

## **Aboriginal Non Aboriginal Relations Community (ANARC) 2019 Report**

The ANARC circle family is growing...while we continue to deepen the relationships with the existing Indigenous community, the circle is growing among our Non Indigenous people. It gives hope to see non Indigenous people wanting to learn more about the TRC Calls to Action, and engage in the lives (past and present) of Indigenous peoples. This has happened through parish initiatives, our regular monthly potluck and sharing circle, community events, celebrations and ceremonies.

The kokums (grandmothers) continue to be the anchor in all that we do. Our monthly leadership circle with these wonderful grandmothers is a highlight. Some have collaborated with the Archdiocesan Youth and Social Justice Offices on the MyGen Youth rally, and on activities of the Regina Catholic Schools' Colombian Exchange students program. In both these events, the kokums broke open the bread of their lives (literally as they taught them how to make bannock!) but also through personal sharing of their residential school experiences. These kokums have lived through many "fires" in their lives and have emerged with strength, wisdom and compassion.

Another highlight of 2019 was that the Social Justice Committee from Christ the King Parish had an Advent project that reached out to groups that needed some extra support. They wanted to acknowledge that grandmothers are always the ones sacrificing so much for their children and grandchildren, and to bring them some Advent/Christmas joy. Some of the kokums from our ANARC community went to Mass at Christ the King followed by a brunch where gift bags were given, stories were shared and new relationships began to be formed. Some Christ the King Social Justice Committee members then participated in the potluck the next month and it was the kokums who took them under their wing and made them feel welcomed in a new setting. The hope is to widen the bridge more to invite others from the parish to experience these "phoenix" relationships that are being born!