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# 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 Holistic Lifelong Learning Model

## WHAT

First Nations people view learning as a continuous process throughout one's life cycle. The First Nations Holistic Lifelong Learning Model captures this complex, inclusive and integrated process.

## WHY

The Model identifies the many factors that influence our development and learning, providing many insights into the nature of these influences. The First Nations Holistic Lifelong Learning Model is a visually appealing tool for revealing the forces that operate through our life cycle. It is a way to honour learning that includes students as well as everyone in the learning community.

## HOW

- Use the First Nations Holistic Lifelong Learning Model to examine ethics or character.
- Discuss these concepts and solicit examples.
- Learning is holistic;
- Learning is a lifelong process;
- Learning is experiential in nature;
- Learning is rooted in Indigenous languages and cultures;

- Learning is spiritually oriented;
- Learning is a communal activity, involving family, community and Elders;
- Learning is an integration of Indigenous and Western knowledge.
- Discuss the teachings of the Medicine Wheel
- Invite an Elder or traditional healer into the classroom to discuss the concepts from traditional perspectives.
- Could be used for Native Studies classes in parenting groups and in healing and treatment