



GIBIMISHKAADIMIN

Realizing Truth and Reconciliation as we paddle together

March 12, 2018

Sent by email jmaltby@united-church.ca

Reverend Jody Maltby
Executive Secretary
Toronto Conference
65 Mayall Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M3L 1E7

Re: Application to Right Relations Fund of Toronto Conference

Dear Rev. Maltby,

In furthering the work of the Gibimishkaadimin Project, we are seeking four more years of funding from our 2017 partners. We are grateful that support from Toronto Conference for last summer's pilot project generated such positive results. To this end, we are requesting \$10,000 from for each of 2018. 2019. 2020 and 2021 from the Toronto Conference to broaden and strengthen our youth leadership initiatives.

As you may recall, the overall goal of the Gibimishkaadimin project is to enhance the knowledge and skills of indigenous and non-indigenous youth to foster leadership in the United Church's process of reconciliation. More specifically, within the United Church of Canada, Gibimishkaadimin's are:

- i) to increase youth's knowledge about Indigenous issues and reconciliation
- ii) to increase youth's leadership skills for the journey of reconciliation
- iii) to create and foster relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth

Based on interviews with last year's 22 youth participants (12 indigenous; 10 non-indigenous), we are confident that our goals were met. The August canoe trip was the highlight of the project and was captured on video:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/obrcfm5pe0o8pu1/Gibimishkaadimin%20video%20Oct%2022%202017.mp4?dl=0>

Participants not only had fun but learned a lot about culture, traditions, cooperative work and team building. In February 2018, the participants reunited in Toronto to consolidate the lessons learned from the summer and to continue fostering their personal relationships.

Gibimishkaadimin

A Project of Truth and Reconciliation for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Youth

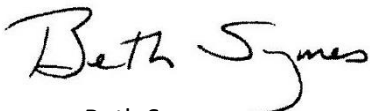
c/o Bloor Street United Church 300 Bloor Street West Toronto Ontario M5S 1W3

Looking ahead, it is our mission to continue nurturing future leaders. For example, we have identified two youth from 2017 with particularly strong leadership potential to be leaders-in-training and to assist in organizing the 2018 trip.

Attached to this letter you will find a more detailed description of the Gibimishkaadimin project, including 2017 budget details, and highlights of the Lake Superior canoe trip. I would encourage you to explore the website to gain a better feel for the rich experience already enjoyed by our first-ever class of Gibimishkaadimin youth leaders. (www. <https://gibimishkaadimin.wixsite.com>).

We would be pleased to meet with you to discuss this request, and provide any further information you may need.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Symes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Beth Symes
Project Manager
c: (416) 826 3030

Gibimishkaadimin

**A Project of Truth and Reconciliation for Indigenous and non-Indigenous Youth
c/o Bloor Street United Church 300 Bloor Street West Toronto Ontario M5S 1W3**