

STAFF LETTER - EMMA CONLON



*Our Staff Letter this month is from Community Analyst
Emma Conlon*

Previous to working at Strategies North, I worked with a variety of Indigenous and non-profit organizations providing social services and programming. The opportunity to work with First Nations in a different, but equally important way was a large reason why I was excited to join the team in October 2020. Here at SN, I am so grateful to be a part of exciting projects happening all over the country. Getting to work directly with First Nations and see the impact that our work has on the day-to-day lives of community members encourages our entire team to continue providing the best support we can to our clients. We have a dynamic team with expertise in a variety of areas that allows us to provide holistic support for our clients. Having the opportunity to work on a variety of projects, ranging from agricultural initiatives to community infrastructure, has also challenged me to continue developing my understanding of First Nations' needs. I am excited to continue working with our clients to create initiatives that support the well-being of their communities across the country.

Emma Conlon

Welcome Emily



Emily Hedges is a Victoria-based Jr. Community Analyst for Strategies North. Emily is currently in her third year of a Bachelor of Science at the University of Victoria. Emily's educational interests in Canadian ecologies and environmental conservation have lead her to major in Geography and minor in Environmental Studies. Emily grew up in the ranching and industrial community of Fort St. John, British Columbia which has allowed her to gain practical knowledge of BC's resources. Emily enjoys exploring the great outdoors and has a passion for sustainability.

We're very much looking forward to bringing your expertise to the Strategies North team!

Daylu Dena Multi-Purpose Building

On Thursday, April 15th the Daylu Dena Council announced their partnership with provincial, federal, and Indigenous governments to tear down the Lower Post residential school and fund the construction of the Daylu Dena Multi-Purpose Cultural Building. The new building is expected to be completed in 2022.



Artist's rendering of the new Daylu Dena Multi-Purpose Cultural Building - via the BC government

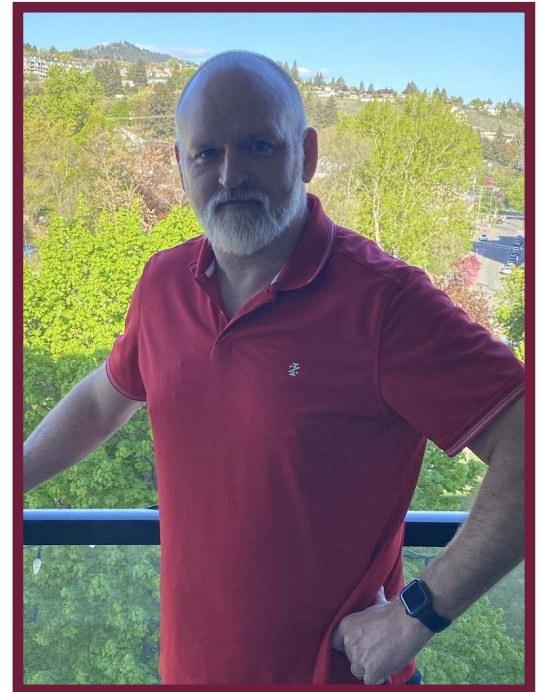
The previous building was a constant reminder of the trauma of residential schools in the community, and this project is a new way forward for Lower Post, both practically and symbolically. Strategies North is elated to see this essential step towards reconciliation for the Daylu Dena Council and was honoured to play a role in this project.

National Day of Awareness for MMIWG



Violence against women is defined as gender based violence by the United Nations. It can result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering. Violence can occur in all cultures, religions as well as communities, but because of Canada's history of colonization Indigenous women are more susceptible to violence than non Indigenous women. Indigenous women who were once held in highest regard as leaders and givers of life, are now devalued as a result of their race and gender. The devaluation of Indigenous women based on their race and gender has resulted in higher progression of experienced violence, as well as spousal assault,

family violence and sexual assault towards Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse peoples. The colour red has become a symbol for MMIWG across North America, extending beyond Canada's borders, and people of all backgrounds are encouraged to wear red to raise awareness. Jaime Black started the ongoing art series, The REDress Project, to highlight the epidemic of violence against Indigenous women. This year, the REDress Project is in downtown Nelson, BC, but people across the country will be wearing red in support.



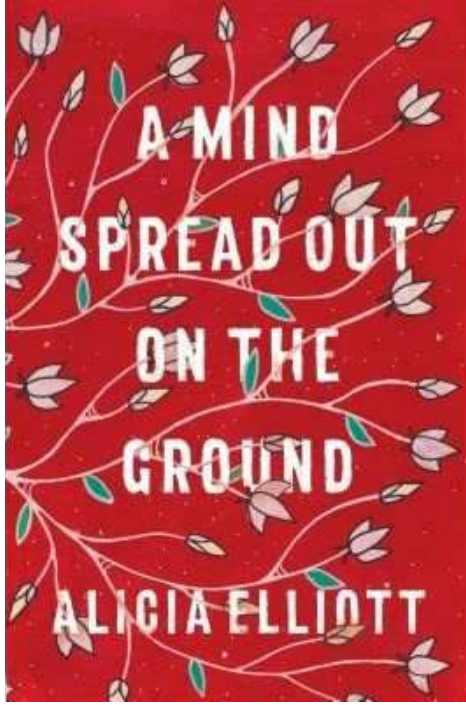
Join us on May 5th to raise awareness for MMIWG and support the families and communities affected.

WAYS YOU CAN PARTICIPATE AND RAISE AWARENESS

1. Wear red on May 5th and post a photo on social media with the hashtag #NationalDayofAwareness, #MMNWG or #MMIW
2. Host a community event in your community on May 5th
3. Host a prayer circle or candlelight vigil on May 5th

Allaura's Book Review:

A Mind Spread Out on the Ground by Alicia Elliot



In this memoir, Alicia Elliott not only shares the story of her own life and experiences with intergenerational trauma but issues a call to action and asks essential questions about the treatment of Indigenous people in North America. This memoir is essentially a collection of essays that chronicles the ongoing legacy of

colonialism and at times is not easy to read. The vivid images of her growing up with severe food insecurity and unsanitary conditions; having lice until the age of 18 were jarring. Her detailed reflection on mental health and how it has impacted not only herself but every member of her family is powerful. By linking systematic oppression to depression and engaging in deep reflection on her parents mental health she offers a multidimensional view of them and forces the reader to acknowledge we as humans are all flawed and that nobody is plainly a victim or a perpetrator, we are all both.

CAPACITY BUILDING FUNDING FOR AN ACT RESPECTING FIRST NATION, INUIT AND MÉTIS CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

This fund is to support Indigenous groups, communities and peoples to exercise jurisdiction over child and family services.

Funding is available to:

- Explore readiness to exercise jurisdiction
- Develop Indigenous child and family service legislation, systems, and programs prior to entering into coordination agreement discussions.

Funding Amount:

Based on population, scale and remoteness, funding maximums range from \$250,000 to \$2,000,000

Eligible Applicants:

- All Indigenous groups, communities, or peoples that hold rights that are recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*
- Indigenous government bodies
- National Indigenous organizations

Submission Deadline:

May 28, 2021

KEY DATES

May 5th: National Day of Awareness for MMIWG

May 9th: Mother's Day

May 14th: Community Workforce Response Grant - Indigenous Communities Work BC

Deadline to Apply

May 24th: May Long-weekend

Statutory Holiday

May 30th: First Nations Well Being Fund - First Nations Public Service Secretariat

Deadline to Apply