



# First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Newsletter

Week of October 7, 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 Inviting Elders and Community Members**

An Excerpt from: [Responsively Creating Space for Indigenous Knowledge from Elders and Other Knowledge Keepers/ Authorities](#)

Elders are recognized for their cultural knowledge and wisdom. Their “credentials” are not determined by a university or other institution; their credibility is built on trust gained from community and other knowledge holders, expertise from lived experience and oral transmission of knowledge, and their practice of generosity.

There are Indigenous knowledge keepers who may not yet be recognized as “Elders” but who nevertheless carry teachings and practices and are recognized for their expertise. This includes youth who are fluent speakers, cultural practitioners, and teachers of song, dance, stories, art, and environmental stewardship. Learning from Elders, these knowledge keepers are continuing the transmission, retention, and sharing of Indigenous knowledge systems.

In recent years, post-secondary institutions have been privileged to work with Elders and other Indigenous knowledge keepers in the classroom. For students, having Elders in their classroom creates a place where living knowledge and presence remind them to receive teachings in a loving, caring way. Elders and other knowledge keepers come with a breadth of wellness and cultural connections that aid in transformational learning. Non-Indigenous teachers can facilitate knowledge, but could not and would not necessarily be accepted to shape relevant cultural teachings and Indigenous self-determination themselves.

**Bringing Elders and other knowledge keepers into the classroom requires considerable preparatory work, and you will need to be aware of the procedures for working with Elders in your institution.**

[Deepening Knowledge](#): Invitation protocol and information about Elders

[Interviewing Elders](#): What you need to know PDF

# Events

## **Connecting Cultures Film Series**

October 9, 2019 - [The Connecting Cultures Film Series](#) Newmarket Public Library.

Free screening of Indigenous films. The series launches October 9 with *Trouble In The Garden*. Director Roz Owen will be present to discuss the film.

## **Métis Jigging Workshops**

Toronto and York Region Métis Council presents [Métis Jigging Workshops](#).