

Guardian of the Community



The art piece entitled “Guardian of the Community” was developed and created by Isaksimagit Inuusirmi Katujjiqatigiit Embrace Life Council (IIKELC) members with the generous help of talented artist, Becky Kilabuk.

This image symbolizes a message of *Safety, Hope and Support* for community members. It acknowledges and identifies trained caregivers and participants who have completed a suicide intervention workshop delivered by IIKELC.



The Guardian of the Community artwork is placed on a variety of swag items that IIKELC will provide to individuals trained in suicide intervention as a way to identify them.

Message – When community members recognize this imagery, it is with the hope that the following messages will be represented:

- It's okay to talk to me
- I am here for you
- I am here to listen
- I want to help you
- You are safe with me

Symbolism explained:

The People:

The people represent the communities of Nunavut, providing support and showing the interconnectedness of families, friends, acquaintances, and community stakeholders working together in the spirit of embracing life.

The Ukpik/Snowy Owl:

A true representation of the land, peace, patience, health, nobility, ambition, creativity, independence, dignity, leadership and also accessibility when needed, regardless of the time of day.

Three Paunnait/Fireweed Flowers:

Fireweed can be found in all the three Nunavut Regions; Kitikmeot, Kivalliq, and Qikiqtaaluk. The flowers portray beauty and resilience within each of the regions' communities.

The Blue Sky:

Blue is calming to the eye and brings a message of cheerfulness, confidence, truth, stability, faith, intellect and consciousness. This represents the variations of the Arctic skies throughout the seasons.