



THE NATIVE CANADIAN

SPRING 2017

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE OF TORONTO



Message from the Board of Directors, President



Shé:kon, Aniin Bozhoo, Tansi, Greetings!

As the seasons change, and we transition into Spring, so does the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. Over the last year, we have seen the renewal of the board of directors, the continued growth of a number of vital programs, services, and events, like the ENAGB youth program, the seniors program, and Indigenous Cultural Competency training (to name only a few) that increases awareness of Indigenous history within the context of Reconciliation in Canada, specifically in the Urban Indigenous space in Toronto.

Although change can bring on feelings of uncertainty at times, it can also present an opportunity to be born anew; the freedom to evolve. As your new board President and Chair, I feel excited by what the future holds for the NCCT and I hope the community feels the same.

One of the key components at the helm of this season of renewal is the initiation of a 5-year Strategic Planning process that began in January and will be coming to a close at the end of this month.

The board of directors is very appreciative of the leadership behind this process; Kevin V. Sandy Consulting, and all those in the community and staff who have participated in our community forums and interviews, and have provided

feedback on the centre's activities. Without feedback from our membership and employee's on what the community needs, and what you envision for your futures, we may never know.

Although the process is not yet complete, it has already proved to be an invaluable resource for envisioning the future direction of the NCCT. I was in attendance for one of the community forums, and was genuinely inspired by the passion, resiliency, and innovation that exists within our community and have already begun to evaluate where we can make changes and enhance support to where it is wanted and needed. Although we may be confronted with challenges, and at times limited resources, we will seek to deploy creative solutions that will provide the appropriate remedy.

During the community forum I heard expressed needs for unified community collaboration at the individual and organizational level, diversified programming that serves more of the community, the continued revival and simultaneous protection of culture, and the sharing of Indigenous history and world view that will serve to promote the development and maintenance of safe, respect based spaces rooted in reciprocity that will encourage the reconstruction of positive relationships for both membership and visitors. Over the next year, we hope to initiate activities that speak to some of these important themes.

It has become clearer by the day that we are in a unique time of transition and change, not just within our own communities but within society as a whole. If our past shows us anything it is that as Indigenous nations, people, we can and will rise to the challenge. One of our members shared words that stayed with me well after the forum "What good is good medicine if we keep it to ourselves?". We have so much knowledge, and valuable perspectives to share, so I encourage everyone to get back to sharing and supporting one another so that we can continue to strengthen the centre, our community and walk in unity into the future.

Niawen'kó:wa ~ Gitchi Miigwetch~ Kinanâskomitin
Many thanks,

Lindsey Lickers
Mushkikii Nibi Kwe
Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
Board of Directors, President

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NCCT Digital Renaissance

By Fred Martin

Over the next few weeks the NCCT will undergo a switch to digital sign display and check-in system. This is in step with the Communications Plan and Strategy to reach a wider audience, increase savings, reduce waste and better target the Centre's advertising and messaging to specific audiences at key strategic times.



There is increasing use of digital media by Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. This includes its use as a means to disseminate content and to facilitate communication in the delivery of programs and services and to promote the NCCT as well as its activities and the activities of its staff. Examples include posters and videos uploaded on the NCCT website planned online teaching via learning management systems, mobile applications, and the use of Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media to communicate with staff, prospective and current membership and the general public.

The NCCT encourages the use of digital media and at the same time must ensure that its content and use enhances the reputation of the Centre and is managed within a clear and accountable framework, which is consistent with NCCT policy and procedures. This policy, with associated procedures and guidelines, sets out how the Centre manages the production, use and management of digital media. Digital signage monitors will be installed in highly visible locations of the Native Centre including the main hallway as well as in the ENAGB Youth Drop-In on the second floor. The idea is to provide immediate, effective content that is interactive and up to date as possible.

The possibility of offering such rich content streams to our targeted audiences is beyond exciting and full of potential. Future and existing Programming, Scheduling, Calendar of Events, Social Media content i.e. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram postings and Youtube videos etc., will offer a user experience not seen in the Centre before.



Promotion of NCCT sponsored events and programming as well as meetings and activities held in the Centre; up-to-date weather information; newsletter articles; television feeds; Social Media video content; important current events; key messaging; scrolling public health and safety warnings and emergency messages are all mere clicks away and instantly changeable and updatable.

Other changes over the next year will slowly evolve the way we greet the public, collect data for funding agencies and find ways to better meet the needs of the Centre's membership and the indigenous community all the while preserving the privacy and confidentiality of its patrons.

Indigenous Cultural Competency Training at the NCCT

By Michael Etherington

The Indigenous Cultural Competency Training is a platform to establish a process of promoting cultural competency for Indigenous relations within Canada. The facilitation is delivered in a sensitive, respectful manner to address complex-issues from a historical narrative that is inclusive to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous attendees.

The training is designed for agencies, organizations, institutions to build a foundational awareness of Indigenous peoples and enhance self-awareness. Through experiential learning the delivery of the training is inclusive within a group based setting to promote dialogue and create a safe space to discuss topics which relate to Indigenous peoples.

TOPICS COVERED

- Overview of terminology and definitions regarding Indigenous people of Canada;
- Provide statistics and demographical information beneficial to service providers who service Indigenous people within Canada;
- Historical Events regarding Pre-Confederate/Post-Confederate relations specific to Canadian History;
- Discuss impacts on cultural identity through key historical events such as the Indian Act, Residential School System and the Sixties Scoop;
- Distinguish between contemporary context of on-reserve and off-reserve experiences;
- Discuss current issues and socio-economic conditions impacting Indigenous People presently;
- Address Stereotypes and Misconceptions of Indigenous People within Canada;
- Promote awareness of Trauma-informed perspectives to better understand historical, inter-generational, and complex trauma;
- Highlight the many contributions Indigenous peoples of Canada have provide within the social fabric of Canadian History;
- Promote awareness of Cultural Competency to assist with individual and organizational growth and development.

By attending the session it is with intent of Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (NCCT) that information and dialogue established within the setting will promote change within the individual, workplace, organization and community. It is of great interest of NCCT to be advocates for change, challenge status-quo and foster healthy relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people of our community.

For more information on the Indigenous Cultural Competency Training, group session availability and fee schedule, please contact Michael Etherington - Cultural Program Manager at 416-964-9087 ext 315 or via-email at: Michael.Etherington@ncct.on.ca.

Aboriginal History Month Celebration
June 28 2017
At Yonge & Dundas Square
1:00pm - 5:00pm

The Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
Mother's Day Craft Sale
Saturday May 13th, 2017 10:00am - 4:00pm

- Indian Tacos
- Bingo
- Raffles
- Door Prizes

30+ Indigenous Vendors!

Save the Date!

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto - 16 Spadina Ave. - 416-964-9087 - http://ncct.on.ca

SAVE THE DATE

MAY

- 10** Full Moon Ceremony
- 13** Mother's Day Craft Sale
- 22** Victoria Day - (Holiday NCCT Closed)

JUNE

- 12** Full Moon Ceremony
- 21** National Aboriginal Day - (Holiday NCCT Closed)
- 28** Aboriginal History Month Celebration (Dundas Square)

OKICHITAW Fall Solstice Promotional Test held in Sunnybrook Park

By George Lepine



Photo George Lepine

Okichitaw Indigenous Martial Arts Canada recently held their Fall Solstice Promotional test. This physically and emotionally demanding test is conducted on the land during one of our Solstice periods. This particular test was conducted in cold, wet and difficult conditions which is made to personally challenge each student with the significant impacts that can be caused by the natural elements and unlike the usual promotional testing environments which are usually done within an interior controlled environment. As an Indigenous Combat system, Okichitaw ensures that all students understand that their training and tactics were actually developed on the land and being as such, it is important for them to experience how their acquired skills can be challenged simply by bringing these tactics to an outdoor environment.

Not only is the body challenged as a result of the environmental conditions, but the mind and one's own personal challenges come into play. The Okichitaw Land Challenge Test is broken down into various segments which are the following: Weapons, Strength, Discipline, Endurance, Coordination and Tracking Tests. Here I will explain a few of these tests to give you an idea what a student would experience.

The Weapons Test involves all three

impact/cutting weapons of Okichitaw which are the Knife, Tomahawk and the Gunstock War Club. The test is conducted with real bladed weapons (no training weapons are used) and each weapon must be properly used effectively through various applications as taught through the system of Okichitaw. The student not only has to know how to move the weapon, but also how to move "with" the weapon which involves body rolling mechanics with the various weapons to ensure that any re engagement can be properly applied as if one were in combat. Well over 70 different weapon movements are applied to these three different weapons which are required to do properly to ensure a passing grade.

All the Strength and Endurance Tests are designed to push a student to truly test their own physical and mental prowess. One of these tests requires the student to pick up a fellow student of equal weight and proceed up a steep and uneven incline. This is known as the "Fallen Warrior Carry". This test simulates to one that a fellow warrior has fallen in battle and you are required to bring him back. Once the fallen warrior is picked up, the student is required to carry them up a steep, uneven, wet incline (hill) and proceed to the top of the hill where they will then lie them down on an identified resting place at the top of the hill. Once this task is done, the

student must then proceed back down the hill and recover a weapon that was left behind (Lance) and bring it back up the hill. Once at the top of the hill, the student touches (with control) the fallen warrior with the weapon and then proceeds back down the hill to impale the Lance into the ground at the base of the hill upon their return.

Another test that not only involves endurance, but discipline as well. This test is known as the Water Test (Nipi Test). A student must cover four laps around a challenging, intimidating and uneven obstacle course and then return to a pre-designated finish line. However to do this test, the student is also required to do it with a pre measured mouth full of water. Upon completion of the run, the student must be able to provide the same amount of water into a cup when they arrive at the finish line. They are not allowed to swallow, spit or drink the water that is in their mouth during this entire obstacle run, if they do, they must do it over until they complete it with no mistakes.

These are some of the martial arts tests that we have used in our history which have been applied by our ancestors to ensure that they identified and secured effective and disciplined warriors within the community.

Youth Gift Shop Grand Opening

In February the Native Canadian Centre, ENAGB Youth Program proudly opened the latest social venture towards the training of indigenous youth and economic development of the entrepreneurial spirit within the indigenous people.



Photo: Fred Martin

The Grand Opening, held on February 23rd, 2017 was attended by large crowd of well wishers and shoppers, who were entertained by the emcee and ENAGB WaazhiNaakii Work Coordinator Edward Cyr, ENAGB Youth Program Manager Cynthia Bell, NCCT Executive Director, Larry Frost.

Also on hand was Toronto Enterprise Fund's Manager, Paul Chamberlain and a host of other notable and prominent community figures including members of the ENAGB Youth Council.

The ENAGB Youth Gift Shop, prominently situated by the front entrance to the Native Canadian Centre "brings opportunity to provide training for youth in the retail industry, while promoting our authentically handmade products and the arts of our First Nations, Inuit & Metis people."

The end goal is to offer local indigenous artists a safe, subsidized and creative space to nurture their burgeoning enterprises including a future online website to expand further out into the worldwide marketplace.

Starting on April 11th, 2017 the Youth Gift Shop will begin regular hours of operation, Monday to Saturday with newly hired staff members who hope to gain lucrative Point-of-Sale retail training.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Wednesday: 10:00 AM-6:00 PM
Thursday: 10:00 AM-8:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
Saturday: 10:00 AM-3:00 PM
Sunday: Closed

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Edward Cyr, ENAGB WaazhiNaakii Work Coordinator: Edward.Cyr@ncct.on.ca

CULTURE



THE NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE OF TORONTO WEEKLY CULTURAL CALENDAR SPRING 2017

MONDAY

Cree Language
6:00PM - 7:45PM

Yoga Class
6:00PM - 7:45PM

Mixed Hand
Drumming
6:00PM - 7:45PM

TUESDAY

Cree Language
6:00PM - 7:45PM

Ojibwe Language
6:00PM - 7:45PM

Beading Class
6:00PM - 7:45PM

WEDNESDAY

Regalia Class
6:00PM - 7:45PM

Inuit and Inuktitut
Teachings
6:00PM - 7:45PM

Martial Arts
6:00PM - 7:45PM

THURSDAY

Ojibway Language
10:00AM - 2:00PM

Moccasins Making
6:00PM - 7:45PM

Children's Arts
and Crafts
6:30PM - 8:00PM

Men's Big Drum
5:30PM - 6:30PM

Big Drum Social
6:30PM - 8:45PM

SATURDAY

Mohawk Language
10:00AM - 2:00PM

Fit Nish
11:00AM - 12:00PM

Martial Arts
12:00PM - 1:30PM

Children's Pow Wow
12:00PM - 1:00PM

Adult's Pow Wow
1:00PM - 2:00PM

**FULL MOON CEREMONY - SPRING 2017**

•April 11th •May 10th •June 12th | 6-8:00pm

Before attending an event call **416-964-9087** to ensure no scheduling changes have occurred.
NCCT Cultural Events and Workshops updated weekly on our web site: www.ncct.on.ca



Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada in partnership with The Native Canadian Centre of Toronto DODEM KANONHSA'. The purpose of the Dodem Kanonhsa' is to promote sharing and understanding of Aboriginal culture and its philosophies. The Dodem Kanonhsa' is open to both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people with the hope that it will benefit intercultural relations, cross-cultural communication and understanding.

Please attend an Awareness 101 Education Session prior to registering for 1:1 appointments.

<http://dodemkanonhsa.ca>

Address: 55 St. Clair Ave East, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M6H 3R9
Phone: (416)-952-9272
Fax: (416)-952-9282
Email: dodemkanonhsa@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca

THE NATIVE CANADIAN

EDITOR

Bonnie Matthews
Bonnie.Matthews@ncct.on.ca

DESIGNER

Fred Martin
Fred.Martin@ncct.on.ca

MEMBERSHIP

Jared Bone
Jared.Bone@ncct.on.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

Lindsey Lickers
Fred Martin
George Lepine

CONTACT

Editorial information:
16 Spadina Rd., Toronto, ON M5R 2S7
Ph: 416-964-9087
Fx: 416-964-2111
www.ncct.on.ca

CULTURE CORNER

Lanspeary Park

A leap of faith
Across dark purple night
Humid with the fragrant grass
Of August in Windsor, Ontario, Canada,
Home of the double negative,
And car factories that border the mind,
Lanspeary Park startles alive
From a rectangled blue swimming pool
In the middle of night,
As delinquent boys tug on the green wire fence,
And climb quick over the hostile prongs at the top,
And over the side,
Rubber soled shoes are untied and kicked off,
And hidden away from the bright lights of tall admonishing poles,
The young youthful success is well mannered,
And hardly a word is spoken as each runs for the pool,
The thunk of the diving board,
Echoed across the warm silken night,
Across the soul of Lanspeary joy,
Of immaculate park,
Across the road as dry as quiet.

fin=====

A poem by Paul Eng