

Traditional Knowledge Education Program

April 23-24
Edmonton, AB. Treaty 6 Territory



A TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

22 Alberta teachers joined Inside Education on an education journey to expand their ways of knowing and incorporate indigenous wisdom into their classrooms.

Inside Education was founded on the values of environmental stewardship and multiple perspectives. In this our 30th year, we brought together a group of 22 dedicated teachers to experience these values firsthand on the **2015 Traditional Knowledge Education Program**.

Traditional knowledge represents the knowledge, skills, and practices that connect a community; it is the way of knowing that shapes identity and defines our relationships with one another and the environment. Bringing elements of traditional knowledge to the classroom can be a meaningful way to connect students to their surroundings while encouraging a lifetime of environmental stewardship. It is with this that Inside Education designed and delivered a unique program - the **2015 Traditional Knowledge Education Program**.

PROGRAM

DAY 1
THE INTERSECTION
OF WESTERN
SCIENCE AND
INDIGENOUS WISDOM



DAY 2
TRADITIONAL
KNOWLEDGE IN
NATURAL RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT

**“We are all
Treaty
People”**

Bob Smallboy,
Program Speaker

Indigenous Wisdom. Relationships. Connection. Perspectives. Sustainability. Identity. Respect. Education. Environment. Science. Elders. Sharing. Indigenous Wisdom. Relationships. Connection. Perspectives. Sustainability. Identity. Respect. Education. Environment. Science. Elders. Sharing.

Program Narrative

Traditional knowledge is typically shared through songs, ceremony and story. The following images, ideas and words from our guest speakers and teacher participants tell the story of the program while depicting importance of traditional knowledge within our schools. Inside Education invites you to share in the story of the 2015 Traditional Knowledge Education Program as told by our participants and expert speakers.

“oral traditions and passing down of customs has kept the integrity of traditional knowledge intact” - Gerlayn McCormack, Clandonald School, Clandonald

Bob Smallboy welcomed to the group to Treaty 6 land and to the program through a smudge.. “We have a lot to learn from our native brothers to make our world more harmonious” - Anonymous participant

“It’s not where you’re from, it’s where you belong from” explained Bob Smallboy who shared the history of aboriginal peoples in Canada, with an eye to how this history has shaped our present relationships. “it is an understanding that we belong to the earth and not the other way around” - Dan Pagnucco



With an understanding that our history is shared and that the land is the foundation of who we are and how we live, we considered how traditional knowledge is connected to sustainable development in Alberta.

“Sustainability requires an evaluation of what we need and only using what’s necessary” - Leroy Littlebear

“the speakers helped me form a cohesive picture of aboriginal traditional knowledge, and the issues that surround resource development and the protection of aboriginal land rights and the environment.” - Brett Pederson, Hairy Ainlay High School, Edmonton

We learned how traditional knowledge can also inspire environmental stewardship by shifting how we understand and interact with the environment. “Traditional knowledge is an understanding you see with your mind, heart and body - it is something that you live” - Bob Smallboy which was echoed by Blair First Rider when he shared that “as stewards of the land we are willing to share Traditional knowledge to fulfill our role as FNMI People”

We were joined by two impressive academics, Matthew Whitehead and Kelsey Dokis-Jansen, who have completed significant research projects founded on the principles of traditional knowledge.

Both speakers emphasized the value of traditional knowledge and demonstrated how to

successfully blend traditional knowledge and Western Science. “Western science is about exploration and the study of things; native wisdom is about understanding relationships between them” - Leroy Littlebear



“Dr. Littlebear, in particular, quite eloquently explained the fundamental differences between the Blackfoot world view and the Western world view. All of the speakers left me with things to ponder and information to pass on to my colleagues and students.” Brent Pederson

To close the first day of our educational journey Elder Jerry Saddleback shared his wisdom and perspective on Traditional Knowledge. Partly spoken in Cree, participants experienced first hand the power of storytelling and developed an understanding of the depth of environmental wisdom that is within aboriginal culture and how it is passed through generations.

“As a teacher it has sometimes been a struggle to explain the aboriginal relationship to the land in a manner that resonates with my students; What I learned at this PD program will allow me to now present the aboriginal relationship to the land in a manner that I believe will be more accurate, more engaging and much clearer for my students.” - Brent Pederson

*Multiple perspectives are the basis for a well-rounded story, with this more voices contributed to our understanding of how traditional land use is connected to natural resource management. We heard from government, forestry and oil and gas on the incorporation of traditional knowledge and how decision-making is based on consultation and collaboration with aboriginal stakeholders. **“It shows the importance of consultation with our native leaders and listening to them prior to any business that will affect their lands and people. Balancing out the needs of the economy with the needs of the people” - Dan Pagnucco***

The closing education workshop provided participants a network of support and exemplary resources to bring the knowledge and experiences from the program to their students. Inside Education was joined by aboriginal education experts from the Alberta Teachers Association, Canadian Oil Sands Innovation Alliance, Government of Alberta and Edmonton Public Schools to share learning materials, ideas and best practices.

“I will be using the resources that I have gained and have new perspective on traditional knowledge. I am very excited to wrap up the grade 9 year with an exciting new understanding. I am also going to do a grade 8 unit” - Liz Lahl, Langdon School, Langdon

The story comes full circle as teacher participant, Bruce McGilvery, presented the group with a braid of sweetgrass and acknowledged in Cree that we all belong, we are all connected, we will support each other.

“Together we are building a better community.” Peggy Townsend, Crescent Heights School, Calgary



MEET THE PEOPLE WHO TOLD THIS STORY

THE PARTICIPANTS

- **Beverley Barca**, Northland School Division, High River
- **Brent Pedersen** Harry Ainlay School, Edmonton
- **Brett Spady**, Government of Alberta, Edmonton
- **Bruce McGilvery**, Onchaminahos School, Saddle Lake
- **Chad Krayenhoff**, Jasper High School, Jasper
- **Corrine Webb**, Cranston School, Calgary
- **Daniel Pagnucco**, Partners for Youth Outreach school, Edmonton
- **David Snyder**, Sir Winston Churchill High School, Calgary
- **Dianne McWatt**, EE Oliver Elementary, Fairview
- **Gerilyn McCormack**, Clandonald School, Clandonald
- **Gillian Muirhead**, Clarence Sansom School, Calgary
- **Grayson Adams**, Glenbow School, Cochrane
- **Liz Lahl**, Langdon School, Langdon
- **Lori Benko**, Le Goff School St. Paul
- **Michael Hamilton**, Hardisty School, Edmonton
- **Nicole Schutz**, Parkallen/Rideau Park School, Edmonton
- **Peggy Townsend**, Crescent Heights High School, Calgary
- **Sarah MacFarquhar**, Banded Peak School, Bragg Creek
- **Sherri Rinkel Mackay**, Glenbow School, Cochrane
- **Stacey Mee**, Learning Leader Aboriginal Education CBE, Calgary
- **Tracy Whiskeyjack**, Onchaminahos School, Saddle Lake
- **Valerie Cruz-Padilla**, Onchaminahos School, Saddle Lake

THE PROGRAM SPEAKERS

- **Bob Smallboy**, Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations
- **Dr. Leroy Littlebear** University of Lethbridge
- **Matthew Whitehead** Woodland Cree First Nation
- **Kelsey Dokis Jansen** University of Alberta
- **Jerry & Jo-Ann Saddleback** Samson Cree First Nation
- **Blair First Rider**, Alberta Culture, Government of Alberta
- **Sandra Cardinal**, Alberta Pacific Forest Industries
- **Joan Grozell & Lance Marchand** Devon Canada
- **Fred Hines** Amiskwaciy Academy
- **Beverley Barca**, Sustainable Communities Initiative, OSLI, ATA
- **Athena McKenzie & Jennifer Ward** Edmonton Public Schools



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SUMMARY

Inside Education is proud of the many success of the 2015 Traditional Knowledge Program. There is tremendous value in bringing the lessons from this program into the classroom and Alberta teachers are keen to learn more. Inside Education is committed to incorporating traditional knowledge into all program areas as we strive to support teachers in bringing current, relevant and meaningful environment and natural resources education to the classroom to inspire a stewardship and citizenship ethic in today's students.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Appendix: Detailed Program

Traditional Knowledge Education Program

April 23-24, 2015, Edmonton/Treaty 6 Territory

Thursday, April 24

Welcome & Introductions

Participants meet one another and Inside Education, and have the rare opportunity to take part in a ceremonial smudge to officially open the program.

Inside Education, with special guest Bob Small, Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations

Aboriginal History in Canada & Context for Consultation

In this session, we will look to the past to better understand the present and future. This introduction to Aboriginal history in Canada will provide a foundation for the remainder of the tour.

Bob Small, Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations

Living History: Value of Traditional Knowledge/Indigenous Wisdom

Esteemed experts from each of the three Treaty areas of Alberta will share their perspectives on the value of Traditional Knowledge/Indigenous Wisdom and its application in natural resource management. ***Bob Small, Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations , Treaty 7: Dr. Leroy Littlebear, University of Lethbridge, Treaty 8: Matthew Whitehead, Woodland Cree First Nation***

Native Delights for Lunch

The Intersection of Indigenous Wisdom & Western Science

On location at the Telus World of Science, participants will meet a researcher who helped develop an exhibit entitled “Elders as Scientists.” This session will shed some light on how Indigenous Wisdom and western science can complement one another and what this looks like in practice in the field.

Kelsey Dokis-Jansen, University of Alberta

Activities to follow, facilitated by Inside Education

Storytelling

Oral tradition is the most common way that knowledge and teachings have been passed from generation to generation of Aboriginal peoples. Participants will be treated to a special storytelling segment to follow supper.

Elder Jerry Saddleback, Samson Cree Nation, Maskwacis

Friday, April 24

How is Traditional Knowledge/Indigenous Wisdom Used in Natural Resource Management?

In this session, participants will hear from a variety of practitioners and be exposed to multiple perspectives on the application of traditional knowledge/indigenous wisdom in natural resource management decision-making in Alberta.

Blair First Rider, Government of Alberta, Sandra Cardinal, Alberta Pacific Forest Products , Devon Energy Canada,

Special Lunch Event: Spring Feast Amiskwaciy Academy

On our visit to a unique school offering academic programs within an Aboriginal context, teachers are invited to take part in the school’s annual Spring Feast! This special event will include a Grand Entrance, a meal, and entertainment.

Fred Hines, Principal, Amiskwaciy Academy

Education Workshop

After a jam-packed program, we will take some time to reflect on what we’ve learned, explore a myriad of resources, and look ahead to how participants can bring these topics back to students in meaningful ways. This collaborative workshop will equip teachers with new lesson ideas and supports to take to the classroom.

Inside Education, Bev Barclay, COSIA, Blair First Rider, Government of Alberta , Athena McKenzie & Jennifer Ward, Edmonton Public Schools

Program Wrap-Up, Evaluation, & Farewell