



**CUC Shining Lights**  
**Ottawa 1st selection criterion**  
**Project Selection Criteria**  
[Joan- Mar./22]

**Introduction:** This CUC project is designed with the goal of celebrating strengths within Canadian UU congregations and groups. Highlighting these stories is meant to: create awareness, build networks, support ongoing growth and develop best practices. The CUC welcomes all groups, regardless of size, to share their Innovative projects.

**Among the elements for consideration within the selection process are the following:**

- Related and/ or connected to **furthering UUism** in Canada, our 8 Principles and the CUC vision developed by member congregations and friends

Diversity

8th principle

\ desire for cultural engagement and language

Everyday Kayoki would post a new Algonquin word

Went to first truth and reconciliation day

- **Innovative Approaches** - projects under consideration have utilized alternative approaches to address challenges/ issues

- alternative worship/ ways of gathering; new ways of youth, young adult and multi- generational engagement; financial and stewardship strategies; social justice initiatives; etc.

Congregation asked elder what they could do

Elder suggested a community centre and food security program

Indigenous lead

Each garden bed made differently, using a wide range of materials

Participants called Food Warriors

Goal to teach them skills to grow food and share info about climate change

Showed them plants around the area that were edible, poisonous and invasive

Would collect the food and make meals together

Shared with local foodbank

Currently developing a winter program

Doing some indoor gardening

Grow food indoors as well as start plants

Having an elder to oversee the project

Increase the number of food warriors 6- 10

Increase the size of their garden, doubled in size

Seeking to do yard sharing with at least one member's yard

Split food with them

Have guest speakers come in, especially indigenous

- **Transferability**

- Important that projects have ideas which may be applied in other locations, with groups of various sizes and have wisdom to share regarding other projects.

Could be done by congregations across the country

Congregational members donated materials for beds as well as seeds

Easily transferable in using people's yards

- **Impact** - What are the circles of project impact -

- Levels of engagement, input and support within the congregation or group

- Lots of enthusiasm from congregation

- Two volunteers last year

- Four more volunteers this year

- Fund raiser

- Waterer

- planter

- They also have a circle of support

- They also have a seniors centre and people visit from there

- Have congregation members joined in some of the information sessions

- Yes, especially the closing ceremony

- They all wear Every Child Matters

- Level of impact on the wider community

- Great, lengthy impact list

- Registered as a heart garden with the Indigenous Human services

- Planted 215 plants in honor of the children

- Planted 215 sticks over winter

- Will plant 215 orange marigolds

- Get funding from nature canada

- Only fund bipoc youth 18- 30

- Monies to to food warriors

- They pay 50% usually

- They are paying 100% because all warriors are indigenous

- They are looking to fund ajaski for the full year

- Also got a grant from the Youth Services Bureau in Ottawa

- **Relevance**: Does this respond to a common issue/challenge faced by UU congregations and groups?

- 8th principle links
- Diversity in team

- **Capacity/willingness to share** their story and information

- If selected as an Award Recipient, there is an expectation that the group will provide some consultation for interested parties
- Willingness to connect with these other groups for up to one year after recognition

Willing to share PR, organizational info,

- Application/nomination agreed upon by the appropriate **designated leadership team** within the group or congregation

Strong support from Ottawa first