

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

Ministry of Training,
Colleges and
Universities

Ministère de la Formation
et des Collèges et Universités

Aboriginal Education
Office

Bureau de l'éducation des
Autochtones

Mowat Block
900 Bay Street, 12th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Tel: 416 314-5053
Fax: 416 212-3140

Édifice Mowat
900, rue Bay, 12^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1L2
Tél: 416 314-5053
Télé: 416 212-3140



MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Secretary Treasurers/Supervisory Officers of School Authorities

FROM: Alayne Bigwin
Director
Aboriginal Education Office

DATE: June 30, 2009

SUBJECT: **Circle of Light 2009**
First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Conference

I am pleased to announce that the Circle of Light 2009 First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Conference will be held on November 24 to 26, 2009 in Toronto at the Fairmont Royal York.

Our theme this year, *Energizing our Partnerships in Education*, reflects our commitment to building strong ties and positive learning relationships between our Aboriginal communities and education partners to support all students in Ontario.

The 2009 program builds on the momentum of our first Circle of Light conference in 2007 with a rich array of speakers and presenters who will share their experiences, perspectives and successes.

The conference will be an opportunity for provincial and First Nation educators to participate in joint professional development on Aboriginal education initiatives to;

- Provide educators and administrators valuable insights and practical tools that will help them to develop and implement targeted strategies and supports for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students.
- Identify strategies to increase knowledge and awareness of First Nation, Métis and Inuit histories, cultures and perspectives among all students, teachers and school board staff.
- Discuss classroom engagement strategies to enhance learning and support First Nation, Métis and Inuit student success in school.
- Strengthen implementation of self-identification policies and provide support and discussion on how data can be used to support student achievement.

The conference will include a series of workshops (over 40 sessions) aligned with the goals and strategies of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework. Workshop presenters will include representatives from the provincial and First Nation school systems, academics and other First Nation, Métis and Inuit education partners. Also included in the program will be two student panels and key note addresses. Please find attached a preliminary program overview for your reference.

Registration information and program details will be available in September 2009. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Shirley Carder, Aboriginal Education Office, at 416-325-4404 or shirley.carder@ontario.ca.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference as we work together to support the achievement of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Alayne Bigwin,
Director, Aboriginal Education Office
Ministry of Education & Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities

- c. Raymond Théberge, ADM, French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division
- Eleanor Newman, A/ADM, Student Achievement Division
- Barry Pervin, ADM, Instruction and Leadership Development Division
- Nancy Naylor, ADM, Elementary/Secondary Business & Finance Division
- Grant Clarke, A/ADM Learning and Curriculum Division
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