



June 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

This is the first newsletter since the Covid-19 pandemic has begun, and like yours, our lives and work have been greatly impacted.

Students and teachers have had to adjust to a new reality of learning and teaching from home and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Education has had to adapt quickly to respond to these challenges.

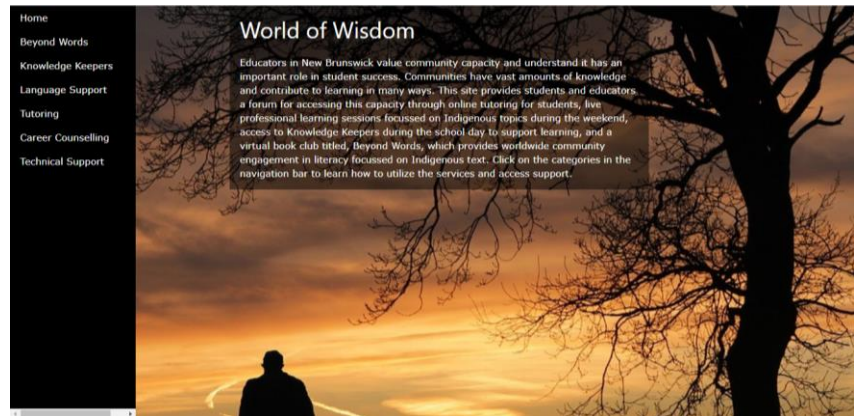
We hope that this newsletter finds you well.



Office of First Nation
Education

Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development

WORLD OF WISDOM VIRTUAL PLATFORM



The Office of First Nation Education's newly launched World of Wisdom platform has been a welcome addition for supporting student learning during the ongoing pandemic.

Beyond Words: Sharing Indigenous Cultures and Books

Beyond Words: Sharing Indigenous Cultures and Books is the most recent section of the World of Wisdom platform to begin its launch. The purpose of the site is to provide an avenue for communities and schools to connect virtually through study of Indigenous literature and to create opportunities to share culture.

It is our hope that educators will invite Elders, Knowledge Keepers, First Nation writers and other Indigenous people to lead and support discussions.

Beyond Words includes book summaries, classroom activities for books, resources for educators, supporting documents to expand background knowledge, and ideas for classroom implementation.

Knowledge Keepers

The Knowledge Keepers section of World of Wisdom enables classes to connect with Wabanaki Knowledge Keepers for short (1/2-1 hour), small group discussions through the online platform. The current line-up of discussions is intended to help students through the challenging circumstances they are now faced with. Sessions began in late April and are currently scheduled through to the middle of June. Further sessions will be scheduled.

At present, two First Nation Elders are hosting sessions weekly, one Wolastoqey and the other Mi'kmaq. Most scheduled sessions are already full and remaining seats are booking up fast.

Examples of Mi'kmaq sessions with George Paul:

Mi'kmaq symbols, markings, and totems, Face painting, funerals, weddings, and birth ceremonies, The Medicine Wheel Creation Story, Mi'kmaq chants and songs, Mi'kmaq Legends of our Environment: The Bear and the Seven Hunters, Sweat Lodge Teachings, Medicines, physical and spiritual.

Examples of Wolastoqey sessions with Richard Paul:

Dreams and Spirit guides, Grandfather/ Grandmother Teachings, Medicines, Introduction to the Medicine Wheel, Sweat Lodge Teachings, Who we are and Ceremonies

Language Keepers

The Language Keepers section of the World of Wisdom Platform has also launched with a series of sessions being held throughout the summer. Students can enroll in either Wolastoqey sessions with Grand Chief and language educator, Ron Tremblay, or in Mi'kmaq sessions with linguist Gordon Francis.

Wolastoqey sessions are being held on the following:

Neqtakutomucik, etoli-kospahlosi naka kespahlosultihtit (Family Members, cleaning myself - Hygiene)

Samaqanol - Ktahkomiq (Waterways - Earth)

Weyossisok (Animals)

Mi'kmaq sessions include:

Wi'sisk, Nme'jk aqq Sisipk Sikniktewa'kik (Animals, Fish and Birds in New Brunswick)

Tepkunasetk aqq Na'kwekl Akantie'wutiktuk (Months and Days of the Week)

Mi'kma'ki (Seven Districts in Mi'kmaw Territory/Mi'kmaw Placenames in New Brunswick)

Tutoring

Live tutoring has been expanded and is now available for several grade 10 mathematics courses in addition to grade 9 Math. The site also offers access to a library of resources to support subject knowledge.



The screenshot shows a web page titled "Supporting Growth - Tutoring Program". On the left is a dark sidebar with a list of navigation links: Home, Beyond Words, Knowledge Keepers, Language Support, Tutoring, Career Counselling, and Technical Support. The main content area has a dark background with a tree silhouette. It contains a welcome message, a link to resources, and a form for asking math questions. The form fields are: Name (text input), Email address (text input), Section (dropdown menu with "Grade 9 Math" selected), and Question (text area). A "Send" button is at the bottom of the form.

Career Counselling

Career Counselling remains available for students to book directly or for guidance counsellors to book a session directly on behalf of students within their schools. A First Nation career counsellor is available to support individuals or groups of students.

LEARNING AT HOME



Learning at Home

Grades K-12

Teachers from across New Brunswick have prepared these materials with your needs in mind. They have identified important knowledge and skills from our school curriculum for students to learn and practice. These pages contain lots of useful information and interesting activities for learners of all ages and grades.

We invite you to explore and enjoy the learning adventure that awaits you!



The Office of First Nation Education has been working to incorporate First Nation perspectives, teachings, culture and ways of learning into a new series of resources for use at home. These resources were developed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and by the four Anglophone school districts.

Each of these learning packages contains resources for every grade level from K-12 and covers a variety of content areas.

First Nation content included opportunities for learning Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqey vocabulary, Elders stories, and other teachings such as an activity (pictured below) focusing on the Seven Sacred Teachings.

Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies

This collection of activities is intended for students ages 10 to 14.

Feeling connected is a basic human need that is even more important in challenging times like these. The activities in this package are aimed at supporting you to make connections to yourself, to others and to nature. You are encouraged to do activities in a language you are learning (e.g. French or English), or in the language of your choice.

Introduction

This activity package will help you to explore your connectedness to the world around you and to yourself. First Nations have known about the interconnectedness and interrelatedness of all things for thousands of years. The Seven Sacred Teachings are guiding principles that teach us how we can live in peace and harmony with all things.

Each of these teachings are interconnected and dependent on each other. For example, you can't have wisdom without having honesty, and you can't have respect without also having love. Following these teachings will help you to live your life in balance.

Respect
Respect all the big things by being in harmony with nature and with those around you. Show what you love and treat others as you would like to be treated.

Courage
Courage is being brave no matter what happens in your life. Listen to your heart and have the courage to do what is right even if it's difficult.

Love
Share your love to yourself, your family, the world and your community through your words and your actions. Do have love to be at peace with yourself and with others.

Wisdom
Wisdom is earned through experience and learning. It is wise to know the difference between right and wrong and to live accordingly.

Truth
Seek the truth in everything you do. Living the truth is living the Seven Sacred Teachings.

Honesty
Avoid arrogance, or thinking you are better than others. Think of others before you think of yourself and treat others well.

Which of the Seven Sacred Teachings is most important to you? Why?

NB Education Supplement - Edition 1
2 May 2020 Page 16

The Stone Medicine People

Told By **Opotahsomuwehs** Illustrations by **Natalie Sappier**

In the world before this one, all of Creation lived within the Circle of Harmony. In this Circle, all of Creation practiced sharing, caring and respecting each other.

The human family broke the Circle of Harmony by abusing their sacred gifts of life.

They stopped sharing Mother Earth's abundance of food, medicine and all her resources; they forgot to honor Creator's sacred gifts of fire, air, water and our Earth Mother.

What do you think will happen next?

WELLNESS AT HOME

The Office of First Nation Education has been pleased to host a series of Wellness sessions for EECD staff, teachers, members of Wabanaki communities and First Nation community school staff. A few of the topics have been:

Wellness with Elder Donna Augustine, Thunderbird Turtle Woman

Worry and Anxiety in Relation to the Global Pandemic with Dr. Judith Margison

Returning to Calm with Linda Morehouse

Wellness with Cormac Russell

Apigsitoean: An Indigenous Model of Forgiveness with Dr. Andrea Colfer

Wolankeyasultine (let's take care of each other) with David and Imelda Perley

Mindfulness Meditation with Dr. Tom Lehnert

Participation levels have been very high, and we are pleased to say that feedback from teachers and school administrators has been very positive. Sessions have been recorded and will be made available to those who were unable to attend. Further sessions will be held weekly until the end of June with a possibility of additional sessions later in the summer and into the fall.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AT HOME

A series of professional learning sessions are being developed for the summer, including during the upcoming 'summer learning' week in August. The Office of First Nation Education will host sessions on First Nation Music Resource, Teaching Indigenous Studies at a distance and other topics.

SORA: STUDENT LIBRARY COLLECTION AND ACCESS EXPANDED

The New Brunswick Student Digital Library has recently been expanded with an additional 4,000 new titles having been added over the past several months. This includes nearly 1,000 books written by Indigenous authors or with an Indigenous theme. We would like to see more Wabanaki content available on this library, but we believe the additional titles are very welcome additions. Access to the library has been expanded to First Nation community schools.

PESKOTOMUHKATI RESOURCES

A series of Peskotomuhkati (Passamaquoddy) resources have been developed and will soon be added onto the EECD One Site and the Office of First Nation Education resource page. These modules focus on the struggle of this nation for recognition in Canada, access to traditional lands and resources, cross-border issues and the Jay Treaty. We expect that these will be made available on the One site in the coming weeks in anticipation of the September return to school.

LEADERSHIP FROM AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE 120

This course is designed to develop leadership skills in students and to foster an understanding of traditional Indigenous leadership knowledge and values, community protocols, ceremonies, responsibilities and the role of Elders in traditional and contemporary Indigenous leadership and governance. The course is expected to be piloted in select schools beginning in September 2020.

INDIGENOUS MUSIC RESOURCE

The Office of First Nation Education will launch an Indigenous Music Resource for grades 9-12 educators to use in classroom practice directly after the professional learning session being offered this summer. This resource was co-developed with Indigenous musicians across territories and will be available on the ONE site.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP INDIGENOUS FOCUS: DUAL CREDIT COURSE

Entrepreneurship is being updated and will embed an Indigenous perspective within entrepreneurship, this Dual Credit course with the University of New Brunswick is being developed for High School and Post- Secondary students which will provide 3 credit hours toward a Business Administration Degree. Launch for this course is expected in January 2021.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUMMIT

Plans are underway to bring industry, community, education and organizations together to discuss entrepreneurship opportunities for New Brunswick with a focus on Wabanaki peoples. More to come as plans are secured. Expected summit date is October 2021.

VIRTUAL CULTURAL CAMPS

Plans are underway to offer Wabanaki cultural camps virtually this summer. This is our third summer hosting cultural immersion camps with the leadership of Elder David Perley and many other community knowledge keepers.

SUMMER CAMPS

Welding summer camps will once again be hosted in Natoaganeg and Esgenoopetij First Nation for students.

HIGH SCHOOL WELDING- DUAL CREDIT

In partnership with Natoaganeg, Esgenoopetij, NBCC, ASD-N and the Office of First Nation Education, welding will be offered for High School students on Natoaganeg First Nation. The Office of First Nation Education in partnership with CWBF and Natoaganeg was able to build a state-of-the-art welding station on the community a couple years ago and have been using this facility for summer learning. This initiative will see students attending during regular school hours.

ADVSCIENCE/SCIE1991- DUAL CREDIT

The Office of First Nation Education and Mt Allison University worked with Wabanaki communities to extend the Advanced Science High School course to embed Indigenous perspectives. This course sees High School students learning alongside post-secondary students while obtaining 3 credit hours toward a Science degree at Mt A. This course was able to continue during the pandemic.

VIRTUAL CO-OP

Connecting First Nation students to industry through virtual co-op opportunities was able to continue during COVID. A shout out to Alicia Ward of Natoaganeg First Nation who is graduating this year and is doing a co-op with Paryse Suddith, an Indigenous lawyer from Moncton. Alicia has dreams of being a lawyer and this program will certainly help her to learn more about her passions.

OFFICE OF FIRST NATION EDUCATION SHAREPOINT PAGE

The Office of First Nation Education maintains a SharePoint page on the EECD One Site (available inside school and district networks). The page has multiple sections including a page dedicated to professional learning opportunities for school-based educators and other school personnel as well as multiple pages with educational resources and links to curriculum documents.

To access the page from inside a school network, you can use this link:

https://collabe.nbed.nb.ca/sites/OFNEPL/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx

DISTRICT INITIATIVES AND NEWS

For district First Nation initiatives and news, please visit the following links:

ASD-North <http://asd-n.nbed.nb.ca/fne>

ASD-West <https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/Pages/default.aspx>

ASD- East <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-E/news/default.aspx>

* ASD-East is working on a new First Nation education page

ASD- South <https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/Pages/welcome.aspx>

THANKS FOR READING! LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION.



Office of First Nation
Education

Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development