Manitoba - Manitou Exists Here

31st Annual International Two-Spirit Gathering

August 2018

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ka Ni Kanichihk (KNK) and the Two-Spirited People of Manitoba (TSPM) have partnered to host the 31st annual gathering of Two-Spirit people in North America, *Manitou Exists Here*. The following definition of Two-Spirit people is found in *Manitoba's Indigenous Strategy on HIV/AIDS*:

> Two-Spirit People – a term used to describe Indigenous people who assume cross -, or multiple gender roles, attributes, dress and attitudes for personal, spiritual, cultural, ceremonial or social reasons. These roles are defined by each cultural group and can be fluid over a person's lifetime. Modern terms like gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, [GLBT] transsexual and intersexed (in combination with, or exclusive to, Two-Spirit) may be adopted by some Indigenous people to define who they are.[1]

This special gathering began in 1988 in Minnesota when a local group of Native American gay and lesbian community members saw the need to launch a cultural revitalization movement that was based on the principle of being alcohol and drug-free. The world-wide HIV pandemic had also reached Two-Spirit community at this time galvanizing many local activists to become involved in the HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention movement. The Minneapolis gathering was organized with the support of allies such as the Minneapolis American Indian Center, Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council, and the Minneapolis Civil Rights Department, along with community businesses and private donors. For the past 30 years, annual gatherings have continued to be supported by various levels of government, Indigenous organizations, foundations and private donations. There is also a component of regional and local fundraising and in-kind support for this event.

TSPM hosted the gathering in 1990, 1998, and 2010 respectively, with approximately 125 participants at each event (a full report on the 1998 gathering is available). TSPM will host the 28th anniversary of their first gathering on August 3-6, 2018 at a retreat centre outside of Winnipeg. The theme, "Manitou Exists Here" is reflective of the spiritual and ecological nature of this gathering. Approximately 125 participants representing various Indigenous and Native American nations and tribes from across Canada and the US are expected to attend. The four-day agenda will include cultural activities, health and wellness sessions, leadership building, anti-homophobia and human rights training, and networking opportunities. A Two-Spirit youth life-skills component and panel session will be included. Youth will be one of the priorities for travel scholarships. Ka Ni Kanichihk is the auspicing body for this project, providing administrative support, financial accounting and will function as the central coordination and planning site. A joint committee of

[1] Manitoba Health and Healthy Living. (2004, October). As Long as the Waters Flow: An Aboriginal Strategy on HIV/AIDS. Retrieved from http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/aids/waters.pdf

Ka Ni Kanichihk and TSPM representatives will lead the planning and coordination and oversee fundraising efforts and the successful delivery of the project. A project financial audit will be included in Ka Ni Kanichihk's annual report. As a registered charity Ka Ni Kanichihk will provide tax receipts for individual and corporate donations.

2.0 THE 2018 MANITOBA GATHERING

2.1 Project Goals:

- To strengthen the identity, dignity, integrity and wellness of Two-Spirit (Indigenous gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender) people;
- To provide opportunities for Two-Spirit people to learn about their cultures, heritage, ceremonies, healing practices and inherent and civil rights;
- To educate Indigenous people about the traditional roles that Two-Spirit people held in most communities.

2.2 Project Objectives:

- To invite and welcome Two-Spirit people from across Turtle Island to the traditional territories of the indigenous peoples of Manitoba;
- To host a gathering of Two-Spirit people focused on healing, ceremony, cultural revitalization and social strengthening;
- To promote awareness of indigenous and contemporary laws which prohibit discrimination based on gender identity, sexual orientation and perceived race.

Ka Ni Kanichihk's mandate aims to build healthy relationships and to create a sustainable future for our community. We include Two-Spirit people as an integral part of our vision and mandate and have partnered with the Two-Spirited People of Manitoba and other allies to provide a venue for them to gather. The TSPM group has been active since 1986 and it is comprised of First Nations and Metis people from across Manitoba. They have participated in many of the gatherings held over the past 30 years, having successfully organized three in Manitoba. Group members have been leaders in educating the public about Two-Spirit issues by writing papers, presenting informational workshops, and by participating in the making of videos and documentaries like *Deb-we-win Ge-ken-am-aan, Our Place in the Circle (2008)*, directed by Lorne Olson of Brokenhead First Nation. TSPM also participates in the annual Winnipeg Pride March and Business Fair.

The proposed four-day gathering will be held at a rural retreat outside of Winnipeg in August of 2018. Returning to the land is an essential aspect of healing and cultural reclamation. Dr. Marie Battiste from the University of Saskatchewan informs us that *indigenous knowledge can be attained when we develop relations with ecologies, establishing a pattern of renewal with the people, spirits and cosmologies that exist within those places.*[2] Our intent is to welcome Two-Spirit people to the ecologies we know as *Manito-wapow* (Manitoba) which is at the geographic centre of Turtle Island (North America). From an indigenous perspective, invited guests from various societies bring with them the *good medicine* of their ancestors, sacred lands, ceremonies, and spiritual guides and entities. Their presence, gifts and offerings will then

[2] Gaywish, Dr. R., Richard, R,. Rocke, C. (Producers/Narrators). (2009). Nametwaawin (Making a Presence) – Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into Curriculum and Teaching Methodologies, [DVD]. Aboriginal Focus Programs, University of Winnipeg

be merged into the ecology and cultural time-line of the people of this land. The Manitoba retreat will be the thirty-first location on Turtle Island that has been made into a sacred, safe gathering place for the Two-Spirit community.

As previously described, the gathering is guided by an alcohol and drug-free philosophy which stems from the sobriety movement ignited by the people of Esketemc (Alkalai Lake, BC) over forty-years ago. Because Two-Spirit people are vulnerable to homophobia, transphobia, violence and racism, some are at risk of exploitation and addictions (using alcohol and drugs to cope). To facilitate participation in the activities described below, participants are instructed to not use substances for the duration of the gathering. If situations arise they are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

The Two-Spirit community has experienced the brunt of the HIV pandemic which began in Canada and the US in 1979. The Manitoba gathering will host Two-Spirit people living with HIV/AIDS and/or Hepatitis C, so they can share their strengths and challenges. This history and lived-experience is especially important for youth to learn about as they are the next generation of leaders that will be addressing risk-behaviours, treatment and human rights issues.

Previous Gathering Locations: Minnesota, Wisconsin, Manitoba, Oregon, British Columbia, Arizona, Kansas, New Brunswick, Washington, California, Alberta, Ontario, Montana, Quebec, Saskatchewan, New York, and Colorado.

Gathering Activities: Traditional foods, health workshops, HIV/AIDS movement, camping, sports, Two-Spirit entertainment, sweat lodge ceremonies, access to Elders, Two-Spirit pow-wow, traditional crafts and textile-making, sharing and healing circles, suicide prevention, HIV/AIDS education, memorials, cultural teachings, networking, weddings/rites of passage, visiting local communities, and picking medicines. The most recent gathering, July 2017, was held in Allegany State Park, New York, with over 120 registrants. Gathering host organizations provide travel and registration scholarships to support the participation of attendees who are economically challenged. This year scholarships fundraising efforts will focus on the attendance of Two-Spirit youth, elders, Indigenous people living with HIV/AIDS (APHAs) and IRS survivors.

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3.0 PROJECT WORK PLAN:

***Manitou Exists Here* – 31st Annual International Two-Spirit Gathering 2018**			
Objectives	**Activities**	**Timelines**	**Outcomes**
1. To invite and welcome Two-Spirit people from across Turtle Island to the traditional territories of the indigenous peoples of Manitoba;	A planning committee is established. The gathering is advertised and promoted using various media, i.e. website, social networks, posters, etc.	Feb - Mar 2018 ongoing Feb - Jul 2018	5-7 representatives participate in the planning and delivery. Potential delegates are informed about the opportunity to participate.
2. To host a gathering of Two-Spirit people focused on healing, ceremony, cultural revitalization and social strengthening;	The planning committee undertakes fundraising activities. A gathering is held in Manitoba. A youth forum is organized. Dissemination of evaluation and final gathering report.	Feb - Aug 2018 Aug 10-13, 2018 Aug 10-13, 2018 October 2018	Adequate funding is secured to host the gathering. 80-125 Two-Spirit people attend the gathering. 10 youth and 5 elders to participate. Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders and funders are more aware of successes/challenges of the gathering.
3. To promote awareness of indigenous and contemporary laws which prohibit discrimination based on gender identity, sexual orientation and perceived race.	Awareness workshops are presented at various venues. Planning committee members participate in public speaking events.	Apr - Jul, 2018 Apr - Jul, 2018	Indigenous and non-Indigenous community organizations become more educated about anti-discrimination strategies. The profile of Two-Spirit issues is raised in the broader Indigenous and GLBT communities. Two-Spirit people are included in national, regional and local healing/resolution activities.

4.0 Project Budget

Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc.	
***Manitou Exists Here* – 31st Annual International Two-Spirit Gathering 2018**	
Projected Budget February 1 – October 31, 2018	
Revenue	**Total Budget**
Government of Canada	
First Nations and Inuit Health Branch	10,000.00
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada	10,000.00
Mental Health Commission of Canada	10,000.00
Public Health Agency of Canada	10,000.00
Government of Manitoba	
Indigenous and Northern Relations	5,000.00
Education and Training	5,000.00
Families	5,000.00
City of Winnipeg	5,000.00
Community Organizations	17,830.00
Foundations	6,650.00
Registration	5,250.00
Fundraising	2,120.00
Total Revenue	**91,850.00**
Operating Expenses	
5142 Administrative Fee	9,185.00
5145 Office Supplies	100.00
5150 Phone/Fax /Internet	250.00
5160 Postage and Courier	150.00
5170 Photocopying Costs	100.00
5365 Audit	400.00
Operating Expenses Sub-total	**10,185.00**
Project Related Expenses	
5110 Equipment Lease	2,650.00
5125 Insurance	500.00
5155 Advertising and Promotions	350.00
5172 Travel	1,700.00
5305 Facility Rental	36,000.00
5306 Advisory Committee	150.00
5310 Honoraria	2,350.00
5312 Nutritional Component	1,600.00
5314 Materials and Supplies	1,220.00
5318 Transportation – Participants	32,000.00
5325 Speakers	645.00
5375 Professional Fees	2,500.00
Project Related Expenses Sub-total	**81,665.00**
Total Expenses	**91,850.00**
Revenue/Expenses Difference	**0.00**

Manitou Exists Here – 31st Annual International Two-Spirit Gathering 2018 **PROJECT BUDGET NOTES**		
Operating Expenses		
5142	Administrative Fee	Bank charges, Director of Program Development, Financial Manager, Administrative Assistant, I.T. at 10% of total budget **$9,185.00**
5145	Office Supplies	**$100.00**
5150	Phone/Fax/Internet	50.00/month x 5 months = **$250.00**
5160	Postage and Courier	30.00/month x 5months = **$150.00**
5170	Photocopying Costs	25.00/month x 4 months = **$100.00**
5365	Audit	Based on annual audit fee as per funding requirements. **$400.00**
Project Related Expenses		
5110	Equipment Lease	Tent $1,500.00, Sound System $400.00, Chairs $750.00 = **$2,650.00**
5125	Insurance	Based on quote for liability insurance. **$500.00**
5155	Advertising & Promotions	Posters and brochures **$350.00**
5172	Travel	Van rental for one week $1,350.00, gas $350.00 = **$1,700.00** (Transporting participants and supplies to and from the retreat centre)
5305	Facilities Rental	Retreat Centre – 100 participants x $90/day x 4 days = **$36,000.00** (Includes daily meals and accommodation)
5306	Advisory Committee	**$150.00**
5310	Honoraria	Elders: $500.00, Emcees ($200 x 2 = $400.00), Performers: $950.00 (4), Drum Group: $500.00 = **$2,350.00** (Workshops, sweats and pow-wow)
5312	Nutritional Component	Traditional feast food – bison, wild rice and fish **$1,600.00**
5314	Materials & Supplies	Tobacco $170.00, Cloth $200.00, Wood $250.00, Give-away Items $400.00, Children's activities $200.00 = **$1,220.00**
5318	Transportation - Participants	Travel scholarships for 8 youth, 8 elders, 8 APHAs, 8 IRS survivors at $1,000.00 @ = **$32,000.00** (Airfare, registration and ground travel - kms)
5325	Speakers	Workshop facilitators: **$645.00**
5375	Professional Fees	Project coordinator 5 months x $500/month = **$2,500.00**