

HERITAGE WEEK

Jurisdiction: New Brunswick

Contact: Cynthia Harquail

Level: K-12

Theme: Community based practices

Description of Practice: During Heritage Week, the Aboriginal Community is involved at the school on a daily basis. They lead activities including: mini Pow-Wows; Medicine Wheel, Drummers, Weaving, Smudging & Spirituality, Dancers, etc. Each class is slotted in to participate in ALL sessions.

Background & Development: This week-long celebration has become a traditional part of our learning community.

Evidence: The non-native community looks forward to these days and the Aboriginal members of our school community are anxious and proud to share their culture with their friends.

Adaptability: The staff has continued to participate actively and promote all aspects of the celebration and often provide individual classroom support.

Further Information: This activity requires a strong leader(s) as success depends on the dedication of the leader and on his/her organizational skills. We have also found that a team comprised of someone from the Aboriginal community and someone at the school level works very well to promote communication, understanding, acceptance of diversity and tolerance within our learning community.