

To: Mayor and Council, City of Prince George

From: Drs. Annie Booth and Zoë Meletis, UNBC (3333 University Way, Prince George, BC V2N 4Z9; 250-960-6649), on behalf of Inspiring Women Among Us, for IWAU 2024 (November 13th - 20th).

RE: Requesting Sponsorship for Inspiring Women Among Us 2024

Respectfully, we request this correspondence be included on the Council meeting agenda.

Please excuse the early request for funding. We normally apply to SSHRC for a Connection grant (average request of \$25,000), which is a **matching fund grant**, in other words, we need **funding commitments from other sources**. This year, SSHRC has moved its application deadline up and if you are once again able to sponsor IWAU, we would need a confirmation letter by **June 1st** (the grant is due June 20th). We also apologize for not being able to make the request in person, the short deadline has challenged us.

Last year, the City of Prince George contributed \$7500. **We respectfully ask if the City might continue with this level of support, \$7500, for 2024.**

Inspiring Women Among Us (IWAU) (www.iwau.ca) is a community-responsive organization and annual event (est. 2015), organized by UNBC faculty, staff and students along with community partners (including the College of New Caledonia or CNC, PGPIRG, the Northern Women's Centre, the Prince George Public Library, small businesses, and others). IWAU aims to engage our greater community in discussions of gender and gender relations, and to contribute to a more inclusive society. IWAU is an all-gender series of events that are free/open to the public, and typically offers a week of a mix of talks, presentations, activities (e.g. including art and movement), and workshops recognizing and celebrating women, BIPOC, LGBTQ2SIA+ persons and other under-recognized persons and groups, all leading to the UNBC/CNC Ceremony to mark the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. Detailed reports on past events held in 2015-2023 can be found here: <https://iwau.ca/reportsarchives>). IWAU also typically draws media attention from near and far, and has been covered by CKPG, the CBC, CFUR, the GOAT, and Radio Canada (in French) (for example: <https://ckpgtoday.ca/2021/11/17/iwau-is-back/>).

IWAU engages in a diverse set of activities besides its annual November event, including sponsoring talks on International Women's Day and successfully partnered with the City to receive Canadian Federation of Municipality Funds which enabled the City and IWAU to participate in a competitive national program (2021). This employed and trained two highly qualified UNBC graduate students and generated a legacy set of virtual resources found here: <https://iwau.ca/csvideos>.

For its **November 2024** offering, IWAU's theme is **Caring in the Time of Polycrises**. Increasing society relies on an often unrecognized (and undervalued) "care economy" to meet vital social needs. IWAU 2024 will shine a light on the critical nature, in a broad sense, of care in responding to the multiplicity of crises confronting us. Running from November 13-20th, IWAU will conclude with a ceremony to mark the Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on the 20th, at UNBC.

The City of Prince George has encouraged and supported IWAU from its beginning, offering various kinds of support. IWAU has routinely had our flag flown at City Hall, and the mayor and councilors have spoken

at and participated in multiple events. We combine City support with contributions from others (e.g. UNBC) to bolster our extensive application for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Connection grant, before we organize our events. Grant success is improved when partner funding has been confirmed before application with SSHRC funding matching secured other funds. All contributions are investments that contribute to quality program delivery. It should also be noted that we typically hire 1-2 Student Planning Assistants, and we also offer key compensation to 5-10 student volunteers as well as contributing to their training and/or resumés.

This year's planned program (pre-confirmations) includes:

- An Opening talk by Debra Merrier, a nationally recognized CUPE speaker, who will be speaking on Labour & Environmental Action (we may also benefit from a workshop on EDI work);
- A talk by Ethel Tungohan, author of Care Activism, Migrant Domestic Workers, Movement-Building, and Communities of Care; we are also requesting a workshop from Dr. Tungohan on academic related podcasting (she runs the Academic Auntie podcast);
- A Workshop on Self/Other Care in Eco-anxious Times, offered by Maria Walsh and Margaret Fuller (UNBC Wellness Centre);
- A showing of Plan C (a film on reproduction rights) along with a Director led Discussion with Tracy Droz Tragos;
- A showing of Yintah (a film of the Wet'suwet'en fight against development on their traditional lands), preceded by a discussion of this work by Wet'suwet'en filmmakers and activists at the NRESi Colloquium;
- A number of art events including an Artivism event, a Creative Reuse Workshop, a feminist Tye-dye activity and a play;
- The Mentoring Lunch, with a discussion of Caring in the Academy;
- An author led event with fiction writers Larissa Lai and Corinne Chong and a CliFi Book Club presentation by author Premee Mohamed;
- Sponsoring the Trans Day of Remembrance + Caring for the Carers Breakfast + Workshop on Making PG Trans Positive Community;
- The Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women memorial event.

All activities and events are free and open to the community/region and many include local community partners. When possible, we will also generate live online and/or legacy recording components to extend the reach and legacy of IWAU 2024 events.

We thank our supporters for prior and ongoing support, and for considering our funding request. We also welcome suggestions for a possible activity for inclusion.