

Indigenous Ministry Sunday



For almost 50 years, Christian Reformed Churches in Canada have supported ministry with Indigenous people. Urban ministries were established in Winnipeg (1973), Regina (1978), and Edmonton (1991) to address local urban spiritual and social needs.

At the same time, the Canadian Indigenous Ministry Committee was established to engage congregations across the country and to address national dimensions of Indigenous ministry. While the urban ministries developed local identities, CIMC was sometimes misunderstood as a coordinating body for the urban ministries—it needed its own logo to help congregational members remember it.

We work to educate and support CRC members and congregations as they live in reconciled relationships as covenant (treaty) people before Creator God. CIMC members, drawn from CRC congregations across Canada, seek to learn from Indigenous people and work out reconciliation in their own hearts and communities first. What logo could do justice to this work?

That's where Wilfred Dieter, a member of Peepeekisis First Nation, Saskatchewan and a graduate in Graphic Communications from Saskatchewan Polytechnic in Regina, came in. Here's how Wilfred describes the development of the logo: "My design was

inspired by four directions wheel (also known as a medicine wheel) which is widely used by the Indigenous tribes in the prairies, and the significant birds whose feathers are used in our ceremonies, as well as one bird from our legends, the Thunderbird. The other three birds are the eagle, the owl, and the crow/raven.

You can see the side profiles of each bird head within the top of each feather. Each feather features a stylized image of a bird significant to Indigenous peoples: Yellow – Thunderbird; Red – Eagle; Black – Raven; White – Owl.

Next I wanted to add a symbol that helps people recognize the logo as Canadian. The maple leaf was added to the design but not your typical 'Canadian flag' maple leaf. I designed it to be non-symmetrical to suggest movement within the wheel. The way the feathers were positioned also suggests movement and one feather with 3 silhouettes for 4 feathers resonates with the theme of the four directions in the circle of life."

Join us as we learn together!

