

January 15th, 2023

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing in support of CAHEP's application for a Canadian Women's Foundation Community Needs Grant for the creation of an artist collective that serves youth, gender and sexually diverse, income-insecure artists in the City of Thunder Bay.

We have been part of CAHEP's CWF-funded Speak Up Program for 6+ years. Speak Up provides leadership development programming to a group of Grade 7/8 girl-girl-identified youth, mostly from Indigenous and low SES backgrounds.

As the Principal at Sherbrooke school, I know that CAHEP has been able to work with and engage some of the hardest to reach students. Since taking part in the Speak Up Program, these students' self-esteem, sense of agency, and hope for the future have all improved.

CAHEP's programming empowers these students by valuing their experiences and giving them a collective sense of belonging. CAHEP has the experience and skills needed to connect with under-served people in our City. They will do a fine job supporting the creation of a collective that continues and expands their work with marginalized youth in our City.

Warm Regards,

Leslie Hynnes
Principal
Sherbrooke School