



Amanda Buffalo



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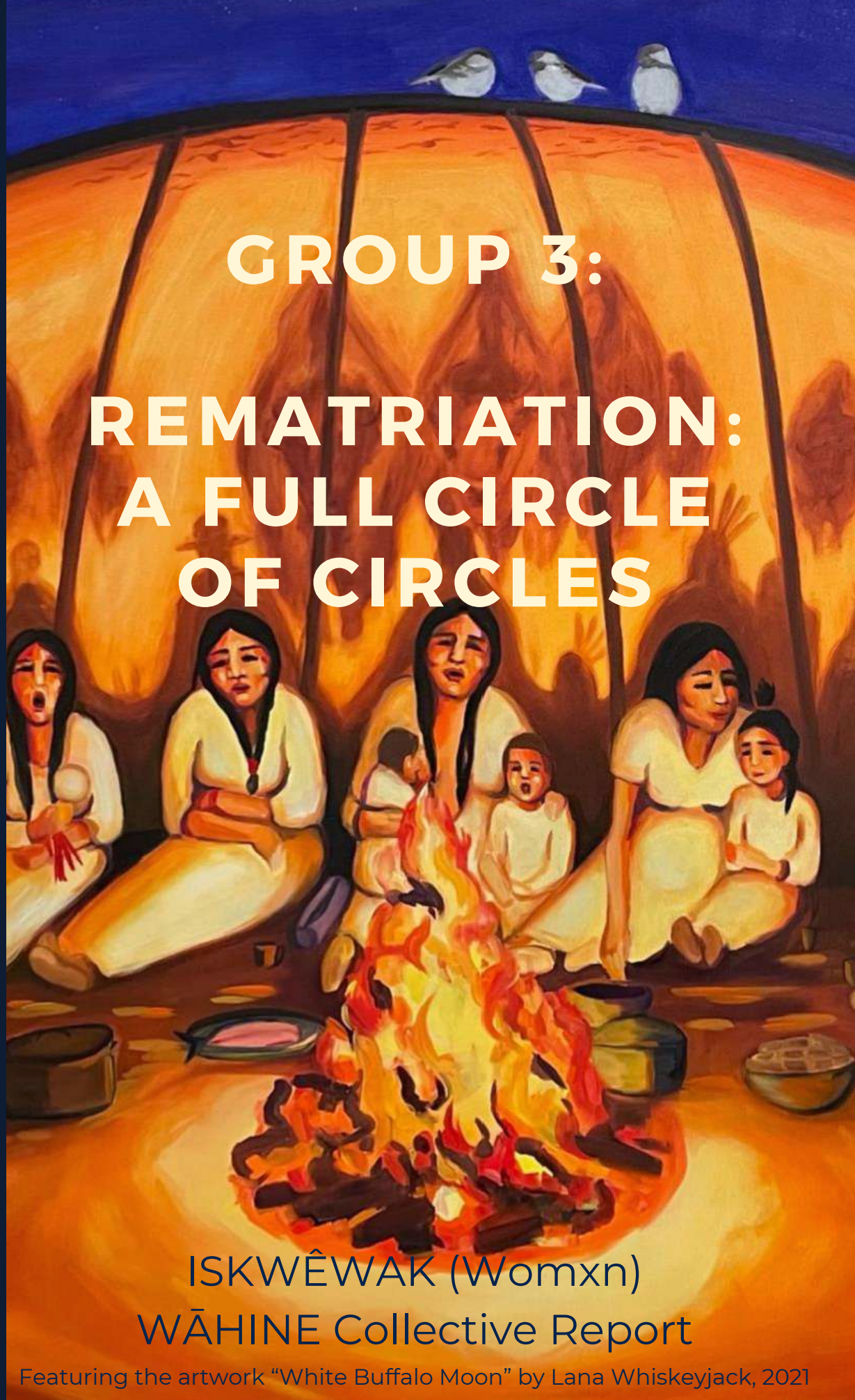
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# GROUP 3: REMATRIATION: A FULL CIRCLE OF CIRCLES

ISKWÊWAK (Womxn)  
WĀHINE Collective Report

Featuring the artwork "White Buffalo Moon" by Lana Whiskeyjack, 2021

# BACKGROUND

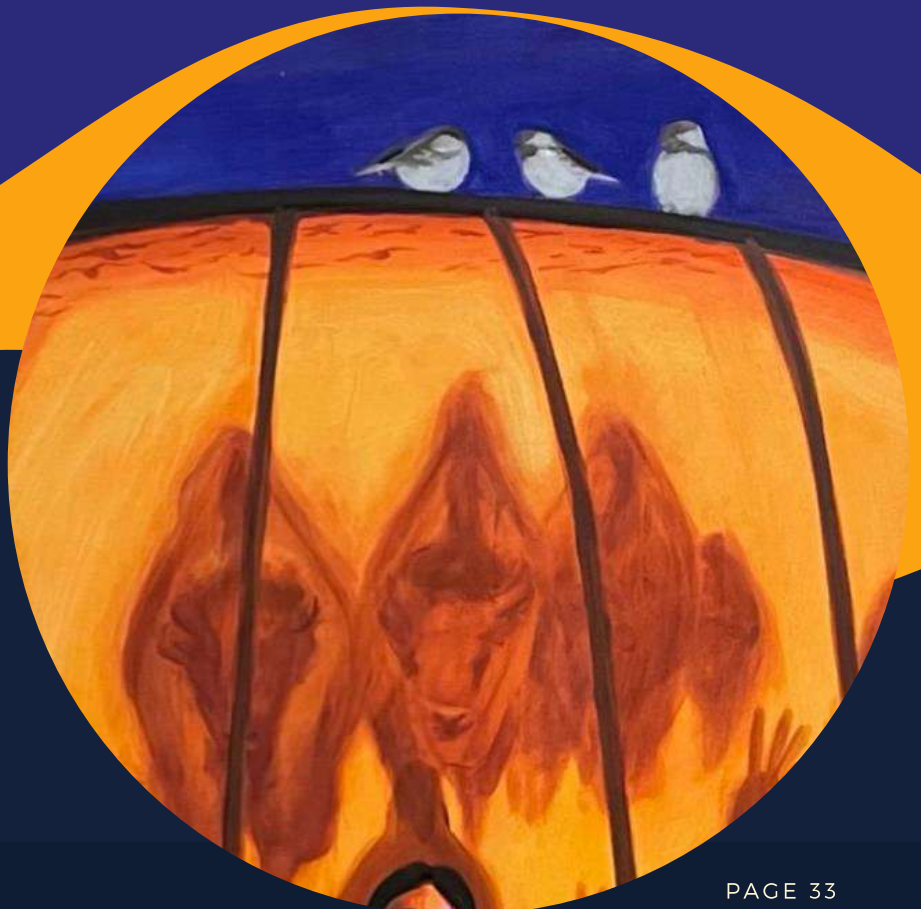
Narratives in relation to our female deities have been suppressed and marginalized since the intrusion of colonization. This has meant that stories and characteristics of 'wāhine atua' - women gods/deities, have been omitted from literary writings in favor of male 'atua' or deities. This, among other colonist tools of segregation and the demise of Indigenous Peoples, has led to an imbalance of 'mana tāne, mana wāhine' or male-female equilibrium.

There is a resurgence of atua wāhine in Aotearoa, as our traditions, history, and stories are retold from an Indigenous lens. The reclamation of our origins delivers an opportunity to discover a deeper range of female components of mana wāhine that manifests through Indigenous women.

This resurgence is mirrored in Indigenous communities across Turtle Island, where the Rematriation movement has been closely linked with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Idle No More movement, and the 231 Calls for Justice from the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Women and Girls (and Two-Spirit+ people).

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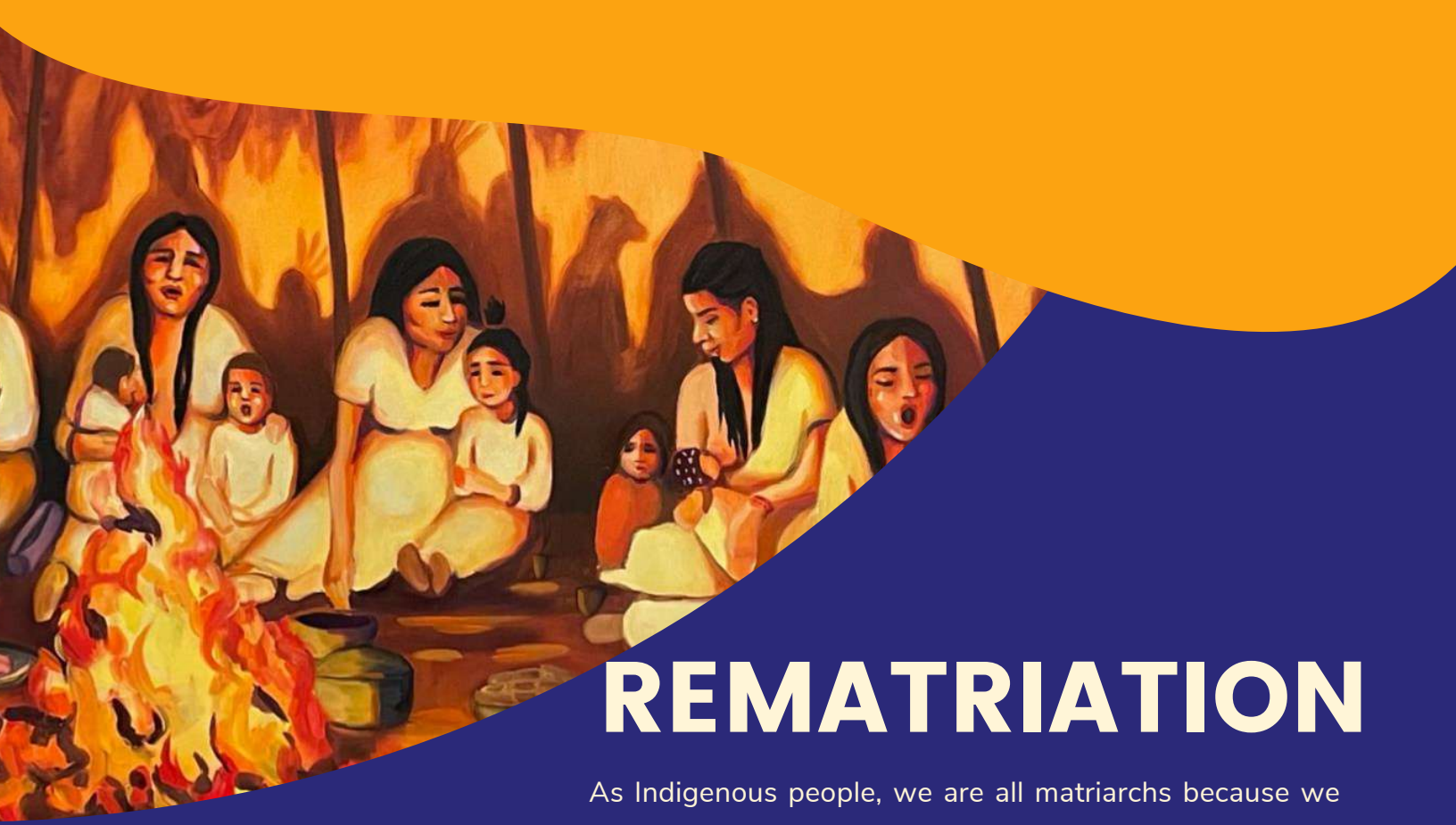
1. [www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/](http://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/)





# PURPOSE

Our purpose is to exchange and bridge matriarchal knowledge between the descendants of the original matriarchs of what is now known as New Zealand and Canada to revitalize and reclaim our matriarchal stories, rites of passage, authority, and sovereign power within our families, communities, and Nations; with and for our diverse genders, especially for our men.




# REMATRIATION

As Indigenous people, we are all matriarchs because we all come from, are claimed and supported by our first mother - Earth Mother. She is a living being and provides for all life.

We are humans of this land, our Earth Mother, each imbued with a spirit that guides our earthly roles and responsibilities to live in service to one another, with love, kindness, truth, sharing, courage, and the vital laws that are shared through our diverse Creation Stories.

Rematriation is about returning to the loving teachings of our Earth Mother, our ancestors, and grandmothers; the teachings that were shared and lived before colonization. Patriarchy disrupted, dehumanized, and silenced the matriarchs who nurtured, cared, protected our children from harm. Rematriation is about returning to those powerful matriarchal teachings so we as Indigenous Peoples may think, walk, speak, and be in beauty again with our Earth Mother.

Our Rematriation circle began in the third cohort of INDIGI-X. Our Ancestors prayed, the stars aligned, and the winds blew us to gather to share our hearts and minds, and to remember that we come from a long line of matriarchs.



**2 YR BUDGET:  
\$540,000**

## GOALS

- Grow the program and build circles while being inclusive and providing a safe space to share knowledge, tradition, and stories.
- Develop a website for the program as a way to spread the word and encourage people to join.
- Organize matriarchal gatherings in New Zealand and Canada that include circle members, as well as members of the community, to share knowledge and mentorship. Include men and women into the circle as a way for both to reconnect to grandmother teachings to help with issues going forward.
- Work with the circles to create a bundle/toolkit and guiding document for Rematriation going forward and for planning how to bring it into our communities.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

Together, our circle developed the following Calls to Action for government, community, and industry:

## Government

- **Fund establishment costs**, including a website and ongoing promotion and awareness of 'Rematriation: A Full Circle of Circles'.
- **Fund and support a two-year pilot** for an in-person exchange/bridge regarding a **matriarchal knowledge gathering** between the descendants of the original matriarchs of what is now known as New Zealand and Canada to connect and collaborate in revitalizing and reclaiming matriarchal stories, rites of passage, authority, and power to create a bundle for communities, industry, and especially to share with our men.
- Make **Indigenous languages, matriarchal teachings, histories, and Creation Stories mandatory in primary education** for all children in New Zealand and Canada.
- **Enhance Indigenous language development**, including the development of Indigenous curriculum and pedagogy, that reflect knowledge systems, worldviews, and matriarchal community structure as communicated and reflected in the language through connection to land and matrilineal land-use practices.

## Community

- Our Indigenous leaders, governance structure supporters, and community members **work and support one another** in developing, enacting, and enforcing tribal laws **to end gender and sexual violence**.
- **Create matriarchal societies** of wise, kind, truthful grandmothers to advise local governance structures.
- **Revitalize Indigenous languages that come from the land**, who we understand to be our mother, and are inherently matriarchal.

# RECOMMENDATIONS (CONT.)

## Industry

- **Begin with the premise that the land is a living relative**, and all Indigenous Peoples belong to, and are claimed by, the land. Their relationship to the land and cosmos is sacred and reciprocal. Colonial governments do not hold authority over the lands and are not authorized to make decisions on behalf of the land. This means that industries must **work with and for Indigenous communities with respect, gratitude, and humility**.
- **Create and enforce policies that have zero-tolerance for violence against women and gender-diverse people**, sexual assault and harassment, and human trafficking, especially for the purposes of sexual exploitation of women, children/youth, and gender-diverse people.
- **Make Indigenous matriarchal and diverse genders teachings mandatory in natural resource industries**, with the goal to end gender and sexual violence.
- **Ensure all industry employees, contractors, sub-contractors, and third parties receive training**, specifically regarding anti-violence and understanding violence-informed approaches.

