



Final Report - 2017 Equity Enhancement Fund

A final report (3 pages max) must be submitted when you have concluded your project. **Note: The final 25% of the fund is provided on completion of the final report.** Reports must be received by the Equity & Inclusion Office no later than **March 31, 2018**. Send final reports to exec.assist@equity.ubc.ca.

Project Name:	Confluence: A Women’s Water Circle
Primary contact:	Ruthann Lee, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies, UBCO
Other contacts:	Teresa Marshall, Organizer, Columbia River Watershed Storytelling Project Pauline Terbasket, Executive Director, Okanagan Nation Alliance
Date:	31/01/2018
Endorser name:	Jon Corbett, Director, Institute for Community Engaged Research

Summary of work accomplished

Objectives and Summary:

List and describe activities that were part of original application AND those which emerged during the project. List the project objectives and how they were accomplished. If some objectives were not achieved explain why.

Proposed Objectives:

OBJECTIVE 1: Strengthening partnerships & strategic engagement around local water issues [ACCOMPLISHED]

The forum will provide a venue for community education and action on water protection and environmental sustainability, with a focus on Okanagan / Syilx women’s perspectives. It will involve several community-based non-profit organizations.

OBJECTIVE 2: Promoting respect, equity, and diverse voices [ACCOMPLISHED]

Women’s and particularly Indigenous women’s voices are underrepresented and historically disadvantaged by institutionalized racism, sexism, and colonialism. The forum will collaborate with several Indigenous organizations to validate and enable these marginalized yet deeply resilient groups to share perspectives, knowledge, and strategies through creative expression and dialogue.

Summary:

Confluence: A Women’s Water Circle was a one-day forum attended by over 65 participants to promote creative new ways for Indigenous and settler women to peacefully voice our care and concerns for local watersheds. Syilx knowledge keeper Trish Manuel and Pat Raphael Derrickson from the Westbank First Nation opened the event by conducting a morning water ceremony. The ceremony was followed by a keynote presentation by Dr. Jeannette Armstrong, Syilx Nation Citizen, member of the Penticton Indian Band, Canada Research Chair in Okanagan Knowledge and Philosophy. The afternoon featured small group discussions interspersed with water-themed cultural presentations: music and poetry performances by Csetkwe Fortier, Rita Wong, Sarah De Leeuw, and Teresa Marshall. Pauline Terbasket, Executive Director of the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Tessa Terbasket, youth facilitator from IndigenEYEZ and the Columbia River Trans Boundary Youth Network, Teresa Marshall, Columbia River Watershed Storytelling Project, and Ruthann Lee, UBC Okanagan, co-moderated the event.



Project Evaluation:

What were the major outcomes and impacts of the project? Did you face new challenges or discover new areas of concern to be addressed?

Outcomes:

The forum outlined vital relations between Syilx women and water and enabled participants to share their perspectives, knowledge, and strategies through creative expression and dialogue. It raised awareness and understanding of water protection as a shared public concern and featured the expertise of Syilx Okanagan women and knowledge keepers to foster wellbeing and stimulate action for positive change.

Lessons Learned:

- Successful university collaborations with Indigenous community partners must be led by the Indigenous community organizations
- UBC must devote special attention to issues of power, voice, and representation when working with Indigenous partners and honour its commitment to respectful Indigenous engagement as outlined in key documents that include: 1) UBC Aboriginal Strategic Plan; 2) Place and Promise: The UBC Plan; 3) Memorandum of Understanding with the Okanagan Nation Alliance; 4) Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples; 5) Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s 94 Calls to Action; 6) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Events that focus on women and trans communities must provide on-site childcare to ensure access and meaningful participation

Financial Summary:

List expenses, including those from other sources or in-kind contributions. **Allocated funds must be utilized by March 31, 2018. Any unused funds must be returned to the Equity and Inclusion office.**

Please include information on any surplus or shortfalls.

Expense Item	Cost \$
Keynote presenter fee: Dr. Jeannette Armstrong	500
Artist presenter fees: Tessa Terbasket	200
Trish Manuel	200
Csetkwe (Megan) Fortier	200
Rita Wong	200
Knowledge Keeper honoraria: 13 ONA Elders x \$130	1690
Daycare – 2 Early Childhood Educators @ \$25/hr x 8 hrs Ramona Wilson	200
Angela Wrede	200
Catered lunch and refreshments for 70 participants – 70 x \$25pp. Debra Crow	1750
ICER in-kind donation	-140
TOTAL	5000



Project Partners: What partnerships were you able to build in undertaking this work?

Partnerships were built between the **Institute for Community Engaged Research’s Adaptation, Decolonization and Indigeneity cluster** as well as the **Faculty of Creative and Critical Studies** and the **Faculty of Medicine**, jointly co-organizing and contributing resources. We organized in collaboration with community partners, which include the **Okanagan Nation Alliance, Columbia River Watershed Storytelling Project** and **IndigenEYEZ**. We are also in partnership discussion with Okanagan Museums Society.

Sustainability How will this project be sustained beyond the initial funding period?

The success of this initial women’s water circle was meant to inspire similar events to be organized in the Okanagan and surrounding watersheds, to keep the connections growing between UBCO in association with the ongoing Columbia River Watershed Storytelling Project. We are in dialogue with our community partners about organizing another water circle in the upcoming year.

Feedback: Provide us with feedback you might have on the Equity Enhancement Fund

Thank you for supporting our event.