

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON  
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT  
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf. 03-07-00-0127  
Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 9 May 2000

TO/DEST. Community Services Committee

FROM/EXP. A/Committee Co-ordinator

SUBJECT/OBJET **NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY - LOCAL INITIATIVE**

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**REPORT RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Community Services Committee receive this report for information.**

**BACKGROUND**

Councillor Davis has requested that the above-noted item be placed on the agenda. A report outlining the events planned for The Centre for Traditional Knowledge on National Aboriginal Day, 21 June 2000, is attached.

*Approved by*  
*Stephani Roy*

# **The Centre for Traditional Knowledge**

## **National Aboriginal Day - June 21<sup>st</sup> 2000**

### **Theme**

Teaching aboriginal traditional knowledge to Ottawa-Carleton children in an urban setting.

### **Target Audiences**

- Elementary school children and teachers in Ottawa/Carleton
- Aboriginal schools in eastern Ontario
- Young children and their parents from Ottawa/Carleton
- Passersby on their way to/from work

### **Objectives**

- To share with children our Native legends as told by elders
- To explain medicinal purposes of some plants to children and their parents
- To teach children basic dance steps that can be used at pow-wows
- To expose children to drumming, and singing by local Aboriginal peoples
- To offer our publics an opportunity to enjoy and participate our culture
- To celebrate the contribution of Aboriginal Peoples to Canadian society
- To explain the reasons behind our dances, songs, etc.,
- To recognize the importance of preserving Aboriginal culture

### **Summary**

On the grounds of the Canadian Museum of Nature, a tipi village and pow wow circle will be set up to house a series of events that will communicate Aboriginal culture and tradition to elementary school aged children in a fun and informative manner, while meeting their emotional intelligence levels. All activities will be free.

Activities planned for the tipis include:

- storytelling by an Elder with animal puppets,
- Aboriginal movie star Adam Beach will explain how "acting is storytelling",
- medicine woman Linda Deer will talk about the uses of local plants,
- a Mohawk magician will put on a magic show.

Activities planned for the centre and outer rings of the CMN grounds include:

- learning how to dance pow-wow style,
- facepainting,
- learning to make an Aboriginal style craft with gut and beads,
- Bannock will be prepared over an open fire,
- Traditional corn soup will be served.

At pre-determined hours of the day, 9:30 – 11:30 am and 1:30 – 3:30 pm, a mini pow-wow will be held with the audience encouraged to join in the fun. The Master of Ceremonies will explain the significance of dances and songs to the

audience. At other times participants may colour, make a craft, listen to stories, watch Mohawk Magic, eat and drink, sit in the shade, or just walk around taking it all in. Teachers will be encouraged to participate in all activities. Security is to be provided by Aboriginal police officers from the Ottawa Carleton Regional Police Force.

### **Location**

The large park (facing O'Connor Street) at the Canadian Museum of Nature was chosen because it is centrally located downtown, has ample school bus parking, and its exhibits and tours cater mainly to elementary school children. The museum has agreed to house the activities of National Aboriginal Day for June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2000.

### **Advertising and Publicity**

- The 21st of June is on a Wednesday. Flyers or notices concerning this event at the museum will be sent to local elementary school for inclusion in their school newsletters. An accompanying letter will ask the respective schools to RSVP their attendance to the event.
- Notices (or flyers) will be posted on community centre bulletin boards.
- PSA's will be written for radio and television.
- News releases will be sent to community papers, and the Citizen and the Sun.
- Television crews will be invited (pow-wow's and children make for excellent visuals)
- Museum has agreed to include this event in its advertising, local flyers and web site.
- The Ottawa Citizen will be pitched a full page feature story on events around the region for National Aboriginal Day.
- DJ chatter sheets will be sent to radio stations a full week before the day.

### **Partnerships**

- The Canadian Museum of Nature is allowing NAD participants in **free**
- Algonquin College has agreed to bring the teepee belonging to the Aboriginal Studies program and some students to handle the arts and crafts.
- OC Transpo - Their vendors may be able to distribute the brochure, which would put us into many hotels and cornerstores. They will be asked about a shuttle service for the day, as well.
- Many other prospective partners will be approached between now and then for participation or funding.

### **Setting**

People of Aboriginal ancestry have an age old tradition of joining together in celebration of the forces that drive the universe. In today's society, the pow wow – a mesmerizing, colourful display of dance and music – has become the

gathering place for first nations to meet and share their heritage with each other and with mainstream Canada.

Our proposed setting is a First Nation's Village of teepees that will surround a dance area. In the middle will be a cedar bower to shelter the drum group. Dancers in full regalia will dance the perimeter of the circle at scheduled times. Traditional activities will be our focus for the day, and all of our visitors will be encouraged (and taught if need be) to dance at intertribal dances.

### **Timeframe**

The day is planned from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

#### **8 – 9:30 am**

Set-up of tipis and areas

#### **9:30 – 11:30 am**

Opening ceremony by Elder

The drummers and dancers in full regalia will start the mini powwow with the MC inviting and encouraging the audience to partake in the activities.

Learning to dance

Facepainting

Magic show

Colouring area

Craft area

Soup and bannock for 1<sup>st</sup> group of kids

#### **12:00 – 1:00**

A parade and ceremony to showcase our native veterans is to be held on Sparks Street. Medal presentations will also take place. School children will be encouraged to attend this event, as well.

#### **1:30 – 3:30 pm**

Pow wow - Same format as morning but no opening ceremony

Soup and bannock for 2<sup>nd</sup> group

Storytelling by elder

Magic show

Facepainting

Make a craft - necklace or bracelet in gut and beads.

#### **4:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

Closing ceremony by Elder

#### **4:30 – 5:30 pm**

Tear down of tipis and site