

# Indigenous Communities

Impact Report



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**We acknowledge the Indigenous stewards of the land on which we work and live and recognize their continuing connection to land, water, and culture. We pay respect to Elders past, present, and emerging.**

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# Finding solutions for people and planet

For centuries, Indigenous peoples have suffered from exploitation and destruction driven by colonialism and capitalism. Around the world, Indigenous people have been dispossessed of the land they have long nurtured and protected. When we talk about investing for a sustainable, equitable, and just economy, we must recognize the vital role of Indigenous communities. Today, despite contributing the least to greenhouse gas emissions, Indigenous people are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change.<sup>1</sup>

At Nia, we seek to invest in companies that recognize that solutions for people and planet are often more effective when partnering with Indigenous knowledge and involvement. We see great benefit to companies incorporating what the Mi'kmaw people call Two-Eyed Seeing, an approach to finding solutions by “learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing, and to use both of these eyes together for the benefit of all.”<sup>2</sup>

Many companies in our Nia Global Solutions portfolio honor Indigenous communities through inclusive policies, naming the issues facing Indigenous peoples, and celebrating Indigenous culture. We understand that there is more that these companies can do to support and uplift Indigenous communities, and we are committed to engaging our companies to drive further positive change.

**“...learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing, and to use both of these eyes together for the benefit of all.”**

- Mi'kmaw people

Photo by Lance Brisbois





# Expanding access to basic services



**Gilead Sciences Inc. (GLD)** is a biopharmaceutical company headquartered in Foster City, CA. In 2023 Gilead announced a \$6 million grant to support health equity for Australian and Canadian Indigenous Communities. This grant seeks to help address health disparities among Indigenous communities with a focus on HIV and viral hepatitis over a three year grant cycle, which will be split evenly between the two countries. In both Australia and Canada Indigenous Peoples experience a higher incidence of HIV and viral hepatitis infections and increased barriers to diagnosis and treatment.<sup>7</sup> Gilead is working with two Indigenous-led organizations, the Lowitja Institute in Australia and CAAN Communities, Alliances & Networks in Canada, to help address health disparities by providing resources to frontline organizations.



**Organon (OGN)**, based in New Jersey, offers health products to address unmet medical needs and expand access to care for women. In the U.S., Organon is addressing health inequities for Black and Indigenous women, who face higher maternal mortality rates, by partnering with community organizations to expand access to its JADA System for postpartum care in five safety-net hospitals serving predominantly Black, Indigenous, and Latina mothers.<sup>8</sup> In Australia, Organon is committed to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through initiatives like cultural awareness training, mentorship programs, and support for remote healthcare workers.<sup>9</sup>

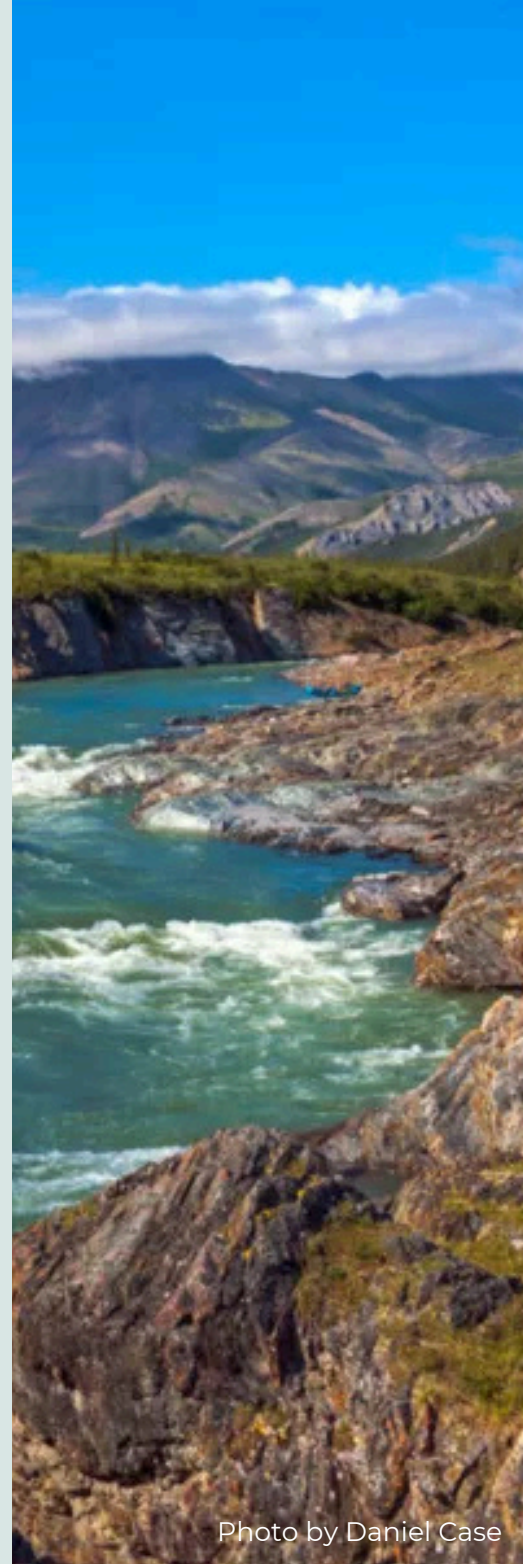


Photo by Daniel Case

*As of 3/31/24, these securities represented the following percentages of the Nia Global Solutions portfolio: Gilead (2.91%); and Organon (1.32%).*



# Establishing opportunities for the advancement of women



**AMN Healthcare (AMN)** provides healthcare staffing in Dallas, TX. In 2017 AMN began taking company mission trips to Guatemala to aid Indigenous populations living in the highlands. Each year the company partners with The International Esperanza Project to provide communities with “integrated healthcare including critical surgeries, installation of safety stoves and water purification systems in homes.”<sup>5</sup> AMN also partners with HELPS International to provide temporary staffing of medical staff and supplies to operate nearly abandoned medical facilities in Guatemala. With much of the population in the region speaking only Kek'chi, Pokom'chi and A'chi, they also provide interpreters to enable more accurate care delivery.<sup>6</sup>



**Amalgamated Bank (AMAL)** is a socially responsible bank headquartered in New York, NY. This exceptional bank lends only to companies that support fair treatment of BIPOC communities and has created a network to provide, promote, and expand opportunities for minority employees. Amalgamated formed a Racial Justice Task Force to address internal bias and racism through training and leadership pathways.<sup>14</sup> In 2021, Amalgamated honored Indigenous Peoples' Day, highlighting the ongoing marginalization of Indigenous communities and the historical oppression rooted in colonialism. Amalgamated advocates for greater discourse on Indigenous rights and supports the fight for justice.<sup>15</sup>



Photo Courtesy of AMN.com

As of 3/31/24, these securities represented the following percentages of the Nia Global Solutions portfolio: AMN Healthcare Services, Inc. (1.91%); and Amalgamated Bank (2.87%).

# Leveraging technology for inclusion



**Apple (APPL)** is headquartered in Cupertino, CA has launched several initiatives to support BIPOC and Indigenous communities. In 2020, Apple introduced the Racial Equity and Justice initiative, committing more than \$200 million to support education, economic empowerment, and criminal justice reform in the US.<sup>3</sup> In 2023, Apple expanded funding to Australia, the U.K. and Mexico. In Australia, this funding will support a charitable trust established by the traditional owners of Indigenous protected areas. In 2023, Apple worked with Indigenous communities to improve the Maps app, adding tribal territories and supporting Indigenous-language syllabaries, including Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw and Osage languages.<sup>4</sup>



**International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)** headquartered in Armonk, New York, is a leader in technology solutions, including climate technology to support the clean energy transition. Recognizing the importance of Indigenous communities in the transition, IBM partnered with Net Zero Atlantic in 2022 to enable informed climate decision-making that includes Indigenous communities in Canada. This partnership resulted in a user-friendly app that facilitates the involvement of the Mi'kmaq communities' in energy planning.<sup>10</sup> In Brazil, IBM collaborated with the University of São Paulo and Indigenous communities to develop an AI tool to preserve and expand endangered Indigenous languages.<sup>11</sup> In Australia, IBM released its Innovate Reconciliation Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This plan has resulted in the use of Blockchain to track and secure Aboriginal artworks and mentoring for Indigenous start-up businesses.<sup>12</sup> IBM also has a Native American and Indigenous Executive Council, to increase representation at IBM.<sup>13</sup>

APPL

Photo Courtesy of IBM.com

As of 3/31/24, these securities represented the following percentages of the Nia Global Solutions portfolio: Apple (1.98%); and IBM (4.35%).





# Advancing landback movements

In addition to building thoughtful portfolios, Nia is proud to make annual donations to Indigenous groups, and those advancing landback movements in support of Indigenous rights.

## 2023-2024 Grants included:

- [Earthrights International](#)
- [California Heritage Indigenous Research Project \(CHIRP\)](#)
- [International Documentary Association - Stolen Sister's Project](#)
- [Digital Bridge 4 Nepal](#)
- [Rukmini Foundation](#)
- [Digdeep](#)
- [Muscogee Creek Indian Freedmen Band Association](#)
- [Rainforest Action Network \(RAN\)](#)
- [Pachamama Alliance](#)
- [Sogorea Te' Land Trust](#)
- [American Indian College Fund](#)



Photo by Chris Putnam



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The companies identified in this piece (Investing in Indigenous Communities Impact Report) were selected based upon the following criteria: (i) the companies met all factors specified as part of the "Nia Solutions Themes," (ii) the companies are held by the Nia Global Solutions portfolio as of **3/31/2024**, and (iii) in our opinion, the companies exhibit exemplary "community outreach" programs beyond the scope of their normal business activities to support Indigenous Peoples, and (iv) Each of these companies explicitly mention indigenous/native communities in their annual reports. In the interest of further ensuring a fair and balanced portrayal, Nia included the three top performers and bottom three performers that matched the selection criteria from **1/1/24 through 3/31/24**. The specific securities identified and described therein do not represent all securities purchased, sold, or recommended for the Nia Global Solutions portfolio. We do not suggest that investments in the securities identified and discussed were or will be profitable. The incorporation of environmental, social, and governance ("ESG") considerations into the investment process may cause the investment adviser to make different investments than other funds that have similar investment portfolios and/or investment styles. Under certain economic conditions this could cause the investment adviser's performance for any of its portfolios, including the Portfolio, to be better or worse than similar portfolios that do not incorporate such considerations into their investment strategies or processes. In applying ESG criteria to its investment decisions, the investment adviser may forgo higher yielding investments that it would invest in absent the application of ESG investing criteria.



## Sources

1. United Nations, [The effects of climate change on indigenous peoples](#)
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3. [Apple launches major new Racial Equity and Justice Initiative projects to challenge systemic racism, advance racial equity nationwide](#)
4. [Apple announces contributions to the Sundance Institute Indigenous Program and the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian](#)
5. AMN Healthcare, [Giving Back in Guatemala](#)
6. [AMN Mission to Guatemala: Building a Hospital in One Afternoon](#)
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12. [IBM Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan March 2021 – March 2023](#)
13. [Be your authentic self. Everyone else is taken.](#)
14. [Amalgamated Bank Instagram Post](#) (2019, June 19)
15. [Reforming our cultural narrative & honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day](#)