

# The Office of First Nation Education Newsletter

May 2019

## UNBs Annual Powwow

Students and teachers from across the province attended the annual Powwow held at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. This experience led to further learning about Wabanaki traditions in schools across New Brunswick.



## Wolastoqey Dancer and Cultural Teacher

A Wolastoqey dancer and cultural teacher visited schools to share cultural knowledge. He taught students the importance and significance of dance, drumming and powwows. Also, he had met with several teachers to address questions about effective teaching approaches.



## 13 Moons Ceremony

Elders Imelda and David Perley will be leading a 13 Moons Ceremony at the Saint John Marina on May 19. Educators and community leaders will attend to learn about Wolastoqey culture and traditions.

All staff at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and districts across New Brunswick would like to wish Elders David and Imelda Perley a healthy, peaceful and happy retirement! We would also like to thank them for their dedication to Wabanaki learning across NB. They have provided invaluable support, wisdom and leadership to the Office of First Nation Education and all schools across the province. Wela'lin! Woliwon!



## Blanket Exercise and Cultural Workshop

Teachers participated in a blanket exercise that was led by Wolastoqiyik, Mi'kmaq, and Peskotomuhkati Elders and knowledge keepers on April 13. Prior to the blanket exercise, teachers attended a 'We are all Treaty People' workshop where they explored several ideas for teaching treaty education at all grade levels and across subject areas.

Education personnel, guidance counsellors and schools have taken part in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. More personnel will participate in June and Administrators will participate in August; facilitators will be trained over the summer months as well.



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## Elders Teachings at School

Three Elders shared their knowledge in classrooms across the province. They visited numerous schools,



multiple times at various grade levels. Some of the topics discussed were: the four sacred medicines, chanting, dancing, circle teachings, residential school experiences, medicine wheel teachings, smudging, traditional medicines,

Wabanaki Confederacy, colonialism, sweat lodge ceremony, honor song, sacred items and the making of medicine pouches and rattles. Students created medicine pouches and were taught about the four sacred medicines (cedar, sage, sweetgrass and tobacco) at the school's greenhouse. Students also had the opportunity to dance and to eat traditional food such as moose meat and lusginign.



## Elder Visit at Several Schools

An Elder visited several schools and shared knowledge of Mi'kmaq culture. Students and teachers had the opportunity to learn about ceremony, the drum, dance, and song. Teachers also had the opportunity to learn how to teach about Wabanaki history respectfully and effectively. Also, an Elder taught a high school



Indigenous Studies course over an 8-week period with school support. Students experienced drumming, singing and shared stories.

The community of learners also attended a Powwow. The students will take part in a movement to raise the Mi'kmaq flag at their school and will be presenting at school assemblies and the United First Nation Youth Summit.

## Mi'kmaq Cultural Director & The Flag Ceremony

A local university, middle school and Elder partnered to offer enrichment for a group of students who are interested in learning about First Nation Culture. A

Students and teachers learned about quilling, beading, drumming, singing, smudging, sacred medicines, and other hands-on activities.



Flag Ceremonies were held at some schools where Elders attended to provide wisdom and respect. Staff and students learned the history of the Mi'kmaq flag and the significance of the flag song and ceremony. Stories were shared and children had asked the Elders questions about hunting, fishing, survival and the history of First Nations in Wabanaki Territory.

## Grants for Sustainable First Nation Education Projects

Several schools received grants to support initiatives addressing the NB Global Competencies through the exploration of First Nation subjects. Here are a few examples of the initiatives:

- An outdoor sharing space designed through collaboration with Elders
- Project-based learning in collaboration with community on researching the pre-Confederation residential school in Sussex
- The development of K-2 learning/play centres that focus on weaving, beading, and wampum to target outcomes ranging from culture to pattern/shape recognition and replication in mathematics



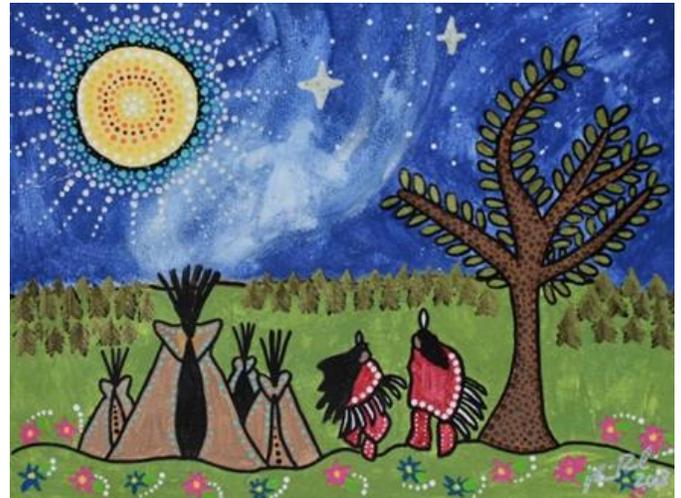
Schools can apply for financial support for ongoing, sustainable, cross-curricular, experiential projects to incorporate First Nation Education. All schools are encouraged to submit applications for grants and answer the following questions:

- What are you already doing in your classroom regarding First Nation Education?
- What are your 'next steps' (i.e. – how will you use this funding?)
- What is your plan for 'sustainability' (i.e. – how will you continue to provide this learning experience to your students next year?)
- What curricular outcomes are you reaching with this plan?

## Using Land Based Education

Several schools have outdoor classrooms where the environment is studied through experiential, Indigenous-based knowledge and inquiry.

- Some schools had visited the Medicine Trail Walk at Fort Folly First Nation. As the weather improves, more schools will take students to learn about the Mi'kmaq culture by engaging in the Medicine Trail Walk
- The Kindergarten Play program has children playing outside and learning from the environment
- A school who is basing their entire programming on Land-Based education is also vying for UNESCO status and will be working closely with a local First Nation community



## National Indigenous History Month

National Indigenous Peoples Day is June 21st. Various schools will be embedding treaty education, education for reconciliation and cultural teachings. At the Moncton City Hall, the Flag Raising Ceremony will be on June 21<sup>st</sup> and there is a Powwow in Amherst on the same day.

## The Indigenous Spotlight Project

A new project designed to assist teachers and students as they research and report on an Indigenous person who the student deems heroic entitled The Indigenous Spotlight Project. If interested please contact Patricia Miller or Elizabeth Price via NBED email.

## Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women National Awareness Day

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) National Awareness day was on May 5<sup>th</sup>. A march was held on May 13<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness of this national crisis. Staff, students, families and surrounding communities had participated in the march and wore red clothing.



A mother had shared her story of her missing daughter and the impact the loss had on the entire community.

## Making Our Own Drums

Traditional drums were created with the Cultural Coordinator. Nearly 300 students learned about the historical significance of drum making. The drums are being used in an integrated way in music, art, English Language Arts (ELA), social studies and Personal



Development and Career Planning (PDCP).

Elementary school teachers attended a drum making workshop where they

learned the teachings of the drum and created their own for use in classroom practice.

## Three-day National Indigenous Education Gathering

The Department's Office of First Nation Education, in partnership with the Mi'kmaq Wolastoqey Centre at the University of New Brunswick and with governmental and Indigenous partners throughout the Maritimes and Canada will be hosting a three-day National Indigenous Education and Reconciliation Network Gathering in Fredericton. This networking meeting of the committee, which takes place at the end of May, will provide an opportunity for committee members to share current activities related to Indigenous education from coast to coast to coast and to engage in interagency and interregional strategic planning.

## Regional Heritage Fairs

Students conducted research on several Indigenous topics at school and regional heritage fairs. Examples of subjects explored were: First Nation World War I and II soldiers of NB,

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the Donald Marshall story, the Louis Riel Trial revisited, the Mi'kmaq, Peskotomukhati and Wolastoqiyik presence on and around the Fundy Isles; and the Wolastoqey encampment of Ouigoudi at the mouth of the Wolastoq.



## Educational Resources Hub

Searching for educational resources? Search on the Educational Hub for First Nation content by grade level and subject area.

Do you have a resource you would like to share?

If so, please contact: [tyrone.baker-perley@gnb.ca](mailto:tyrone.baker-perley@gnb.ca)



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## Day of Reconciliation

The Early Childhood team partnered with the First Nation Education team and planned a Day of Reconciliation through learning about First Nation history, culture, storytelling, dance, and song. The title of the learning day was *Msi't Ni'kmaq, All My Relations: A Day of Reconciliation*. Early childhood educators experienced the Blanket Exercise and were taught by local Mi'kmaq Elders and Knowledge Keepers. The early childhood educators were led by Mi'kmaq drum groups into music and movement activities.



## 'Education for Reconciliation' Professional Learning Day

Grade 9 social studies teachers gathered for a day of learning and collaboration with English As an Additional Language (ASL), French Immersion Educational Support Teachers (FI EST) and the First Nation Subject Coordinator shared the new curriculum being used. Teams of teachers planned how to incorporate Reconciliation across curricular areas and will come together again early in the Fall.



Also, teachers attended a 3-day professional learning opportunity to look at the urban experience of First

A First Nation themed professional learning day was held in April. Staff were taught culturally appropriate language, challenges facing Indigenous communities, and resource availability. The professional learning session ended with a cultural activity.

## Promising Practices in Indigenous Education

A learning specialist from the Office of First Nation Education will be attending a weeklong gathering at a

Mi'kmaq community in Nova Scotia to share promising practices in Indigenous Education.

## Indigenous Music Content

The development of music lessons containing Indigenous content continues. The developer, nationally award winning former Fredericton High School music teacher Don Bossé, is partnering with Indigenous musicians to develop the lessons, and to co-create original songs that students will be able to learn and sing. The resource that is nearing completion is for the high school level. Lessons for other levels of schooling will be developed within the upcoming year.



## Cultural Immersion Camps

The Office of First Nation education will be hosting two "cultural immersion camps" for teachers. These camps will include talking circles, music, drumming, dancing. Teachers will also learn greetings in Mi'kmaq or Wolastoqey Latuwewakon, as well as Gluskap stories, basket making, and will hear stories from Elders. Other topics to be covered will include the Peace and Friendship Treaties, the legacy of Indian Residential Schools and Indian Day Schools, and the invitation to participate in various other cultural activities. The cultural immersion camp in Wolastoqey territory will take place in late July and the cultural immersion camp in Mi'kmaq territory will take place in mid August. Space for these camps will be limited and done on a first-come basis. Please contact Bill Patrick at the Office of First Nation Education. [bill.patrick@gnb.ca](mailto:bill.patrick@gnb.ca)



## Visiting Elsipogtog and Fort Folly First Nation

The First Nation Education Coalition will be learning and working with Elders and Culture Keepers with experiential opportunities in two First Nation communities. One teacher from every school in the district serves as a First Nation Education Champion. Teachers will build cultural competence so that they can support their staffs and incorporate First Nation education into their schools.



## United Nations Youth Summit



A high school will be hosting an United First Nations Youth Summit in May. Youth delegates have been invited from communities around the province to work together on Indigenous topics facing youth today. Several Elders, Culture Keepers, Indigenous Facilitators and Dancers

will be coming together to celebrate and learn from one another.

## RED (Respect, Equity and Diversity)

An assembly was held at a high school to show the video from the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTRC) website, the video was played for teachers and students with the promotion of the Katimavik petition to have a flag flown at city hall. Cultural Keepers and Elders shared teachings to students in small and large groups as part of the 'RED' week.



## At Eqpahak Island by Oposenta (Walter Paul)

*At Eqpahak Island* story was written by Walter Paul, Wolastoqey Elder, teacher and storyteller. The story is told by Elders explaining to young children all the natural things that happen at Eqpahak island. The book is printed with Wolastoqey on one side and English on the other. The book tells a nature story set on Eqpahak Island. Copies have been distributed to schools, however the Office of First Nation Education also has a limited number of additional copies.



## Book: *Go Show the World* by Wab Kinew

Check out the new children's book about Indigenous heroes, entitled *Go Show the World!*

## Cultural Exchange

School teachers will be collaborating with the Stonehammer UNESCO Global Geopark. The teachers and Stonehammer organized a cultural exchange experience that will take place at the end of May.

