2002 CURRICULUM UPDATE

SECTION 6: RS COMMUNITY HEALING CONFERENCE (2002)

SOCIAL STUDIES, THE ARTS

MAIN IDEA

The history and legacy of residential schools still lives on in Nishnawbe Aski Nation Communities today. How are our communities addressing residential school issues? Do our communities have Residential School Programs? Do our communities have Residential School Survivor Groups? What can you do as a youth to help your community address the impacts of residential school?

LEARNING OJECTIVES:

- Students will be given the opportunity to think about how they could help their community address the impacts of residential school.
- Students will design a Residential School Community Healing Conference in their community.

ACTIVITIES

- 1. Ask students if they were given money from the Nishnawbe Aski Nation Residential School Program or another organization to host a Residential School Community Healing Conference for Survivors and their families, what would they do?
- 2. Divide studetns into small groups (3-4) and have students brainstorm some ideas on chart paper. Note the main focus is **Healing!**
- 3. Once students have had some time brainstorming have them complete the **Conference Planning To Do List**. Tell students to be very creative and use their imagination.
- 4. Once students have completed the above review with them **Steps to Organizing a Conference** or have them review it as a group. Tell them that the information is just a guideline and they can add or delete any information within the steps.
- 5. After their **RS Community Healing Conference** is complete have them prepare it into a presentation format and present it to the class.

ASSESSMENT

Formative: Presentation, Group Work



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Group Members:	
Name:	Name:
Name:	Name:
CONFERENCE PLANNING TO DO LIST	
A name for the conference and meaning:	
On a separate piece of paper/computer, design a Logo for the conference write it's meaning here:	
Vision Statement	
Goals and Objectives:	



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HANDOUT

STEPS TO ORGANIZING A CONFERENCE

Organizational and Planning Process: 9 Steps

Step 1: Catching a Vision

Step 2: Scheduling a Date

Step 3: Selecting Speakers

Step 4: Choosing a Location

Step 5: Getting Co-Sponsors (optional)

Step 6: Forming a Committee

Step 7: Conference Budget

Step 8: Planning the Event

Step 9: Reaping the Benefits

Step 1: Catching a Vision

By simply inquiring as to the possibility of organizing a Residential School Community Conference—whether as a group of people or as an individual—have in some sense "caught a vision" for Community Healing. No matter where you and/or your community are at present, you realize that your community as if "peering through a glass darkly," has the boldness and faith to step out and be active participants in dealing with Residential School Impacts. By encouraging the deepening of your own life and spirit and those of your friends, your family, and neighbours you have encouraged people in your community to start dealing with the impacts and to start into fuller and more profound lives in the Creator's kingdom.

Step 2: Scheduling a Date

Once you have a vision for Community Healing, the best thing you can do is share it with the members of your community. Let them know about the possibility of organizing a Residential School Community Healing Conference. Share the vision! Let everyone know in community that they can play a part in making this vision of Community Healing become a reality. As a few folks to partner with you. If you receive enough interest to move forward you will need to reserve Community Conference Dates.

Step 3: Selecting a Speaker(s)

You perhaps would like to hire an Master of Ceremony (MC) for your conference and other guest speakers who can speak towards Residential School Issues and Healing. When considering a MC you would like to lead your Conference, think about who best represents the background, tradition, or insight your Community most needs. You may also consider geographic proximity to where you are located, as often it will be less expensive to bring in a person who lives closer to your community.



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Step 4: Choosing a Location

The Conference site should have as many of the following features as possible:

- Appropriate room size to house all participants comfortably
- Space and tables and Conference Registration
- Space and tables for displays, books, etc.
- Space for MC and Speaker(s)
- Space, tables, and seating for an on-site lunch for all Conference Participants (as many as needed and possible)
- Different Rooms if you are having Workshops (tables, seats, etc.)
- Audio/Visual Equipment
- *Etc.*

As long as it meets the above characteristics, the site may be a community hall, school gymnasium or classroom, etc. Whichever, the space should be available the afternoon or evening before the Conference for set-up and Conference Day from opening a.m. until closing p.m. Also, you should choose a site that will be a comfortable environment and contains minimal distractions.

Step 5: Getting Co-Sponsors (optional)

Assuming you decide to include Co-Sponsors, do you know of other Organizations or other Communities that share your vision? If so, there are good prospects for Co-Sponsorship. To solicit involvement, simply call or write a key leader.

Co-Sponsors could be:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Band Council
- Community Committees
- Local Restaurant/Caterer
- Etc. whomever you see as a potential sponsor

All this mentioned, whether or not to choose to pursue a Co-Sponsor it is entirely up to you and your team.

Step 6: Forming a Conference Team

The next step in planning a Community Conference is to put together an Conference Team (preferably volunteers). This group will be led by a Conference Chair (you). Folks of the Conference Team are responsible for doing the logistics work for the conference, including targeting the right audience, doing most of the organizational work, and other tasks. Forming a sound Conference Team is the Conference Chair's most important task. If enthusiastic and able people are recruited to help you put on the conference, then the rest of the work for the



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Conference Chair amounts to delegation, oversight, and problem solving.

Along with your Conference Team you will need sub-committees which would include:

- Audio/Visual
- Book Table/Registration
- Child care
- Facility
- Finance
- Follow-up
- Greeting/ushering
- Hospitality
- Music
- Elder
- Refreshments & Food

These individual committees are crucial to the full success of the Conference; however, some may be optional. It is helpful to recruit persons competent in related fields to be Chairs of the subcommittees; for example, you might recruit the community restaurant cook to head up Refreshments & Foods sub-committee. Finally, the number of tasks to be completed makes a qualified and committed Conference Team all the more important.

Step 7: Conference Budget

Conferences can become very costly ventures; however, you could charge participants an registration fee if you choose to try and break close to even with costs. Some costs could be for:

- Conference security
- Copies/printing (brochures/flyers and other promotional pieces)
- Facility maintenance and rental
- Meals and food (for conference attendees, participants, speaker, etc.)
- Photographer/Videographer
- Postage (information mail outs)
- Registration materials
- MC & Guest Speaker salaries
- Housing/Rooms/Hospitality
- Supplies
- Telephone
- Other miscellaneous costs

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Step 8: Planning the Event

Once you have caught a vision for Community Healing, secured a Conference site, possibly gained the involvement of Co-Sponsors, recruited a Conference Team, and counted the costs for holding the Conference, it's time to plan the event.

- Assistance with brochure/flyer design for advertising the conference
- Mailing labels and contacts
- MC & Guest Speaker(s) travel and accommodations
- Registration materials
- Unlimited personal assistance for Conference Chair & Sub-Committee Chairs
- Other creative means of partnership

If the organizing Conference Chair's follow guidelines for organizing a conference then you will have a successful conference.

Step 9: Reaping the Benefits

Thought the helpfulness of events like Community Conferences are too numerous to mention, some ideas of what can happen as a result of your hard work include:

- Witnessing personal healing: physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional of those in attendance
- Passing on helpful ideas that will endure
- Inspiring people who have lost their zeal
- Continuing renewal through the use of Conference resources and materials
- Training leaders who will start a Community Healing Group(s)
- Launching many Survivor Groups & or Intergenerationally Impacted Groups
- Introducing a balanced approach to Healing
- Working together with other organizations, communities, etc., in your region for support and ideas
- Gaining visibility for the future of your community
- Renewing people...renewing your community

Source: http://www.renovare.org/journey_events_local_conference.htm