



Touchwood Agency Tribal Council

PO Box 280 Punnichy, SK S0A 3C0 (306)8352937

Day Star George Gordon Kawacatoose Muskowekwan

CALL FOR ARTISTS- Design and build a memorial monument in honour of TATC MMIWG2S+

Touchwood Agency MMIWG2S+ Commemorative Project

Touchwood Agency Tribal Council invites Indigenous Artists to submit a proposal for the design and creation of a memorial monument to honour Missing and Murdered Women, Girls and Two-Spirited loved ones. The successful concept submission will be selected and guided by TATC MMIWG2S+ Family members and survivors.

The Project: The project's objective is to honour and increase the awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirited loved ones in the Touchwood Area through the creation of a Memorial Monument and a 3-day Family Healing Gathering. The project is driven through consultation with Touchwood MMIWG2S+ families and survivors. The monument will be a place where families and community members can go to reflect, offer prayers, gather, and remember their loved ones.

Monument Details:

Description: The monument will honour and raise awareness of MMIWG2S+ from the four Touchwood Agency Tribal Council First Nations. The monument will be a place for reflection, prayer and gathering.

Location: The Touchwood Area – To be determined through Elder and family consultation

Material: To be determined by artist. The structure of the memorial must be created with materials that are suitable for outdoor installation and can withstand extreme weather conditions.

Inscription: To be determined by TATC MMIWG2S+ Family Members

Deadline: Submissions will be received until **October 15th, 2021**

Budget:

\$20,000 - This amount will cover the artist fees, travel, materials, supplies, and costs associated with the design and construction of the monument.

- The artist will be responsible for any taxes that may be applicable.
- TATC will cover the installation of the memorial monument.

Artist Selection:

TATC MMIWG2S+ Family members will review the Artist concepts and select the top submissions. Following this selection, the artist may be asked to present their work virtually or in person for additional consideration for the successful submission.

Submission Guidelines:

- Artist must be of Indigenous ancestry and preference will be given to an artist from the four Touchwood First Nations or with relations to members of the Touchwood Bands.
- Artists will be provided with a guide created from input gathered through consultation with MMIWG2S+ families. The Artist is encouraged to gather inspiration from this input to guide the creation of their work.
- Please submit high quality photos of the concept submission. Detailed drawings of the submission design will be accepted. Artists are encouraged to submit more than one image of their concept and to include details and a brief description.
- The artist will also submit their portfolio and curriculum vitae, if applicable.
- The artist will be responsible for shipping costs related to the submission of their concept/work.
- Artist must be able to demonstrate their ability to execute project within provided specifications, timelines and budget.
- The artist submission will include a budget for proposed work including artist's fee, materials, shipping, etc.
- Artist retains intellectual property rights to their concept. All artists' submissions will be returned via self-addressed stamped envelope.
 - The selected submission will be used by TATC, in promotional materials, social media etc, the artist allows licence to TATC for this purpose. The artist will be given full credit of piece for purposes of promotional, educational material as deemed necessary for future purposes of TATC.

Concepts:

- The materials, size and shape of the design are open. The artist is encouraged to utilize the information package provided to draw inspiration for the development of their concept.
 - If selected, a final consultation with TATC MMIWG2S+ Families may occur, allowing artist to capture voice and visions of families of MMIWG2S+
- One concept per artist will be accepted for consideration.
- The concept submitted by artist must be original work that they have created themselves.

Timeline

Deadline for Submissions	October 15 th , 2021
TATC MMIWG2S+ Family Meeting for Artist Selection	October 16, 2021
Contract Awarded	October 22 nd , 2021
Installation Date	TBD
Monument Unveiling	TBD

**These dates are subject to change.*

To register for an artist information package, please contact the project coordinator Jessica LaPlante by phone:(306)331-5092 or through email: jlapante@tatc.sk.ca



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Family Member Consultation Guide for Memorial Monument Artist Proposal **Touchwood Agency MMIWG2S+ Commemorative Project**

A series of consultation sessions were held for Touchwood Agency Family members of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirited loved ones and survivors to gather input for the design and development of the Memorial Monument. TATC values the lived experience of Family members and survivors and their deep understanding of how MMIWG2S+ has impacted their families and communities. Artists are encouraged to draw inspiration for the development of their concept from this input provided by family members.

TATC MMIWG2S+ Family members will review the Artist concepts and will work together to select the top submissions. Following this selection, the artist may be asked to present their work virtually or in person for additional consideration for the successful submission.

Cultural Aesthetic and Theme

- The monument should represent a woman, Women figure or grandmother figure
- The concept should have a cultural aesthetic that is representative of the Four First Nations and is evident and present within the work. While abstract submissions are welcomed, it is preferred that the message of the work is clear and not wide open for interpretation.
- In the area there are Cree, Salteaux, Metis and other nations from the four Touchwood First Nations. The cultural symbolism of these cultures is something to consider.
- Nature and the healing power of natural elements were a common theme in the feedback provided by families.
- Many family members support the inclusion of representation for the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Men in the monument. There are many families from the Touchwood First Nations that have been impacted by the loss of a male relatives and we want them to feel included and welcomed to visit the monument.
- Water is an important cultural symbol in First Nation's culture and something to consider incorporating into the monument- water is very healing.
- The Sacredness of our Women girls in First Nations communities is an important theme to consider including in the Artist's concept.
- The importance of Indigenous Languages is something that is foundation to cultural retention and should be considered for inclusion in the memorial monument. The Cree and Saulteaux language continue to be retained by many of the elders and community members in the four Touchwood First Nations.

The following statements were shared from family members regarding their vision of the monument to honour their loved ones:

“I picture it in a place where you can go and sit and pray. To have a ceremony if needed. A quiet place.”

“There are many missing loved ones in the area who have never returned to their families. Many families do not have answers and are dealing with unresolved grief from the loss of their loved ones. It is important for families who have lost loved ones to have a place to go to put down tobacco and say prayers. The memorial monument will bring families together in way a that supports them in grief and healing.”

“When I think of this, I see it quiet and being able to sit. Not a lot of cement. Nature environment. It is around nature and away from the cement.”

“Four people back-to-back, all holding hands, surrounding a woman- a vision of trying to protect our loved ones that we need to help convey “

“In our culture the colours mean the same thing. Four is significant in our cultures and if we use these universal things, we are not leaving anyone out and it is inclusive for everyone”

“no matter what has happened we are proud of our women and our communities, we are proud. I am proud of my aunty. Beauty resilient, love, honour-not in a boastful way.”