

THE OFFICE OF FIRST NATION EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

January-February 2021



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

For the fourth year in a row, students, teachers, community members and industry worked together to build a house on a First Nation community in New Brunswick. To date, a total of 5 houses have been built. This year, the Office of First Nation Education in collaboration with First Nation communities has expanded experiential learning opportunities for First Nation students by hiring an Experiential Learning Educator working within communities.



Exterior of the Esgenoopetij house build



Interior of the Esgenoopeetij house build

Students, community members and the experiential learning educator have taken on a number of other initiatives in the community including building an outdoor skating rink in Esgenoopeetij First Nation. Students are not only meeting course outcomes, but are developing a sense of shared ownership, community connectedness, engagement and pride while learning on their learn from home days. This is a collaborative project with the skilled trades teacher located at Miramichi Valley High School.

Recently, the local community school has now involved upper middle students in these projects. Next on their list is a new changing/warming room to accompany the new rink.



DUAL CREDIT COURSES

Two dual credit courses developed by the Office of First Nation Education are now being offered to high school students. Entrepreneurship from an Indigenous Perspective (ADM 1192/ Entrepreneurship 110) is offered through a partnership with the University of New Brunswick, and Eco Cultural Approaches to Environmental Science (SCIE1991/ Advanced Environmental Science 120) is offered together with Mount Allison University.

Each of these courses is offered virtually and begin in February 2021.

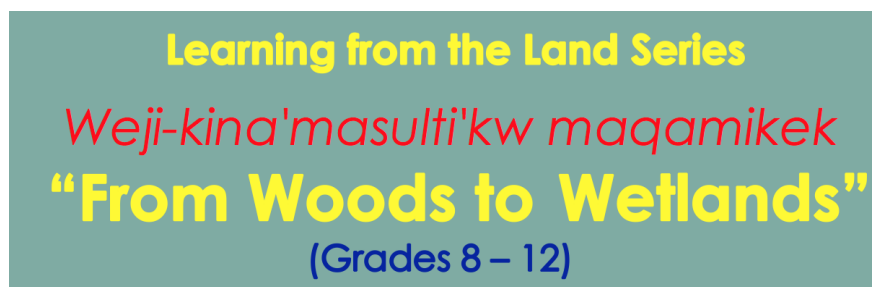
For more information on Entrepreneurship from an Indigenous Perspective, contact David.Gray@nbed.nb.ca

For information on Eco Cultural Approaches to Environmental Science, please contact Pamela.Fowler@nbed.nb.ca

HIGH SCHOOL WELDING

In partnership with Natoaganeg, Esgenoopetitj, NBCC, ASD-N and the Office of First Nation Education, welding will be offered for high school students on Natoaganeg First Nation. The Office of First Nation Education in partnership with CWBF and Natoaganeg was able to build a state-of-the-art welding station on the community a couple years ago and have been using this facility for summer learning. This initiative will see schooling move to the community in the afternoons. This course is open to all students.

LEARNING FROM THE LAND SERIES



In Fall 2020, the Office of First Nation Education partnered with Elsipogtog First Nation to offer the first *Learning from the Land Series*. While students from a school in ASD-North were able to join in person, students from across all Anglophone school districts were also able to join virtually.

We would like to thank Ivan Augustine, Steve Ginnish, Pat and Margaret Augustine, Elder Joe John Sanipass and all of our partner organizations for making this possible including EWGMS staff, JDI, MTI, Science East, Ducks Unlimited, Three Nations Education Group, NRCan, and AgriCan.



WORLD OF WISDOM

World of Wisdom offers a number of services to students and classroom teachers including Beyond Words, Knowledge Keepers, Language Keepers, Tutoring Career Counselling and Teaching Support



<https://world-of-wisdom.ca>

Beyond Words: Sharing Indigenous Cultures and Books

Beyond Words: Sharing Indigenous Cultures and Books is the most recent section of the World of Wisdom platform to begin its launch. The purpose of the site is to provide an avenue for communities and schools to connect virtually through study of Indigenous literature and to create opportunities to share culture. A pilot with Chief Harrold Sappier school in St. Mary's is launching.

Beyond Words includes book summaries, classroom activities for books, resources for educators, supporting documents to expand background knowledge, and ideas for classroom implementation.

Knowledge Keepers

The Knowledge Keepers section of World of Wisdom enables classes to connect with Wabanaki Knowledge Keepers for short (1/2-1 hour), small group discussions through the online platform. The current line-up of discussions is intended to help students through the challenging circumstances they are now faced with.

Language Keepers

Educators can also book a session with either a Wolastoqey or a Mi'kmaq Language Keeper through the WoW platform. We request that a minimum of one week's notice is given when scheduling a language session.

Teaching support

Teaching support is a new site on the WoW platform which will provide a library of resources to support teachers. At present, a one- hour tutorial on the New Brunswick Global Competencies is available. This tutorial was developed for The Office of First Nation Education and has particular teachings suitable for teachers seeking to include Indigenous understandings in their practice.

Career Counselling

A Mi'kmaq career counsellor is available for booking through the WoW platform.

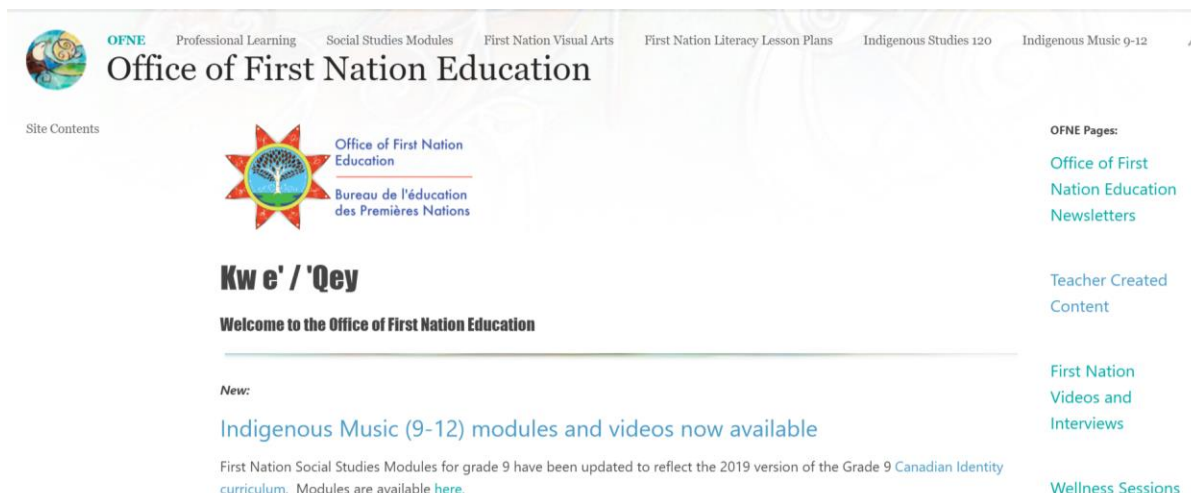
Tutoring and Virtual Learning

Tutoring services are also available through the World of Wisdom platform. Over the coming weeks, additional supports in the areas of mathematics, literacy, science and well-being will be added as part of the expanding operations of World of Wisdom.

The tutorial is also available directly here: <https://youtu.be/nIOhHi4G9ms>

A PDF guide was also developed which is available here: http://world-of-wisdom.ca/video/NBGC_tutorial_guide.pdf

OFFICE OF FIRST NATION EDUCATION PAGE



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Office of First Nation Education. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for OFNE, Professional Learning, Social Studies Modules, First Nation Visual Arts, First Nation Literacy Lesson Plans, Indigenous Studies 120, and Indigenous Music 9-12. The main header features the OFNE logo and the text "Office of First Nation Education" and "Bureau de l'éducation des Premières Nations". Below the header, there is a section titled "Kw e' / 'Qey" with the subtitle "Welcome to the Office of First Nation Education". A "New:" section highlights "Indigenous Music (9-12) modules and videos now available" with a link to the updated curriculum. On the right side, there is a sidebar with "OFNE Pages:" and links to "Office of First Nation Education Newsletters", "Teacher Created Content", "First Nation Videos and Interviews", and "Wellness Sessions".

The Office of First Nation Education maintains a page on the EECD One Site (available inside school and district networks and also available to First Nation schools). The page has multiple sections including a page dedicated to professional learning opportunities for school-based educators and other school personnel as well as multiple pages with educational resources and links to curriculum documents.

To access the page from inside a school network, you can use this link:

https://collabe.nbed.nb.ca/sites/OFNEPL/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx

INDIGENOUS MUSIC RESOURCE

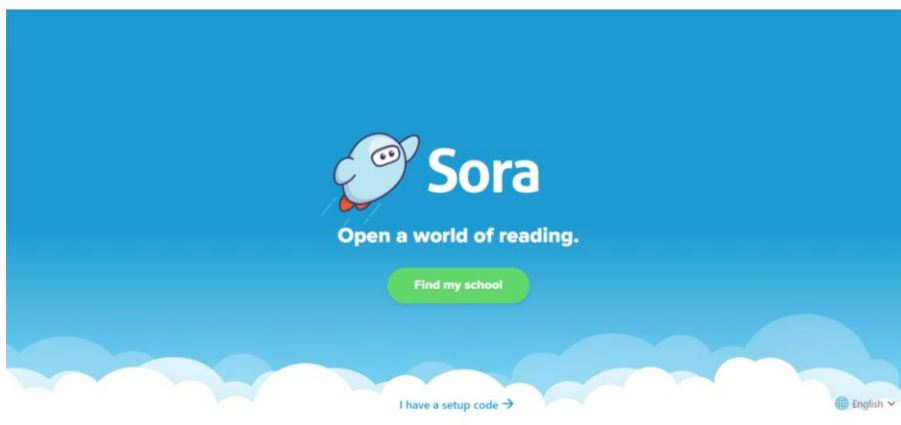
The Office of First Nation Education, working in partnership with Indigenous and non-Indigenous musicians, has developed Indigenous music resources for use at the high school level. These resources include extensive information about Indigenous musicians on a local, national and international level, two video tutorials on how to use the resources.

The resources can be found on the One site (available inside of your school's network):

https://collabe.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ofnepl/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/sitepages/indigenous%20music%20resources%20and%20modules.aspx

For more information, please contact Bill.Patrick@gnb.ca

SORA



The SORA digital library is now available to all middle schools who want it (both provincial and First Nation community schools) across New Brunswick.

First Nation teachers and Learning Specialists from Education and Early Childhood Development have been working to ensure that a wide

variety of texts written by First Nation authors is available. EECD has also been working to make SORA available to provincial high schools as well.

<https://soraapp.com/welcome>



WELLNESS

When COVID-19 emerged last spring, the Office of First Nation Education took the lead in developing wellness activities for educators. These efforts have continued to evolve, and at this time the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, in partnership with the New Brunswick Teachers Association and the Wellness Coordinators from school districts Anglophone North, South, East and West, is offering a series of optional online wellness sessions for educators throughout New Brunswick.

The monthly sessions have various themes, and are supported by local, national and international wellness experts via pre-recorded sessions. There is also a reading section located under resources. Topics covered in these sessions include self-care, the creation of positive learning environments, mindfulness practices, and habits that promote general wellness.

The site can be found here: <https://nbed.sharepoint.com/sites/Wellness>. (You must have a gnb or nbed account to access the site.)

DISTRICT INITIATIVES AND NEWS

For district First Nation initiatives and news, please visit the following links:

ASD-North <http://asd-n.nbed.nb.ca/fne>

ASD-West

<https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/Pages/default.aspx>

ASD- East

<https://asdeast.nbed.ca/indigenous-education/>

ASD- South

<https://secure1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-S/Pages/welcome.aspx>



Office of First Nation
Education

Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development