

The Heart of a Pocket Park

Red River Mutual Awards \$17,500 to *Selkirk Legacy Park* to Beautify Urban Space with Indigenous Art

Selkirk, MB - (Date not given) - When you walk along Manitoba Avenue East in the city of Selkirk, you'll notice two alleyways beautifully adorned with Indigenous healing gardens and artist murals. Affectionately called "Pocket Parks", these spaces are used to reconnect community members with local Indigenous peoples and bring awareness to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG). Nominated by community member Jeannie Red Eagle, [Red River Mutual's Spruce Up Your Story](#) awarded the city of Selkirk \$17,500 to help continue this municipal beautification process.

"This healing garden, this sacred space [helps to] create a space for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the community to come together during these recent and ongoing, very challenging times," says Red Eagle, longtime Selkirk resident, Indigenous teacher, and community organizer.

A part of the greater [Manitoba Avenue East Revitalization project](#), the community spaces also serve as resting grounds, with ping pong, benches, and tables. Local artists, such as Charlie Johnston and Sierrah Anderson, have a place to showcase their talents on the brick wall murals. "Having the healing garden, everything here also brings about a place for education, spirituality, and a safe place to go for some people," says Anderson.

As a part of Selkirk's continued efforts to support the arts, the grant has been used to pay all sixteen artists involved.