



**Call for Submissions - Mural Artists –
Pathways of Knowledge: Honoring Mi'kmaw Culture**

Deadline to apply: January 13, 2025

The Town of Stephenville is pleased to announce a call for submissions for mural designs as part of our ongoing efforts to expand the Town's cultural space. In 2024, we collaborated with our Indigenous partners to lay the foundation for what we hope will grow into a vibrant space for learning, community engagement, and cultural celebration. This initiative aims to highlight the rich Mi'kmaw culture of Bay St. George while fostering opportunities for the community to learn, explore, and connect with the teachings and history of the Mi'kmaq people.

Through interpretive murals, ceremonial spaces, storyboards, and an overall environment rooted in truth and reconciliation, this project aspires to embody the principles of inclusivity, education, and respect.

We are seeking an artist, or potentially two artists, to design and create artwork inspired by the traditional teachings of the Men and Elders, as represented by the West and North directions. The selected artist(s) will collaborate closely with Elders and knowledge keepers to ensure the designs accurately reflect the scope and meaning of these teachings. The completed artwork will be displayed on a canvas and wrapped around the frames of two newly constructed wigwams.

Currently, the site features two beautifully crafted wigwams representing the teachings of children (west) and women (south). These structures were designed by the Town's Manager of Public Works, who is also an Indigenous artist. This next phase of the project will focus on the western and northern directions, aligning with the intended symbolic plan.

This project offers an exciting opportunity to contribute to a space dedicated to cultural education, celebration, and unity. We encourage submissions that demonstrate a deep understanding of Mi'kmaw culture, respect for traditional teachings, and a commitment to artistic excellence.



Pictured left is an image of one of the existing wigwams that depicts the teachings of the Women and is placed in the southern direction of the cultural space in an open field. The image may appear as individual panels, however, the actual physical wrap is one piece that will be wrapped completely around the structure. (Please note: The digital artwork will be printed directly onto a metal wrap as shown with the following measurements: 12 ribs, each 5.5" across the top, 96.5" in length, 25" across the bottom with a bottom diameter of 94").

Compensation: The selected artist will be paid artist fees of up to \$10,000 including all design, creation, public engagement and taxes. Additional fees for travel expenses for up to seven days of public engagement work for an artist not living within the community will be provided.

Submission Requirements:

Please submit the following by email **in a single PDF** to:
marilee.castillo@stephenville.ca

- A description (max 500 words) and concept sketch of your proposed mural for this space.
- A 200-word bio
- A link to your website or portfolio
- A project budget in the template provided. Please also indicate if you would need to travel from outside the community.
- Up to five images of previous works that can help illustrate the style you have in mind for this project (please indicate the title, date, medium, and dimensions of each work).

Selection Process:

A five-person committee representative of: An Indigenous member of the Town of Stephenville who has a thorough understanding and connection to the local Mi'kmaw community, a member of the Town of Stephenville's Public Works team, in addition to a traditional Elder, a member of the Mi'kmaw Cultural Foundation, and an Indigenous community member at large will represent the selection committee.

Evaluation:

Eligible submissions will be evaluated based on the:

- **Relevance** of the proposed project to the program theme and clarity of ideas
- **Impact** – the potential of the project to contribute to and advance your artistic practice and/or professional development
- **Budget** a reasonable budget that fairly compensates the artist and collaborators and that aligns with the proposed project

Timeline:

Submission deadline: January 13, 2025

The successful candidate will be contacted by January 24, 2025

Final digital files to be delivered by March 21, 2025

Who Can Apply:

- We are seeking Indigenous artists who have an interest and experience in designing Mi'kmaw artwork through any type of medium. Someone with an understanding of traditional Mi'kmaw teachings is preferred.
- Artists of all levels of experience are welcome to apply.

Questions?

Please contact [**marilee.castillo@stephenville.ca**](mailto:marilee.castillo@stephenville.ca)