
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