



Native Canadian Centre of Toronto Visiting Schools Program

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What is the Visiting Schools Program?

The Visiting Schools Program (VSP) is an interactive program that was implemented to help promote and foster a greater understanding of the distinct cultures of Native Peoples in North America. Through the VSP attendees experience the teachings and traditions of Indigenous Nations: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people. The program also brings Native people out of the history books and into a contemporary setting while moving away from the stereotypes and misconceptions.

Cultural and academic educators present information relating to Native culture, history and current concerns today along with a display of items to demonstrate some of the contributions Native Peoples have made throughout history. The presentations that are woven into the existing Ontario Ministry of Education curriculum of the grade of students to ensure the areas of student needs are met. The content of our presentations are structured to suit varying age groups and levels of understanding. We also offer a hands-on workshops and all presentations are interactive learning for all ages.

How long does a Presentation last?

Presentations are approximately an hour and a half in length and can be adjusted to fit your school/organization schedule.

Where do these Presentations take place?

Three options are available:

1. The **Native Canadian Centre of Toronto** located at 16 Spadina Road (North of Bloor Street on West side of Spadina Road) and we can host your group of up to 150 people;
2. We can present to your group at **your location**;
3. We can arrange to present to your group at the **Dodem Kanonhsa'** which is a cultural facility housed at 55 St. Clair Avenue East and has capacity for up to 60 people. The Dodem is a lodge that was established by utilizing the principles of the 3 prominent Nations present in Ontario: the Ojibway, Cree and Mohawk.

What is the cost of a Presentation?

The program educators represent and share with diversity of the Native Peoples of America. It is customary that drummers, dancers and speakers receive honorariums in appreciation of their time, skills and knowledge. **Presentation fees are negotiated at the time of the booking:** School Boards/Educational Institutions: small classes and large groups and other organizations/agencies. Mileage costs will apply for presentations outside the GTA. Payable to the **Native Canadian Centre/VSP**



Presentation Booking Form

Please complete pages 3, 4 and 5 and fax to Visiting Schools Program 416 964-2111 to enable processing of your request. Confirmation will be faxed to you.

Please indicate your preferred location for the presentation: **CANCELLATION POLICY 24 HOURS NOTICE.**

- The Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- Your School/Organization
- Dodem Kanonhsa'

Name of School/Organization:

If your preference is your facility, please provide the address and main intersection (please attaches directions or map if available)

School/Organization Information

Address:	City:
Postal Code:	Main intersection:

Contact Information

Contact Person and Title:	Contact Number: Email:
Size & Age of Group:	Fax Number:

Preferred Dates

Identify three dates in the order of preference. We will accommodate your first choice where possible.

DATE:	START TIME:	FINISH TIME:
1.		
2.		
3.		

Please indicate your choice of presentation content:

Current Colonial Impacts, Misconceptions and Contributions

- Impacts of colonialism, historically and current issues today
- Misconceptions/stereotypes: information regarding how Indigenous communities have changed over the years and examples of stereotypes that continue to this day.
- Contributions from Indigenous Peoples that are still used today, in contemporary society, which includes photos and discussion.
- Distinctions between Indigenous Nations: includes information on differences and similarities among Native Peoples in the Americas.
- Indigenous representation found in various professions; Artists, Musicians, Media and Film Productions, Lawyers, Physicians and Military.

History of Aboriginal Peoples and our communities

- Understanding the 3 distinct groups of Aboriginal peoples acknowledged by the Constitution Act 1982. Reserve and residential schools: will include information on the history of residential schools and the impacts on today's generation.
- Impacts of the Indian Act, Bill C-31, British Act of North America and the Royal Proclamation Act.
- Treaties: will include information and discussion about various treaties, comprehensive land claims and understanding Aboriginal Sovereignty.
- History of Toronto "Toronto Purchase Specific Claim", Mississaugas of New Credit, Toronto Islands, the Nations that resided in this area and Southern Ontario.
- Clan system: will include a description of a clan system and the roles of clan members, community responsibility and the diversity between the Nations. E.g. Food, song and ceremonies.

Water: A Life Resource, Earth: Our Foods and Natural Resources

- Discussion included the connection that Indigenous Peoples have with the natural resources such as water (the Great Lakes largest fresh water source in the world) and geographical land area in which they live.
- The importance and individual responsibility we all have to ensure that our water and land resources will remain.
- To learn about the importance of eating good foods and maintaining wellness. Traditional foods, food cycles and eating with the changes of the seasons will be discussed. E.g. 3 Sister's Soup, Strawberries, Sunflower, wild rice
- Discussion of how environmental changes, land development, mining of natural resources and polluting the water ways affects traditional hunting, gathering areas directly affect the health and wellness of Indigenous Peoples and their Communities. E.g. Innu, Lubricon Cree, Mik'Maq, Algonquin

Singing and Dancing: The Importance of Culture

- This educational presentation will cover the different styles of dance that men, women and children participate in; there will be discussion about the drum and the songs that are heard during the presentation.
- Time will also be spent on the importance of practicing culture, language preservation and the western impacts through urbanization and globalization of Indigenous Peoples.

Cultural Presentation with the NCCT Community Big Drum

- This presentation will include the Big Drum, drummers and dancers. This presentation is a demonstration of song and dance to give thanksgiving and celebration of life.
- The format of this presentation will begin with a Grand Entry, Honour Song and songs appropriate for the style of dance demonstrated.

-This presentation is encouraged for *large corporate functions and special celebrations*.

☐ **Migiizoons Day Care Program**

- Created to help children at an early age become aware of Aboriginal culture. Migiizoons is the ojibwe name for “eaglets”.
- Eagles are the most highly regarded of all the animal kingdom.
- This program music is used as a wonderful way to teach children hand-eye coordination through drumming and dancing.
- This gives the children ways to be creative, craft projects and assist the child in the development of vital skills required for learning.
- Various crafts are made, the children learn to follow directions, develop task persistence, and learn about process and planning.
- Storytelling is a vital component of every culture especially important to First Nations people as historically all indigenous knowledge is passed down through teachings and storytelling.

☐ **DVD, Video and Power Point Presentations**

- Topics Include:
- Indigenous Methodology –PP Presentations
- Impacts and Stages of Colonialism –PP Presentation
- Water Life Resource and Traditional Foods\
- Teaching Wheel PP Presentation

☐ **Story-telling**

- The students will also have an opportunity to listen to various stories such as: The Lunar Calendar found on the Turtle, How the Rabbit gained his courage; How the Crow turned black ect.
- This is an interactive experience so that the students can learn about the narrative and understand the oral traditions of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples.
- History and the responsibility of story-telling, narrative traditions

☐ **Traditional Games**

- Time will include information on why Indigenous People played games, discussion of the history and understanding the skill building techniques of Traditional Games.
- Students will have the opportunity to engage in various games

☐ **Teaching Wheel Workshop**

- Includes the basic understanding and instructions in creating a Teaching Wheel and how the teachings can relate to our lives each day.
- **An additional fee of \$5.00 per person/Teaching Wheel** covers the cost of materials to a maximum of 40 participants per workshop.

☐ **Seven Grandfather Teachings**

- Includes the basic understanding of the seven teachings and values of the Anishinaabe People. Some explanation of how we can relate these in our lives each day will be shared.
- Each student will have the opportunity to learn about the following values: Bravery, Humility, Love, Respect, Honesty, Wisdom and Truth.

☐ **Aboriginal Reflections: Artistic Expression**

-Includes storytelling through art expression, discussing the Aboriginal Art and media. Presented by an Aboriginal Artist upon availability.