

The Office of First Nation Education Newsletter

June 2021



KWE'! QEY! HELLO!

ELDER WISDOM

“It is precisely because education was the primary tool of oppression of Aboriginal People, and the miseducation of all Canadians, we have concluded that education holds the key to reconciliation.”

- *Justice Murray Sinclair
Chair, Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission*

We hope that this newsletter finds you well. This has been a year filled with very difficult challenges, and now we hear the horrific story of the 215 Indigenous children whose bodies were found in unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. Despite the difficult challenges and the great sadness felt by so many, our critical work continues. Please take a minute to read through this newsletter to find the latest updates of what the office has been up to, and about some exciting things to come.

- Office of First Nation
Education



UPCOMING EVENTS

Cultural Awareness Camp for educators.

July 26 – July 30, 2021

Online, 9 am to 1:15 pm daily
(no charge to attend)

Please join us for this fascinating experience led by Wabanaki Elders. Topics covered will include ceremonies, songs, stories, Wabanaki history, Wabanaki culture, Wabanaki languages, the experience of Wabanaki students, Peace and Friendship Treaties, sacred spaces, and incorporating Wabanaki content and philosophies in schools. For further information, or to register for the camp, please contact Bill Patrick, bill.patrick@gnb.ca



Free summer welding camps for youth grades 6 – 12!

**Learn the basics of welding or
improve the skills you already
have!**

Natoaganeg, July 19-23rd (in
community welding education
lab/centre)

Esgenoopetitj, July 26-30th, at the
school

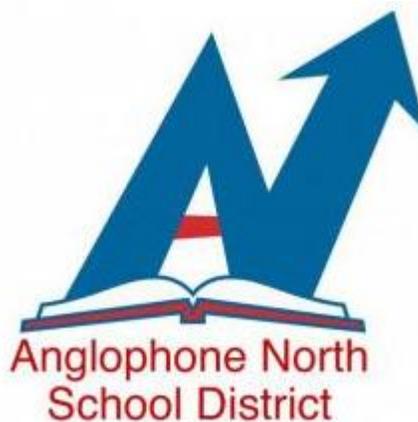
Students grades 6 through 12

For more information please contact
David Gray, david.gray@gnb.ca



COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING ON FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES

The Office of First Nation Education is excited to announce, in partnership with Anglophone School District North (ICE Centre, Miramichi Valley High School, Bonar Law), Future Wabanaki, NBCC, Natoaganeg First Nation, Elsipogtog First Nation and Esgenoopetitj First Nation, the launch of a Community Learning Model. This model will be piloted in September 2021, co-led by Educators and First Nation Community Builders, on First Nation communities and complemented with subject matter experts from various areas of industry. In this model, students will be able to explore hands-on experiential learning while earning academic credit toward graduation.



LEARNING FROM THE LAND SERIES & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Students are winding up their virtual courses in **110 Entrepreneurship with an Indigenous Perspective** (a dual-credit course with the University of New Brunswick) and **AESc120/SCIE1991 Eco-Cultural Approaches to Environmental Science** (a dual credit course with Mount Allison University.) Students developed and presented amazing pitches at “Sustainapalooza’s” Dragon-Den event and the provincial Envirothon competition. Seven students medaled in Forestry, Aquatics, Soils and Wildlife events!

Students are active in their home watersheds working on innovative visions for more sustainable communities.



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IN COMMUNITIES

Students completed an experiential learning house build on Esgenooetitj in January.

During semester two, the group became involved in assembling a community skating rink in Esgenooetitj, which proved to be extremely popular in the community. Students are now focusing on building a change house for next winter, and preparing an entry to UNB's "What's up Doc?" film festival to tell their story.

Many thanks to Natoaganeg, which has been hosting an experiential learning project in partnership with OFNE & ASD-N's Innovation Collaboration and Excellence (ICE) Centre offering an advanced metals fabrication and career exploration afternoon course. This will also continue in Sept, 2021.



WORLD OF WISDOM

We have updated the World of Wisdom website. New artwork by Brandon Mitchell has been added as well as projects that the Office of First Nation Education is involved in. Please visit and take part in the World of Wisdom. (<https://world-of-wisdom.ca>). The Office of First Nation Education wants to reiterate that ***all students and all schools have access to the World of Wisdom website.*** This includes access to support in a range of areas: Career Guidance, Certified Wellness Instructor, Beyond Words Indigenous literacy resources and support (classrooms connecting virtually to co-learn and co-teach through Indigenous literacy), Knowledge Keepers, Language Keepers, and there is technical support available through the site as well. Please see the following one-page descriptions for each service and the link to a professional learning session on how to navigate the site...





world-of-wisdom.ca

Office of First Nation Education

Education and Early Childhood Development

WORLD OF WISDOM

Educators in New Brunswick value community capacity and understand it has an important role in student success. Communities have vast amounts of knowledge and contribute to learning in many ways.

Beyond Words

Knowledge Keepers

Tutoring

Language Support

Career Counselling

Wellness

Overview

The Office of First Nation Education's "World of Wisdom" website offers many extremely useful resources in various areas for both educators and students – all available at no cost. These resources include: free tutoring for students (grades 6-12), access to Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Language Keepers, Indigenous literacy materials, Career Guidance, and access to a Certified Wellness Specialist who is available to work with both students and teachers. The free tutoring (grades 6-12) is available in math, literacy, and science. The website also provides access to coaches for teachers in literacy, and science. Visit the site today! <https://world-of-wisdom.ca/>

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The mission of the Beyond Words: Sharing Indigenous cultures through literacy website is to provide an avenue for communities and schools to connect virtually through Indigenous literature and create opportunities to share experiences. We are hopeful that classrooms will incorporate Elders and Indigenous partners to lead and support discussions.

Features:

- summaries and classroom activities for books for grades K-12
- a resource section for educators
- access to support background knowledge on topics
- suggested supplementary readings
- extended learning suggestions
- author information
- ideas for classroom implementation such as book studies, book clubs, and lesson plans
- paired classroom interactivity featuring synchronous and asynchronous activities



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Knowledge Keepers

Knowledge Keepers are respected and honoured members of Indigenous communities around the world. They hold the teachings, traditional practices, and sacred stories of many generations.

Features:

- connect virtually to support classroom practice
- list of topics is provided under the Knowledge Keeper's profile
- scheduled booking times to connect
- one hour sessions can be booked
- multiple bookings can be made to support classroom practices
- requires speakers and microphone (teacher laptop)
- for a classroom setting, external speakers may be required



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Tutoring

All of us need a little extra help from time to time. The tutoring section is an on-demand live virtual tutoring session that can be booked through the classroom teacher or administration at the student's school.

Features:

- live tutor connects with student virtually in private session
- booked by teacher who contacts home first and issues login
- 2-way whiteboard video streamed to student
- Currently Grade 9 Math, with additional subjects added soon
- access is no charge
- additional resources (videos, examples) available through the site
- additional material correlated to NB curriculum



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Language Support

Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey Language Keepers are available virtually to support or lead classroom practice on this site.

Features:

- connect virtually to support classroom practice
- list of topics is provided under the Knowledge Keeper's profile
- scheduled booking times to connect
- one hour sessions can be booked
- multiple bookings can be made to support classroom practices
- requires speakers and microphone (teacher laptop)
- for a classroom setting, external speakers may be required



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Counselling

First Nation Career counselling is available for Indigenous youth through the website. School guidance counsellors can also use the service when seeking help for Indigenous youth at their schools.

Features:

- form to access a career counsellor
- counsellor will return email to confirm a date and time
- a private login will be granted to connect
- connection can be done virtually or via phone



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Students will be introduced to techniques such as mediation, mindfulness, and/or Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT) as a way to reduce stress and anxiety. These methods have been proven to calm an overstimulated nervous system. Students will experience improved sleeping patterns, reduced test anxiety, and make better choices by increasing self-worth, etc.

Features:

- available for students, teachers and class settings
- Emotional Freedom Technique (tapping) method
- Anxiety and stress management
- Returning to Calm, calming the mind and body
- Meditation practices
- Critical thinking skills



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Department of Education and
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Video on how to use the World of Wisdom site:

https://world-of-wisdom.ca/videos/WoW_PL/World_of_Wisdom_PL_March2020.html