

What do you know about Indigenous communities?

We tend to be governed by assumptions and forget that isolated communities often find it hard to keep up with the technical demands resulting from progress within the cities. For Indigenous communities one of the problems is that access to the Internet may be limited to dial-up (at \$150 per month) or non-existent. Slow responses may well be the result of lack of access to computers, printers, auditors, a charitable number, etc.

We should look at other people's circumstances before we judge their ability to respond. This is explained in the webinar listed under 'B' below. Check Freda Lepine from 17.25 minutes and particularly 36.20.

For more information please see:

A. Webinar organized by PWRDF and the Montreal PWRDF group, and other resources:

<https://www.montreal.anglican.ca/pwrdf>

B. Webinar on June 28, 2022 featuring "PWRDF Indigenous Development Program Trends" including the Indigenous Responsive Programs:

<https://youtu.be/iKon-s1W4eE>

C. There is also information on the PWRDF website at pwrdf.org
Three of the communities that have been awarded grants are featured:

<https://pwrdf.org/grants-allocated-to-indigenous-partners/>



Jesus taught us to love God and to love our neighbours. Unfortunately, colonialism has translated loving our neighbours into deciding what is best for them, rather than working together with them.

The PWRDF Indigenous Responsive Program Grant treats Indigenous communities as equals. For this reason, Montreal Diocese is sponsoring a fundraising campaign for this program.

To donate, please go to:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/ThePrimatesWorldReliefandDevelopmentFund/DecolonizingFundraising> or send a cheque to

PWRDF, 80 Hayden Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto ON, M4Y 3G2.

Please note that the donation is for "Montreal Indigenous Project."



PWRDF does tremendous work supporting people's needs. It is well known and respected. However, here in Canada, the danger of being seen as reflecting colonialism is great. We need to recognize that we settlers have inherited a history of a false superiority in which we know best for others. Our actions have caused so much suffering and also death. How wrong they have been!

Do we fully understand Jesus' commandment, "Love your neighbour as yourself." This concept is not just providing food for the hungry or contributing to a charity. It is learning to understand our neighbour. It is learning to understand the effect of one's actions on others and asking how we would feel if we were in the place of the recipient of our own actions.

Through this Responsive Program Grant, PWRDF aims to

- a) Grow the overall Indigenous Development Program
- b) Enhance its institutional relationships and partnerships with programs that are Indigenous-led
- c) Help us to learn from and with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across Canada.



It is important that our means of helping are seen in the context of sharing among equals.

PWRDF's Indigenous Responsive Program provides funds from which an Indigenous community can apply for a grant for a local project. Instead of this project becoming a PWRDF project with the overtones of colonialism, ownership now stays with the community. Some grants have

already been given, including one near us in Kahnawake.

Raising funds for this Indigenous Responsive program may not give us the same satisfaction as contributing to a defined project. We are emphasizing that the Indigenous community is our equal, not in any way to be treated as less. Is this not one way of loving our neighbour as ourselves?

Opposite page: A PWRDF Mapping the Ground We Stand On workshop, where participants learn about the Doctrine of Discovery. This page: Recent grant recipients include 1 Just City in Winnipeg (top) and KORLCC in Quebec (middle).