

Community organizations come together for a fundraising gala centred on Indigenous survivors

December 19, 2025 Toronto, ON – The Toronto Rape Crisis Centre / Multicultural Women Against Rape ([TRCCMWAR](#)), Muskoka Parry Sound Sexual Assault Services ([MPSSAS](#)), and [TAIBU Community Health Centre](#) will be hosting [a fundraising gala](#) centred on Indigenous survivors at the Royal Ontario Museum on Saturday, February 28, 2026.

Inspired by the sacred teachings of White Buffalo Calf Woman, this Indigenous and Afro-Indigenous led fundraising gala will bring together survivors, youth, Elders, advocates, and allies in a shared space of healing and celebration.

“This event is about culture, unity, and healing our communities together,” says Suzanne Smoke, Anji Biimaadiziwiin, Program Coordinator at MPSSAS. “White Buffalo Calf Woman reminds us of the teachings of the sacredness of women and how violence is not part of our cultural ways. We need to relearn those teachings to eradicate the endemic of gender-based violence.”

Importantly, the gala also serves as a call to action for allies to be in solidarity with Indigenous and Afro-Indigenous survivors and to honour their voices, leadership, and stories.

“Sexual violence has a disproportionate impact on Indigenous and Afro-Indigenous women, trans, and two-spirit people,” says Grissel Orellana, advocate and counsellor at TRCCMWAR. “The gala aims to raise awareness about the intersection of gender-based and colonial violence, but also invites people to come together to honour and celebrate the resilience of Indigenous survivors and their communities.”

Highlights of the fundraising gala will include a ribbon skirt fashion showcase, drumming and dancing that honour Indigenous and Afro-Indigenous traditions and community spirit, and hors d’oeuvres inspired by Indigenous cuisines.

“This gala reflects our continued commitment to Indigenous sovereignty, community care, and collective healing within all of our Nations,” says Smoke. “We’re honoured to take part in this shared vision and to be part of this special event.”

Proceeds from the gala will benefit TAIBU, MPSSAS, and TRCCMWAR, and support each organization’s Indigenous programming and outreach. Tickets are \$125, with a number of complimentary tickets reserved for Indigenous survivors and community members.

“Culturally-appropriate supports are vital to healing,” says Robin Rice, Board Member at TAIBU. “We hope this gala will help raise necessary funds to support TAIBU’s programming for Afro-Indigenous survivors in our community.”

To learn more about the event and sponsorship opportunities, contact Laurie Lamont at laurie@mpssas.com.

