
INTRODUCTION

The User's Guide is designed for teachers, facilitators and many others — for example, Elders, administrators and other community stakeholders. Every component in the Kit is described under the following headings:

WHAT: title and general description.

WHY: purpose, reason for inclusion, application, the advantages of having the information.

HOW: using the component— topics for discussion; suggested activities to explore content and engage students.

For some components, there may be additional suggestions for other potential audiences who might benefit or suggestions for incorporation — time of the school year, possible links to curriculum, or community situations or circumstances that might be appropriate.

The content and resources included in the **It's Our Time First Nations Education Tool Kit** are not a curriculum. However, these resources are relevant to, and can align with curricula across all provinces and territories, especially in the following content areas:

- oral tradition
- stories and legends
- teachings
- art: music, dance, writing, theatre, singing
- traditional values and their importance
- barriers to the preservation of the oral tradition
- history

First Nations Performance Indicator Checklist

WHAT

A culturally relevant tool that communities can use to identify their educational strengths and weaknesses, and develop programs to enhance educational success from a First Nations perspective.

WHY

The culturally appropriate checklist will help communities:

- a. Understand the circumstances characterizing their educational systems;
- b. Explain these circumstances to other communities and jurisdictions;
- c. Create a basis for adopting and implementing a model for continuous improvement in their educational systems; and
- d. Establish an accountability framework for various jurisdictions.

HOW

- Work with stakeholders to arrive at a shared vision.
- Decide together what can and should be measured and devise a systematic approach.
- Define the problems. Develop lists of performance indicators related to the problem. Widely distributing this evaluation throughout the community allows multiple different perspectives to be considered. Use it as an assessment tool, for goal setting, and as a means for parents, students, and other community members to express their feelings about their educational environment.
- Completing the checklist is a great way to identify areas for improvement, and may also improve the involvement of the community in local education.
- While several indicators are included in the checklist, there is also space available to add any indicators which may be missing or relevant to a specific community.