

## SATURDAY, MARCH 8

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Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

—Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Indigenous women face injustice from lack of basic services, education, health care and general opportunities for advancement.

In 1998, a group of indigenous women from the Six Nations of the Grand River community in Canada invited The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund of the Anglican Church of Canada (PWRDF) to learn about their business ideas, including handcrafts and First Nations art designs and clothes. They expressed their challenges to initiate new businesses, because traditional banks felt they were too high of a risk.

PWRDF partnered with the Two Rivers Community Development Centre to create a microfinance initiative aimed at providing funds for indigenous women to start small businesses. This initiative contributed to the creation of ten new enterprises and eighteen new jobs. This success is attributed to women who repaid their loans, allowing new ones to benefit.

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil...These entrepreneurs walk stronger side by side by ensuring that the revolving funds are available for others. How might we support more indigenous women to reach their goals of self-sufficiency?

— José Zárate