The wampum belt on the bottom is our promise to each woman that their lives will be remembered, celebrated, honoured. (Excerpt from Susan Sacobie's Artist Statement)