



What's Art for Aid?

Art For Aid is a volunteer run, grass roots project that sends art supplies and supports existing land-based learning programs for Indigenous youth. We are a successful and proud program of I Love First Peoples, a Canadian registered charity.

Currently, Indigenous students have fewer advantages than non-Indigenous students. This means teachers are often out of pocket for special art project supplies, and students often have very limited access to unique art learning tools and skills labs. I am an artist of Mi'kmaq, Acadian and Irish descent. I founded The Art For Aid Project in 2013 to address this shortfall.

The people who support this work recognize the tremendous benefit and healing power in art. Many young people live daily with struggles stemming from the trickle down effects of colonialism and inequality. Access to art supplies at school can act as a catalyst to healing, self-expression and emotional release. Art is a self-driven and powerful personal outlet that spans all languages and touches all hearts. But it all begins with access to the creative tools.

Throughout the year we collect new and gently used, quality art supplies, then ship them to remote communities primarily through Canada Post. Additionally, we have begun working shoulder to shoulder with I Love First Peoples on the Sew & Sew Skills Lab project, to ship fully equipped sewing labs to remote schools. In step with Sew & Sew, Art for Aid has begun offering support to existing land-based programs that operate in the schools. We believe education should include the land and the language. They are the foundations of traditional learning for young people. We believe in hands-on creativity with quality learning tools for all Indigenous students.

Indigenous place-name maps are included with our art supply shipments. Professionally rendered cartography created and printed at the University of Maine's American/Canadian Centre are a wonderful learning tool that demonstrates the way land was described and used on Turtle Island. We fund raise for the purchase of the maps from Maine and distribute them at no cost to the schools.

Art for Aid is volunteer driven. I'm an artist by trade, so the sale of my original paintings help me to keep running Art for Aid like a full time job. From my artwork I generate products that are produced and sold to fund Art for Aid's demanding budget. Our Shopify store has an impressive array of art items available for home, business and school. We are always in development mode. Sign up for the newsletter to keep informed of what's new at Art for Aid as we go and grow. We run collections call-outs for our programs throughout the year and announced it on social media and in the newsletter. Our shipping warehouse is located in Carleton Place. **We encourage people to familiarize themselves with our wish list and restrictions on the website before collecting and donating art items.**

Art for Aid is people-powered and does not receive federal funding so we're very grateful for public support. We welcome the opportunity to have our efforts highlighted and we love it when people talk about us!

Chi miigwetch. Thank you for your interest in supporting our work.

Colleen Gray
Artist & Founder of The Art for Aid Project, Good Person

artforaid.ca
artforaidshop.ca

 @artforaidproject

 @artforaid.ca

 @AFAProject

artforaid2013@gmail.com

c: 613-252-2621