**COMMUNITY PARTNER DESCRIPTION:**

The Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Society is a non‑profit, board governed organization that operates core, social‑based programs for urban Indigenous peoples to access education, justice, health, housing, employment, cultural and community‑building services to approximately 2000 members annually. The Friendship Centre is the primary source of urban Indigenous government, nation, rebuilding, cultural reinvigoration and wellbeing for a diverse population.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The goal of the proposed project is to assist the Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre in developing a collective, inclusive, retail space on the Halifax waterfront that reflects the cultural diversity of the Friendship Centre community and provides opportunities for citizen entrepreneurship and urban economic development. To achieve the goal of creating an artisan and entrepreneur retail space, we want to develop a sustainable governance model and operating plan to meet citizens needs that will be accomplished using community-based, participatory engagement process. We call this the Prosperity Circle, a place we will bring people together to build, support and sustain collaborative, collective business planning for Indigenous Artisans and Entrepreneurs in Kjipuktuk.

**PROJECTED BENEFITS:**

* Identifying the lived barriers and unique needs of emerging urban Indigenous entrepreneurs and artisans in business development and creating a response strategy to meet those needs.
* An accessible inventory of relevant training, mentoring, and economic development resources and opportunities to address unique needs of urban Indigenous entrepreneurs.
* A collaborative, collective Indigenous business plan for the Halifax waterfront retail space that addresses the unique and diverse interests and needs of the Friendship Centre Community.
* A network to provide safe spaces and opportunities for innovation, mentorship, training, business skills development and participatory reconciliation.

NB: These are excerpts from the Community Partner’s original proposal from 2021.