Aboriginal Education Professional Development Day
náčamćat - ‘we are one’

MORNING SESSION FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

B.C. BLANKET – Kairos developed BC Blanket Exercise
Kairos’ Blanket Exercise is a hands on way to explore the nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples, allowing young people to think critically about reconciliation, empowering youth in building bridges of understanding and respect. The Blanket Exercise is an excellent means of educating Canadians about the history of this land and heighten awareness and reconciliation through this very important and powerful activity.
Grades 4-12 and Adults

SESSION 1 – WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

CEDAR: THE TREE OF LIFE
Museum of Anthropology (MOA)
This program highlights the continuing importance of the cedar tree among First Peoples of the Northwest Coast. Students develop their observational skills and learn about First Peoples’ culture through hands-on activities with objects made from cedar. Students actively question how objects are made, how they are used, and what contemporary significance they have.
Grades 3-5

DEEPENING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH ART
Shane Point and Chas Desjarlais
In this workshop educators will gain an understanding of the artistic expression of the Coast Salish peoples, as well as become more knowledgeable about appropriation of Indigenous artistic traditions.
Grades K-12

DRUM WORKSHOP
Davita Marsden
Be introduced to the traditional protocols, history and knowledge of Aboriginal drumming and singing. Join in and experience working with our drums and singing a social song. Come and see the Buffalo hide and skins used for creating a drum. This is an interactive fun lesson good for small or large groups.
Grades K-12

LACROSSE
North Shore Indians Lacrosse
Come learn about the important history and culture of the game of Lacrosse. You will learn foundational skills that will prepare you to teach and play the game of lacrosse.
Grades 4-12

METIS TEACHINGS
JJ Lavallee and Don Fiddler
Learn about the history and cultural teaching of the Metis traditions through music. JJ Lavallee will share his love of the fiddle and how music has shaped his growth as a Metis person. Don will speak to contemporary Metis governance and the historical relationship between governing partners.
Grades 5-10

ROBES OF POWER
Amanda White
This workshop focuses on the historical, cultural and contemporary significance of the robes of power. Amanda White who is a member of the Haida Nation will share how the robe represents her family and clan history, duties, rights and privileges.
Grades K-12

SALMON TEACHINGS
Kyle Ross
A vibrant aspect of BC Indigenous cultures, the Salmon play a vital role in First Nations cultures and the natural ecosystem. The Squamish "Salmon Story" describes a relationship of mutual respect and understanding; this indigenous teaching reveals critical information for the health and wellbeing of our local BC rivers and the ecosystems in which coastal peoples live on and tended through indigenous understandings of the phosphorous and nitrogen cycles. Discover how to bring the role of salmon keeper into your classroom in a secondary context.
Grades: Secondary session
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TRADITIONAL PLANT KNOWLEDGE
Tuy'ttanat Wyss
Come and learn about some traditional indigenous knowledge on plant foods and medicines of the Pacific Northwest Coast. Handouts will be provided.
Grades 4-12

EXAMINING TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: BEING COMFORTABLE WITH BEING UNCOMFORTABLE
Chas Desjarlais and Liz Krieg
Educators have a moral and ethical responsibility to know the truth of the colonial history of this nation and its impact on Indigenous nations. The workshop will explore how as educators we must understand decolonization and its connection to the truth before reconciliation can take place.
Grades K-12

TRANSFORMING IMAGE
Museum of Anthropology (MOA)
This program is designed to develop an awareness of the skills and technologies required to research, design and create Northwest Coast (NWC) art. Students are introduced to the Image Recovery Project, spearheaded by MOA Curator of the Pacific Northwest, Bill McLennan and the use of infrared photography to reveal painted images on a range of wooden surfaces which have been obscured over time. This program aims to encourage a respect for NWC cultures and an understanding of how NWC designs were, and continue to be, created today.
Grades 9-12

SESSION 2 – WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS
80 Minute Workshop
ABORIGINAL ASTRONOMY
Brandon Peters
Explore astronomy from an Aboriginal perspective. This workshop will provide educators with a firm understanding how oral tradition and storytelling has continued to inform Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people about astronomy. Resources will be shared so do not miss out.
Grades 4-9

SESSION 2 – WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS
80 Minute Workshop
CONNECTING YOU WITH INDIGENOUS CONTENT
Terri Mack, Strong Nations
Just how do we integrate authentic Indigenous content into our classrooms? Why do we need to integrate this knowledge and history into our practice? How can we begin to integrate Indigenous content across the curriculum? Join me as I walk us through each one of these key questions. Examples of both student and educator resources will be provided. Please come with any “Big Questions” that you may have. Join me in Building Strong Nations together.
Grades K-12

SESSION 2 – WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS
80 Minute Workshop
STORY TELLING THROUGH THE LENS OF OPERA
Vancouver Opera
This is a hands on workshop with Teaching Artists from Vancouver Opera. Participants will learn how to structure and create an original work written and staged by students. The creative process is not limited to opera! Spoken word and other styles of music can be included ensuring a point of entry for everyone. The Teaching Artists will share examples from programs that have taken place in schools in Metro Vancouver that have included operas based on learning objectives in Science, Language Arts, Social Studies and SEL. The process integrates protocols and Indigenous stories that have been developed in collaboration with Indigenous artists.
Grades K-12

SESSION 3 – WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS
80 Minute Workshop
CANOE JOURNEY & TRADITIONAL TEACHINGS
Latashkinem Williams
Latashkinem is from the Skwaw7mesk Nation and will share the Canoe Teachings and Protocols gifted to him by his Elders. The Canoe and the teachings were passed down by our ancestors and Latashkinem will share the interconnections to water, navigation, traditions, stories and ceremony.
Grades 4-12
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MEDICINE WHEEL TEACHINGS
Tori Johnson Ayi-Bonte
This workshop will provide educators with teachings of the Medicine Wheel and how it can be used in the classroom. Teachers will learn about the history of Medicine wheel and how it is connected to our current lives. Come and learn how to keep balance in your own life.
Grades K-12

SALMON TEACHINGS
Kyle Ross
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Grades: Elementary session

TELLING STORIES THROUGH THE ARTS & HOW WE CAN COLLABORATE
Royal Conservatory, Learning Through the Arts program
Telling Stories Through the Arts with Shelley MacDonald and Nk'x̓etko Elder Mary Jane Joe.
This hands on workshop will guide participants through the process of writing and staging an original work based on Indigenous stories. Examples of successful programs will be shared and can be adapted across the curriculum.

How Can We Collaborate?
Led by an Indigenous artist and a non-indigenous music educator, this session will explore how we can work together to integrate arts into the curriculum.
Grades K-12

OPTION B - 1 WORKSHOP (PLEASE CHOOSE ONE WORKSHOP – 160 Minutes) Break will be provided

DECONSTRUCTING MYTHS
B.C. Teachers’ Federation
In this workshop participants are submerged into depths of the mistruths that have made up the belief systems of mainstream Canada for far too long. Participants will be challenged to dig deeper through research, which must include historical documentation and oral testimony as opposed to acceptance of archaic misinformation and hidden fabricated narratives. In a commitment to the continuation of the work that teachers started with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, BCTF invites all teachers to join in the effort to seek truth through the deconstruction of myths in curriculum.
Grades K-12

INFUSING ABORIGINAL CONTENT
B.C. Teachers’ Federation
While teachers express interest in incorporating more Aboriginal Content in their classrooms, they are sometimes unsure of where to start and how to find authentic materials. This workshop is designed to create awareness around integrating Aboriginal perspectives and quality Aboriginal resources in the Classroom through hands on activities.
Grades K-12

LISTENING TO THE LAND: CONNECTING MATH, COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND PLACE
Professor Cynthia Nicol, Associate Professor in Department of Curriculum & Pedagogy and Loretta Williams, Tsawwassen Traditional Weaver
Listening . . . really listening to place and mathematics, provides opportunities for deeper understandings of community, place, culture and mathematics. In this hands-on workshop we will explore strategies and frameworks for teaching and learning math through connections to community and culture. Embedding Indigenous ways of knowing and learning with mathematics is social justice mathematics education.
Grades K-12
Musqueam Nation & Museum of Anthropology (MOA)

Designed as a cross-curricular resource, this teaching kit emphasizes an Indigenous perspective and critical thinking practices that are major components of the new BC curriculum. This teaching kit features a range of resources including maps, stories, community interviews, timelines, short films, an interactive iPad, contemporary belongings, and a Teacher’s Resource that includes rich information, activity guides, curricular connections, and opportunities for deeper engagement. This teaching kit is also available to borrow from MOA.

Grades K–12

PROJECT OF HEART

B.C. Teachers Federation

Project of Heart is an inquiry-based, hands-on, collaborative, intergenerational, artistic journey for seeking truth about the history of Aboriginal people in Canada. This teaching resource examines the history and legacy of Indian residential schools, commemorates the lives of the thousands of Indigenous children who died as a result, and prepares students to engage in social justice activities that contribute to the developing truth and reconciliation movement.

Grades K-12