



First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Newsletter

Week of December 9, 2019

This newsletter is a roundup of information and community events outside of the board that supports cultural competency and learning.

Taking a Deeper Dive into better understanding the 2S in 2SLGBTQ

The term Two-Spirit, originated in 1990, when Activist Albert McLeod developed it to broadly reference Indigenous peoples in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community. Two-spirit is used by some Indigenous people to describe their gender, sexual and spiritual identity. Although the term is a relatively new pan-Indigenous name, many nations across Turtle Island have embraced people demonstrating traits of both genders since time immemorial with their own dialectical identifiers. In the last 30 years, members of the Two-Spirit community have reclaimed pride in their collective identities and have allowed Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to better understand the importance of their lasting presence despite colonial attempts at erasure.

[What Does “Two-Spirit” Mean? Video From InQueery](#)

[Two-Spirit - Pre-contact, colonial and contemporary examples : The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)

[Indigenizing Love : Cultural Survival](#)

[Two Spirits, One Voice : Egale](#)

A book you might be interested in reading:

[A Two-Spirit Journey; The Autobiography of a Lesbian Ojibwa-Cree Elder](#) by Ma-Nee Chacaby from the University of Manitoba Press

Events

Where to learn about Indigenous cultures in the GTA

From events to volunteering, here's how to connect with—and learn from—your Inuit, First Nations and Métis neighbours BY RILEY YESNO

With all the concrete, condos and commotion in the GTA, it's easy to become disconnected from the land that we all walk on—and to forget about the people who walked on it first. Indigenous people lived in Tkaronto for millennia before the CN Tower

and highrises came to dominate our skyline. Today, more and more First Nations, Métis and Inuit people call the city home. An Indigenous resurgence is underway in the GTA, which means everyone has more access to invaluable knowledge and resources about Indigenous people, culture and history. You just need to know where to look. Here are five places where you can learn about Indigenous people in Toronto and beyond.

[NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE OF TORONTO \(NCCT\)](#)

The NCCT's vision is "to [work] with all of our relations toward a better future," something the organization has been doing brilliantly since 1962. The agency, which is funded by United Way, creates a safe, empowering community space for Indigenous people in Toronto, while also providing non-Indigenous people with access to Indigenous culture and worldviews. Check out their impressive range of services and programs, from drumming, beading and language workshops to Indigenous cultural competency training to a bus tour that makes stops across the city so participants can learn about the history of the land. If you're looking to make a connection to Indigenous culture in Toronto, this is an excellent place to start. *16 Spadina Rd., Toronto.*

[DODEM KANONHSA'](#)

Part of this midtown Toronto organization's mission is to foster "greater acceptance, understanding and harmony between members of First Nations and non-Aboriginal people." Elders and traditional knowledge keepers gather at Dodem Kanonhsa' to share oral teachings; the organization also facilitates counselling services and traditional Indigenous ceremonies for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. It's a place where you are actively encouraged to learn. *55 St. Clair Avenue East, Toronto.*

[MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO \(MNO\)](#)

The MNO is a Métis-specific representative body for individuals and communities that are part of the Métis Nation. An office opened in Brampton just last year, which means resources for and knowledge about the Métis people of this land are more accessible than ever. This organization is a great hub for accessing resources, knowledge and community events, especially on social media. The MNO page on Facebook often shares information about upcoming events—think feasts, moccasin-making workshops and conferences or talks. *350 Rutherford Rd. S., Brampton.*

[TORONTOMIUTAUGUT](#)

An offshoot of Tungasuvvingat Inuit, the well-established Inuit organization based in Ottawa, Torontomiutaujugut offers ample opportunities for cultural education thanks to their language, sewing and carving classes. They're particularly focused on youth, specifically Indigenous youth in the city of Toronto and the surrounding area. In fact, they say part of their mission is to "inspire the creativity of our young people by providing them with physical and digital spaces to showcase visual and performing arts." Their website

is also packed with digital resources that make it easier to learn about Inuit art and culture.
215 Spadina Ave, Suite 400, Toronto.

Career Opportunities

Barrie Area Native Advisory Circle has various [positions available](#), if you are interested in working for this great organization please apply on their website.

York Region District School Board is looking for Ojibwe Language Teachers, if you are interested, please apply on the [Apply to Education website](#), job code 2789667.