RESOLVE Alberta would like to recognize Steering Committee Member Lana Whiskeyjack in receiving a CIHR grant for strengthening relations through cultural and arts-based practices to promote well being of Aboriginal and Two-Spirit youth and families. The first phase of this project will be focused on building relationships with potential phases exploring the ideas from these relationships and creating a “rights of passage urban to spirit people” program.

Lana’s artwork is based in arts-based inquiry research. She believes that artwork is a way to problem solve and process information as the left brain’s research can be processed to the right side through creative inquiry, analysis and knowledge translation. Her artwork is transformative that focuses on Indigenous womanhood and diverse genders that includes examining its negative correlation to disparity and MMIW. Lana believes that Indigenous womanhood can be viewed positively as how our grandmothers and ancestors have learned from tradition, language, connection to the land, alchemy of health and strong families and confronting historical trauma and transcending harsh realities. Lana is focused on resilience and contributing to finding actions. This guides the work she is doing now to uncover the diverse indigenous identity.

Below is one of Lana’s current Cree artworks called 13 Moons Calendar. It depicts the women-centered gender and portrays a warrior and resilience. Lana will eventually publish a book from these series of paintings to share its teachings. If you are interested in seeing more of Lana Whiskeyjack’s work, please visit her website at: www.lanawhiskeyjack.ca