

Tending the Harvest

A FRAMEWORK FOR FALL

ABOUT THE CIRCLE ON PHILANTHROPY

We work alongside our members to transform the philanthropic sector to redistribute wealth, activate wisdom and strengthen organizational infrastructure for the purpose of Indigenous peoples, organizations, communities and nations.

We believe that abundant investments in our work and that of our members with a focus on People, Place, Practice, Policy and Protocol are necessary levers to create lasting change. This work happens best on a foundation of shared power and relationships of deep reciprocity.

ABOUT THE SEASONAL PATHWAY

The Circle strives to be in alignment with the principles of Abundance, Reciprocity, Accountability and Curiosity and use them to guide our decision making and movement toward a shared future.

These principles are naturally aligned with our seasonal pathway approach to governance and operations where we steward our work, relationships and accountabilities based on the spirit of each season - Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall. We embody the wisdom of a seasonal approach because it enables wellbeing, spaciousness and an orientation toward learning. It allows us to aspire toward a shared leadership atmosphere for our board, staff, partners and members.

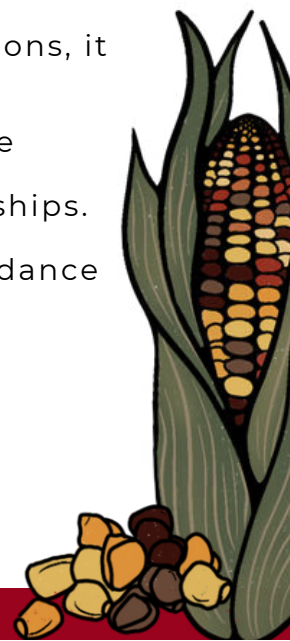
CURIOSITY

The Fall is grounded in the principle of Curiosity. Curiosity in the form of settler-led research has often been harmful as it tries to comprehensively, but impossibly, understand Indigenous communities and cultures.

However, when Curiosity is led by the needs and questions of Indigenous-led movements, organizations, communities, and nations, it supports and builds Indigenous self-determination.

Thus Curiosity is a practice of discernment. It leads us to prioritize specific questions and build specific relationships as we tend the harvest. It also ensures that we are accountable to these relationships.

It also means that when we feast, we are generous with the abundance available to us, but we are also wise in what we choose to share.



A FRAMEWORK *for fall*

The Fall is a time to tend to the harvest and feast together. For The Circle, this means harvesting our collective wisdom and sharing that abundance with our members and the sector.

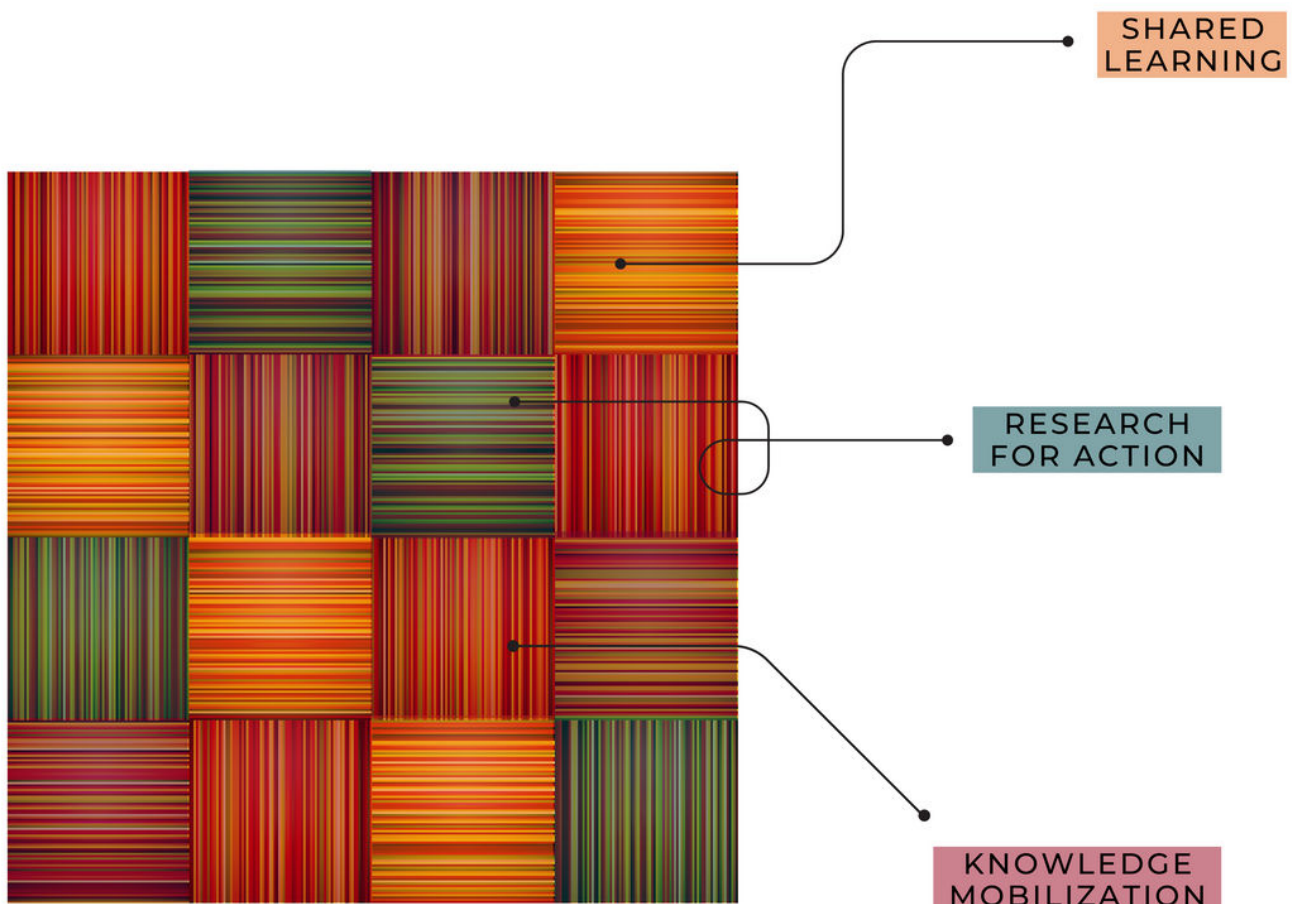
We do this by braiding the following elements:

- Shared Learning
- Research for Action
- Knowledge Mobilization

Together, these interconnected elements work to facilitate systems change within the settler philanthropic sector—changes in policy and practice—that shift power and resources to Indigenous-led movements, organizations, communities, and nations.

Through shared leadership with Spring, Summer, and Winter, the Fall contributes to The Circle’s ultimate goal: redistributing wealth for the purposes of Indigenous self-determination, including sovereignty and connection to land, languages, governance and laws, ceremonies, culture, teachings and stories, and traditional foods.

HOW IT WORKS: *Weaving it together*



1 SHARED LEARNING

Everytime we gather our members and partners, there is an opportunity to harvest our collective wisdom or Shared Learning.

Shared Learning is co-created through collaboration between peers and across differences in power. It values different perspectives, expertise, and worldviews while centering Indigenous wellness and amplifying Indigenous wisdom.

The work of the Fall is to harvest what we learn together and make it visible and available to our members and the sector.

EXAMPLE: **AMR 2023 HARVEST**

2 RESEARCH FOR ACTION

Through Research for Action, we work in reciprocal relationship with Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners to respond to the needs of our Indigenous-led members and explore their questions.

This is research that is designed to amplify Indigenous wisdom, create practical guidance for redistributing wealth, and advocate for systems change within the philanthropic sector.

The work of the Fall is to undertake this research with our seasonal stewards and partners and share it back to our membership and the broader philanthropic sector to advance Indigenous self-determination.

EXAMPLES: **MTC 1.0 | STORYTELLING THE PHILANTHROPIC LANDSCAPE**

3 KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Shared Learning and Research for Action generates an abundance of wisdom to share with our members and the Philanthropic sector.

Knowledge Mobilization aims to activate that wisdom in a way that enables and accelerates accountable action: action that shifts power and resources to Indigenous-led movements, organizations, communities, and nations.

The work of the Fall is to prepare the harvest for feasting now, as well as to nourish and provide wisdom to the people, organizations, and movements that come after our time.

EXAMPLE: **I4DM**

