



ONTARIO EDUCATION SERVICES CORPORATION

Professional Development Program for School Board Trustees

Modules

16 First Nation Trustees: Leading in Two Worlds

QUOTES

Education will create knowledge and from knowledge will come understanding. From understanding will come respect – both self-respect for Indigenous people and mutual respect for all.
JUSTICE MURRAY SINCLAIR, CHAIR OF THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

The treaties must not be forgotten. We must remind our children of this.
EDWARD OKANEE(THUNDERCHILD), CREE ELDER

We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on.
LOUIS RIEL, MÉTIS LEADER AND FOUNDER OF MANITOBA

I am told that there is a proverbial phrase among the Inuit: ‘a long time ago, in the future.’ Let the children see our history, and maybe it will help to shape the future.”
ROMEO LEBLANC

Our language and culture is the window through which we see the world.
PAUL DISAIN, DENE ELDER

The traditional way of education was by example, experience, and storytelling. The first principle involved was total respect and acceptance of the one to be taught, and that learning was a continuous process from birth to death. It was total continuity without interruption. Its nature was like a fountain that gives many colours and flavours of water and that whoever chose could drink as much or as little as they wanted to whenever they wished. The teaching strictly adhered to the sacredness of life whether of humans, animals or plants.
ART SOLOMON, OJIBWAY ELDER

Debwewin is the Ojibwe word for truth. It is a verb that refers to living your life in connection with the seven good life teachings (i.e. respect, love, humility, wisdom, bravery, honesty, truth). It requires individuals to be reflective in their relationships and impacts on the world. It also requires individuals to think about the good of seven generations yet unborn.

(BEYOND SHADOWS, 2013).

We are resilient as a weed and beautiful as a wildflower. We have much to celebrate and be proud of.
CHRISTI BELCOURT, MÉTIS ARTIST

Teach your children what we have taught ours, that the earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

CHIEF SEATTLE, LEADER OF THE SUQUAMISH TRIBE

Aboriginal people often say, 'Our children are our future.' By extension, then, the future depends on the effectiveness of education. Education shapes the pathways of thinking, transmits values as well as facts, teaches language and social skills, helps release creative potential and determines productive capacities.

(ROYAL COMMISSION ON ABORIGINAL PEOPLES, 1996A, P.82)