

## Strong Sample Examples from Previous Year(s) Application

**Cultural Continuity** empowers ethnocultural organizations, individuals and communities to retain, maintain and evolve distinctive cultural practices and traditions in the Canadian context. MCoS supports members and schools to share deeply.

### **Example:**

Nicholas is Métis. They are currently studying Elementary Education through SUNTEP. They are a strong advocate for Métis culture and traditions. As a part of the program, they collaborated with Heritage Saskatchewan on the creation of a book based on oral stories of the road allowance from Métis Old Ones.

### **Impact example:**

The writing of traditional stories will ensure the transmission of Métis knowledge and experiences of colonization. Nick is passionate about their culture and continues to work on such projects through the construction of a "Road Allowance" house with their SUNTEP class.

**Celebration of Diversity** includes education and festivals that showcase differences and similarities, most often through performance, cuisine and other arts. It includes an awareness that groups that welcome many perspectives, especially from different cultural world views, lead to greater creativity and innovation. Funding and sponsorship opportunities encourage meaningful exchange and connection.

### **Example:**

While Haris was President & CEO of the University of Regina Student Union, he was successfully able to organize the first Equality Week on campus. It was collaborative effort by many different groups on and off campus which came together to support multiculturalism, and diversity. The U of R Equality Week was extremely successful in many ways including offering free cultural performances, and in opening a conversation about the issues related to diversity in workforce, culture sensitivity and indigenization on the University of Regina campus community. Haris was also cofounder of the group named Bannock & Butter Chicken Comedy Group. He and his Indigenous partners founded it to create culture awareness using comedy and performed at events in Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

### **Impact example:**

Equality Week helped to raise awareness about the diversity, multiculturalism and culture sensitivity for staff and students of the University of Regina. Haris' initiative led to the "You Belong Here" campaign by the University of Regina management to promote diversity on the campus. This further helped international students to make Saskatchewan their second home.

**Anti-racism** work looks at issues of power and privilege and how they impact individual and systemic discrimination; it usually includes active dialogue to build equity and justice in our institutions and communities. MCoS coordinates an annual March 21 campaign, facilitates Arrêt/Stop Racism Youth Leadership Workshops and invests in member and school activities that recognize and reject racism and discrimination.

**Example:**

Barb is the President of Spring Free From Racism/Saskatchewan Association on Human Rights Inc. and has been active in this provincial organization for close to 40 years. She has been a leader in fighting discrimination and racism. She has been an advocate in tribunals, in harassment cases stemming from racism in the workplace, community, unions and other organizations. She has spoken at workshops, conferences and conventions across Canada addressing these inequity issues. She has been invited to many classrooms to address racism, bullying or discrimination more recently with newcomers to Saskatchewan.

**Impact example:**

Barb's leadership is essential to the success of the organizations she is part of. Her relentless advocacy has resulted in the creation of human rights, equity and women's committees in provincial unions to recognize the equal rights of women, visible minorities, and new immigrants. She sat on the first national committee for employment equity, which saw major breakthroughs for employees in workplaces. She has led an annual free family-friendly event to draw attention to the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Her political involvement and insistence in equity has resulted in greater diversity and voice.

**Intercultural connections** entails different cultural groups coming together over time to build bridges i.e. exchanges, pen pals, cooperative work, creating safe spaces, dialogue, creative projects, etc. BRIDGES (Building Relationships through Intercultural Dialogue and Education in Saskatchewan) uses a model by which local members take the lead to bring Indigenous, newcomer and other community members together.

**Example:** Nour has always led by example. She is willing to share her story and experiences with others in order to foster deeper learning and true understanding. Nour was part of Sheldon-Williams Collegiate's first Mindful Creative Writing class. As part of this class, she helped her classmates understand her story of experience and listened carefully to their stories of experience. In order to come to class prepared for dialogue and better understand her peers, Nour would spend hours in the evening reading their poetry. Elected to the Student Leadership Council, she is working to create cultural connections and collaborations within this and other groups at our school.

**Impact example:**

Nour's openness created an environment of inclusion within our class that allowed other students to not only learn from her story, but also become confident in sharing their own stories. She leads through example and is always the first to take a risk, speak up, share a poem, or lend a hand. Her poetry has been on CBC, published in a book, and even presented to the Governor General of Canada. After Nour's poetry was shared on CBC, she granted permission to read her poem at a Remembrance Day ceremony in Nipawin. Nour has consistently used her voice to ensure that multiculturalism flourishes in our school, province, and beyond.

**Integration** in contrast to assimilation, is achieved when all members of a community are reflected, are seen and see themselves as belonging for all aspects of their identities, are valued for their contributions, and are able to appropriately access services. The WIC Toolkit provides excellent resources, and INVOLVE offers training for new volunteer leaders and organizations.

**Example:**

An immigrant to Canada herself, much of Bula's efforts are focused on the stream of Integration.

- Strong advocate for newcomers to Canada, English as A Subsequent Language (ESL), multiculturalism, women, literacy learners, rural voices, and all who are vulnerable in our society.
- Instrumental in starting an Immigrant Women Chapter in Yorkton and an International Woman's group in Swift Current.
- Southwest Literacy Committee, organizing family literacy events and projects.
- Board Member for TESL Canada, Saskatchewan Council for Educators of Non-English Speakers (now TESL SK), SaskCulture, Heritage SK, a member of the Advisory Board for the Office of Literacy Commission, a volunteer tutor for Parkland Regional College Literacy Program and a Director for the Yorkton Open Door Society.
- Bula has been the driving force behind the annual series of Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) events in Swift Current.
- Multicultural leader recognized with awards including the Saskatchewan Literacy Professional Award and the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteering.

**Impact example:**

The community has learned the importance of recognizing and validating the contribution of women and different ethnocultural groups. When Bula saw a need for an easy to read Driver's Handbook, she obtained the money and cooperation to produce a handbook and a CD. The TRC events offer an opportunity for high school and college students, as well as decision-makers, in the southwest to learn about the issues ongoing colonialism has created in the past and present from Indigenous perspectives. The commitment to change is evident as they listen, walk and speak.

**Leadership:** Value is placed on candidates who have contributed beyond their own local and ethnocultural communities. How has the nominee inspired others? How many years have they been involved? How has their contribution grown over time?

**Example:**

Sandy began the North Central Family Centre (NCFC) with a vision to empower youth, families and the North Central community. North Central Family Centre is a hub for community members to come together to share their culture, beliefs, and experiences. The Centre creates opportunities for First Nations and Métis cultural practices, as well as newcomers. Sandy's leadership emphasizes the attitude that everyone is welcome. Sandy empowers her staff to be the best they can be resulting in high standards of care, programming, and support for the community members. She lives and breathes her belief in a community filled with love and hope, and without discrimination or inequity. Under her leadership, diverse staff, volunteers, students, community members, and partner organizations work together with respect and collaboration. She is guided by the understanding that providing intercultural opportunities, we can share varied experiences, cultural backgrounds

and grow socioeconomically. She has inspired fundraising, including to sponsor a Syrian refugee family. Sandy inspires others everyday by her respect, open mind and loving heart.