



What is **The Art For Aid Project**

The Art For Aid Project works to put art supplies into the hands of Canadian Indigenous students and in community programs. I am a Metis Artist and founder of The Art For Aid Project.

The Art For Aid Project was first established in 2013 to address art supply shortages in remote community schools and social programs. The people who support this work recognize that there is tremendous benefit and healing in art. Poverty, trauma and isolation can bring many struggles and challenges. Access to art supplies can act as a catalyst to healing, self-expression and emotional release. Great healing can stem from art because it is a self-driven and powerful personal outlet. Creativity is the very foundation of the Sacred Circle of Life.

Each year we collect new and gently used art supplies and ship them to remote communities primarily through Canada Post, but also through people who are travelling to or near these communities. Additionally, we have begun working to establish sewing skills labs in remote schools with Sew & Sew - a collaborative partnership with our host agency, I Love First Peoples. As always, transportation for the supplies and programs is a consistent challenge, but we're making headway through social media support, volunteers and people who support this work.

The Project: In addition to shipping art supplies to remote community schools, we ship **Indigenous place-name maps** to any new schools we engage. The maps encourage the use of traditional languages, as well as supporting the land/language connection. We are always seeking funding support for the work we do and welcome the opportunity to have our art and efforts highlighted anywhere that it can be appreciated. We love it when people talk about us.



Covering the shipping costs: I personally run every aspect of The Art For Aid Project with the help of some invaluable volunteers. I use the sales from my artwork, to pay for shipping and operations along with donations from supporters. Additionally, the Art for Aid Fundraising Shop is a new online store that uses the sale of art and art products to keep the shipping and operations budget on solid footing. We are hoping to begin engaging remote community students to submit their art which will also be used to raise funds in our online. We welcome innovative, cooperative thinking to help us get one step closer to ensuring that needed supplies are readily available for Indigenous youth.

Art For Aid is continually seeking ongoing support through financial donations, corporate sponsorship, donated new and gently used art supplies and through volunteers and angel-offers that are needed to transport these items into remote communities. **Shipping is tremendously expensive. Please consider supporting our work through your organization or individually. We welcome the opportunity to show you what we can offer and how you can help.**

Chi miigwetch. Thank you for your interest in supporting Canada's First Artists and in supporting the work we're doing to help First Nations, Inuit and Metis students to explore their artistic hearts and expand their creative minds.

Colleen Gray

Artist & Founder of The Art for Aid Project

 The Art For Aid Shop  @artforaid.ca

 @artforaidproject  @AFAPProject

WWW.ARTFORAID.CA
www.artforaidshop.ca

artforaid2013@gmail.com : c: 613-252-2621
1064 Perth Road, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 4S7