Mitacs Impact Moment

Yvette Shang



Image from Four Arrows Regional Health Authority website

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Bats, Birds, Bees and Berries Project (IT51881) – Manitoba



FOUR ARROWS REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

University of Manitoba

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The Mitacs Impact

- Indigenous partner, Indigenous interns for Indigenous community.
- 3 units BSI project under Indigenous Pathways for training and capacity building.
- Extended for another 3 units.
- Future Accelerate project for data monitoring.

The Mitacs team efforts

- Government Relations – Bari Keith
- Grant management – Merly Prentt
- EDI – Arief Kartolo
- The Manitoba Indigenous top-up work group and finance







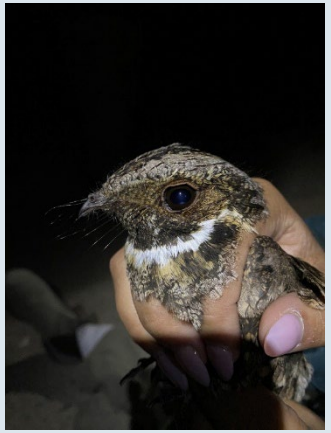


















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Solving interconnected environmental, cultural and health challenges

The Challenge

The Island Lake Anisininew Nations (northeastern Manitoba) are facing interconnected environmental, cultural, and health challenges:

- Wildfires and climate change;
- Declined connections to land-based practices and traditional foods;
- Reduced food security and physical activity, contributing to higher rates of chronic conditions such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, obesity, and mental health concerns;
- Declines in culturally and ecologically important species, including bats, birds, bees, and berry-producing plants;
- Limited local monitoring data available to guide conservation and land-management decisions.

The Solution

- Four Arrows Regional Health Authority's holistic vision of Mamow Anisininew Minoyawin, Anisininew oneness in health and wellbeing, treats the health of people and the environment as inseparable pillars supporting wellness.
- Co-create a program that weaves together western scientific approaches with traditional Indigenous knowledge.
- Provide land-based training and create capacity for monitoring ecosystem health.
- Support healthier Indigenous communities through stronger connections between people, animals, plants, and the environment — the core principle of One Health.

Two-Eyed Seeing Approach to Anishininew Oneness in Health and Wellbeing



"We are grateful to Mitacs for providing this internship funding opportunity. Through this support, Four Arrows Regional Health Authority can help create meaningful learning experiences for the students while advancing Indigenous-led research, hands-on species stewardship, innovation, and community priorities. The Mitacs' partnership is making a positive and lasting difference."

– Laurie Wood Ducharme, Four Arrows Regional Health Authority Executive Director



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The One-Health and Two-Eyed Seeing Approach

*"We are so deeply grateful for the opportunity to **host an experiential learning activity** with the local youth in their community. Watching them apply **Two-Eyed Seeing** to connect Western science with traditional ways of knowing didn't just help them learn about species at risk — it changed how we approach conservation."*
– Mitacs Interns





"Thank you once again for facilitating this funding opportunity. It's been a rewarding experience and hopeful for more gains as we proceed!"
– Dr. Chukwudumebi Onyiuke, Four Arrows Regional Health Authority, Research Manager

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