

THE RCH NEWSLETTER



Getting off on the right foot with RCH

Being culturally perfect is impossible. I just want to put it out there. Nobody is always going to say/do the right thing 100% of the time. HOWEVER, we can be culturally aware and **strive** to be culturally proficient. It is hard to understand sometimes that there are no universal solutions or specific rules for responding to ethnic, gender, and cultural diversity in the classroom. What you can do is be thoughtful and sensitive and aware of the make-up of your students, school and community. Here are 10 recommendations to get you off on the right foot in order to move toward cultural understanding:

- 1) Recognize any biases or stereotypes you may have absorbed.
- 2) Treat each student as an individual, and respect each student for who he or she is.
- 3) Rectify any language patterns or examples that exclude or demean any groups and do your best to be sensitive to terminology that refers to specific ethnic and cultural groups.
- 4) Get a sense of how students feel about the cultural climate in your classroom. Tell them that you want to hear from them if they are uncomfortable.
- 5) Whenever possible, select texts and readings whose language is gender-neutral and free of stereotypes.
- 6) Introduce discussions of diversity at department meetings.
- 7) Become more informed about the history and culture of groups other than your own and aim for an inclusive curriculum that reflects the perspectives and experiences of a pluralistic society
- 8) Convey the same level of respect and confidence in the abilities of all your students.
- 9) Bring in guest lecturers to foster diversity in your class.
- 10) Give assignments and exams that recognize students' diverse backgrounds and special interests.

RCH EVENTS COMING UP

OCTOBER: Mi'kmaq Heritage Month

OCT 1: Mi'kmaq Treaty Day
(for further info go to:
www.treatyday.ca)

OCT 2: Int'l day of Non-Violence

OCT 4: Yom Kippur (Jewish day of fast and repentance)

OCT 10: World Mental Health Day

OCT 13: Thanksgiving Day Canada

OCT 17: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

OCT 23: Diwali (Hindu festival of lights)

OCT 24: United Nations Day

1st WEEK OF NOVEMBER:
Veteran's Week

NOV 11: Remembrance Day

NOV 16: Int'l Day for Tolerance (U.N.)

NOV 20: Int'l Transgender Day of Remembrance

NOV 25: Int'l Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

NOV 28: We Day Atlantic Canada



October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month!

THE CREATION OF MI'KMAQ HERITAGE MONTH:

In 1993, Premier John Savage and Mi'kmaw Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy declared October as the official month to recognize and celebrate Mi'kmaw culture and heritage. Mi'kmaq History Month is celebrating its 20-year anniversary in 2013 and we invite everyone to join in the celebration of the Mi'kmaq culture and heritage.

Each October, community activities, events, sharing and showcasing the Mi'kmaw history takes place across Nova Scotia. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to participate in Mi'kmaq History Month events. If your community business, organization or school has a Mi'kmaw related event, story, photo, creation, submission or musical contribution that you would like to share, we would love to hear from you and will look to add your contribution to our newsletter and website (coming).

www.mikmaqhistorymonth.ca

TREATY DAY

In 1985, the Supreme Court of Canada affirmed the Treaty of 1752 was still strong and called upon Her Majesty to honour the Treaty and others made with the Mi'kmaw nation.

In 1986, the then Grand Chief Donald Marshall Sr. proclaimed every October 1st as Treaty Day. It commemorates the key role of treaties in the relationship between the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq and the Crown. The annual ceremony reaffirms the historic presence of the Mi'kmaw who have occupied the land for thousands of years. The Mi'kmaq Nation and the crown also exchange gifts to mark each October 1st.

By celebrating Treaty Day, we are giving thanks to the Mi'kmaw and the Crown for signing treaties of peace and friendship.

October 1st is a reunion for many Mi'kmaq and a time for people to learn a part of Nova Scotia's 12,000 year-old history.

MI'KMAQ FLAG: With October being Mi'kmaq History Month some of our schools along the South Shore will be proudly flying the Mi'kmaq flag (commonly referred to as the Grand Council flag) in recognition of all of the First Nations people indigenous to Canada's Maritime Provinces and the Gaspé Peninsula of Quebec. The meaning of the flag is:

White – Denotes the purity of Creation

Red Cross – Represents mankind and infinity (four directions)

Sun & Moon – Forces of Day and night

Although the Grand Council flag of the Mi'kmaq Nation is meant to be displayed hanging vertically, it is quite commonly flown horizontally, with the star near the upper hoist.



PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR



PICTURES START FROM TOP LEFT CORNER AND GO AROUND CLOCKWISE:

- 1: A POW WOW BROUGHT TO CDES BY STUDENT SUPPORT WORKER SHEILA PORTER. ALL SCHOOL WAS INVOLVED
2. STUDENT DOING MOOSE CALLS AT KEJI
3. MAHONE BAY ALT. SCHOOL TAKES TRIP TO KEJI TO LEARN ABOUT MI'KMAQ CULTURE
4. PINK DAY SPEECH AT BAYVIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL
5. RCH COORDINATOR PRESENTING TO STUDENTS AT HEBBVILLE

EXPLAINING THE STUDENT SUPPORT WORKER POSITION

With the growth of the Student Support Worker Program, a rapport has developed between students and Support Workers. My goal this year is to promote further collaboration among the RCH coordinator, support workers and the schools/community. Support Workers function as resources, role models and mentors. There are benefits for students and parents/guardians to self-identify for themselves and their children. Some of these benefits are as follows:

- to provide academic supports such as access to tutoring
- to provide support and understanding of ones cultural background and the diversity within schools
- to inform students about designated seats and programs at post-secondary institutions and on-site visitations to universities and community college
- to provide African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq students with scholarship and bursary information specifically for them
- to provide employment equity opportunities for students such as with the RCMP, firefighting, apprenticeship programs, internships, and summer programs, etc.
- to provide leadership opportunities (cultural groups, school trips, sports camps, leadership camps, conferences, etc.)
- to collect and provide data on student achievement specific to the African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq students and support a rationale for additional support services;

SHELLY WHYNOT

SHELLY IS BASED OUT OF WICKWIRE. SOME OF THE THINGS SHE IS WORKING ON IN SEPTEMBER INCLUDE: PRESENTATIONS IN CLASSROOMS ON TOPICS SUCH AS RACISM, DISCRIMINATION, DETERMINATION, TEEN PREGNANCY AND SUCCESS. IN ADDITION, SHELLY HAS BEEN WORKING ON TUTORING FOR STUDENTS, RESUME BUILDING, AND PLANNING/IMPLEMENTING A MIDDLE SCHOOLS GIRLS GROUP WHICH FEATURES HANDS ON COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES LIKE KAYAKING, SURFING, ETC.

DEALING WITH RCH ISSUES:

I FIRST WANT TO SAY THAT I LOVE THIS POSITION. I THINK THAT SOME OF THE CONVERSATIONS THAT I HAVE HAD WITH TEACHERS IN THE SOUTH SHORE HAVE BEEN ABOVE AND BEYOND AMAZING. I WAS IN CONVERSATION WITH A TEACHER TO DISCUSS HOW RCH ISSUES ARE DEALT WITH. TOGETHER, WE SIMPLIFIED IT AND I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU WHAT WE CAME UP WITH.

1. Principal investigate validity
2. Inform the RCH coordinator, school liaison and/or SSW
3. Enter a valid case into Power School under "severely disruptive incident" and click the RCH box.
4. The administrator, under consequences, can also put in "referral to RCH." This step is important for data collection.

We want to provide quick action and support and RCH is there to help every step of the way. If I can't be available then the liaison or SSW would step in.

SCENARIO: If a student is using words such as "retard" or "faggot" in class (or a similar scenario), what do I do?

The staff member would be expected to speak to the student first (to educate) and possibly parents, but if it continues, you would then take it to the school principal? Teachers would also document this as a classroom incident in Power Teacher, along with a log entry if a parent was called.

-Lamar Eason
RCH Coordinator

additional support services:
students and support a rationale for
African Nova Scotian and Mi'kmaq
student achievement specific to the

POSSIBLE RESOURCES

For other information on Mi'kmaq Heritage month or on Mi'kmaq treaty day, please feel free to go to either:

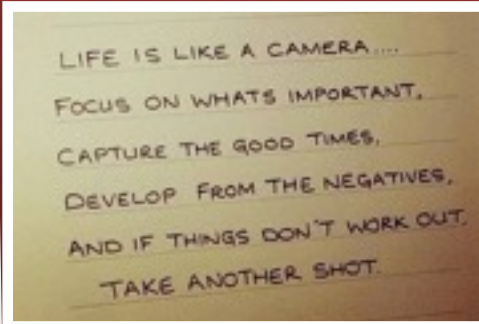
www.treatyday.ca

or

www.mikmaghisotrymonth.ca

Here is another GREAT resource:
<http://firstnationhelp.com/ali/posters/>

MI'KMAQ HERITAGE MONTH



With Remembrance Day right around the corner, it is never too early to be thinking about what you want to do and what you want to share with students. Here is a resource from the Veterans Affairs office that may help. Go to: veterans.gc.ca click on the tab "remembrance," then "get involved," then Remembrance Day," and then Learning Resources

REMEMBRANCE DAY



TD Then and Now: A Celebration of Black History Month

Call for Submissions:

The vision of the TD Then and Now Series is to connect Canadians to Black history and culture through a showcase of artistic and cultural excellence. Since 2009, TD Then and Now has grown into an important annual cultural event that has been honoured with the prestigious Globe and Mail Business for the Arts Award in the category of "Most Innovative Marketing Sponsorship" in 2010.

The national series strives to present cultural showcases by artists and cultural organizations that celebrate Black history and culture. The 2015 Black History Month programming will take place in the Greater Toronto Area, Montreal, Halifax, Ottawa, Calgary and Vancouver.

BAND invites interested Canadian visual artists and photographers to submit their work for consideration as the primary media image for the 2015 TD Then and Now Black History Month Series. The selected artwork will be featured on all marketing and promotional materials nationwide and the chosen artist will receive an honorarium of \$3000.

If you are interested in submitting art work for the 2015 TD Then and Now Black History Month Series, please inquire for more information.

Email: tdthenandnow@band-rand.com
Submission deadline: **Friday October 24th, 2014.**

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - National Child Day Contest 2014

On November 20th, 2014, people around the world will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the United Nations adoption of the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*. The Office of the Ombudsman invites you to join our Poster Contest to mark this important event.

This year the theme focuses on “The State of Aboriginal Children”, and is based on Article 30 - The right to practice your own culture, language and religion. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right.

Mark your calendar - **the deadline is November 4, 2014**. So, get busy - and good luck!!!

CRITERIA

1. WHO CAN ENTER?

All students in Nova Scotia in grades: Primary to 7.

2. WHAT ARE THE PRIZES?

<u>GRADES</u>	<u>PRIZE</u>
Primary - 7	One participate from each grade Primary-7 will be awarded a \$25 gift card

3. WHO WILL JUDGE:

The panel will consist of Ombudsman Representatives, and students of the NSCC Child and Youth Care program. The judges will look at:

- Artistic merit and quality: based on grade group and artistic skill
- Creativity: based on the representation of the theme “The State of Aboriginal Children.”
- Understanding and theme communication: how well the theme is expressed in the artwork and the supporting statement.

4. WHAT DO YOU DRAW:

A poster depicting “The State of Aboriginal Children”, focused on Article 30 – “The right to practice your own culture, language and religion. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right” as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The drawing must be on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper. A Title Page **must** include: your name, address and school, School District, grade, and home room teacher’s name.

5. WHEN IS THE DEADLINE:

All submissions must be **received** by the Office of the Ombudsman **no later than November 4, 2014**. The submission may be hand delivered or mailed to 5670 Spring Garden Road, Suite 700, PO Box 2152, Halifax, NS, B3J 3B7. **Entries submitted after 4:00pm on November 4, 2014 will not be accepted.**

6. WINNER?

The winner will be announced on **National Child Day** – November 20, 2014.

Exciting details on time and place to follow!

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CRITERIA

1. WHO CAN ENTER?

All students in Nova Scotia in grades: Eight (8) – Twelve (12).

2. WHAT ARE THE PRIZES?

GRADES	<u>PRIZE</u>
8-12	One youth will be selected to act as Nova Scotia’s Ombudsman for a day <i>AND</i> One participate from each grade 8-12 will be awarded a \$25 gift card

3. WHO WILL JUDGE:

The panel will consist of Ombudsman Representatives, and students of the NSCC Child and Youth Care program. The judges will look at:

- Artistic merit and quality: based on grade group and artistic skill
- Creativity: based on the representation of the theme “The State of Aboriginal Children.”
- Understanding and theme communication: how well the theme is expressed in the artwork and the supporting statement.

4. WHAT DO YOU DRAW:

A project depicting “The State of Aboriginal Children”, focused on Article 30 – “The right to practice your own culture, language and religion. Minority and indigenous groups need special protection of this right” as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Students can get creative with this project and choose from the following mediums:

- Drawing/ Artwork must be on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper
- Video (5 minutes or less)
- Poems
- Song
- Other idea’s that incorporate Article 30 of the Convention.

5. WINNER?

The winner will be announced on **National Child Day** – November 20, 2014.

Exciting details on time and place to follow!