



FNMI News

Grande Prairie and District Catholic Schools

May 2017

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, May 27th, 1-5pm CULTURAL DAY. Please see attached invitation.

This month our great group of Aboriginal educators have been working long hours at bringing more and more cultural experiences to students in our district. We have completed our team by adding a fourth FNMI liaison Jonelle Gladue. Jonelle's main schools will be St Kateri and St John Bosco this year. She lived in Medicine Hat, AB for a number of years working with Aboriginal families in areas that include: youth programming, cultural events, cultural awareness, Aboriginal issues, and Aboriginal rights. She made the decision to move back to Northern Alberta to continue her work with the people. She looks forward to the future relationship, school enhancement welcoming opportunities for parents, activities for youth and being in the school as one on one support. Welcome to the team.

We will be starting some drumming presentations this month in many schools for our older FNMI students (grades 4-up). Please encourage your son or daughter to participate. Malina Dawn will be offering some drumming lessons and songs to our students in the weeks to come. Malina believes in being in harmony with nature and is very connected to the land. You can see her on the following link. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rKiUhFzETI>. Watch next month for more pictures of the drumming circles.

On April 12th, we hosted our second parent meeting. A lot of great ideas were generated on how to continue to improve our program. Thank you to all parents who attended. One of the suggestions was to conduct our meetings at alternative schools, therefore a big thank-you to Darryl Thibault, principal of St. Gerard for providing us a space at his school on Wednesday, May 10th, from 6-8pm. The address of **St. Gerard is 9724 88 Ave, Grande Prairie**. Please RSVP tinamcdonald@gpcsd.ca as I will be ordering pizzas for dinner. The main focus of the meeting will be organizing the Cultural Day.



Students from St Mary's Sexsmith

Our team consist of the following people should you like to contact them:

- Tina McDonald
tinamcdonald@gpcsd.ca
- Tessa Ouellet
tessaouellet@gpcsd.ca
- Gwenda Jean Pierre
gwendajeangepierre@gpcsd.ca
- Terence Houle
terencehoule@gpcsd.ca
- Jonelle Gladue
jonellegladue@gpcsd.ca



Gwenda, Terence, and Tessa visiting St Patrick.



CALL FOR NOMINATION

The Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples

Committee Seeks Indigenous Youth Leaders at the Senate 2017

April 24, 2017

“I believe that this program is a great opportunity to show positivity for Aboriginal communities, that our youth are making a difference. The hope that others continue to strive for their very best to follow their passion and have an impact on one person...or more.”

Participant in Indigenous Youth Leaders at the Senate 2016

Do you know a First Nations, Métis or Inuit youth who is doing amazing things?

The **Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples** is celebrating Aboriginal History Month with its second annual *Indigenous Youth Leaders at the Senate* program on **June 7**, and they are **looking for nominations of dynamic Indigenous leaders aged 17 to 35 who are making a difference in their community.**

What this event will look like:

The selected nominees will be invited to spend the day at the Senate on Wednesday, June 7, to:

- Officially present their successes and their unique perspective on a renewed relationship between Canada and First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples to the committee.
- Meet privately with Senate leaders and members of the Aboriginal Peoples Committee.
- Be acknowledged at the sitting of the Senate.

Act as mentors for the committee's Youth Forum (an event taking place on June 7, bringing together 40 high-school students in Ottawa to work on ways to strengthening relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples).

Who to nominate:

Successful nominees will:

- Be between the ages of 17 and 35 as of June 7, 2017;
- Identify as First Nations, Métis or Inuit;
- Be engaged in work that is making a difference in people's lives; and

Have proven their ability to lead others in making positive change

Travel arrangements:

The chosen youth leaders will travel to Ottawa on June 6 and return home on June 8.

The committee will cover costs for participants' flights, accommodations and meals from the evening of June 6 to the morning of June 8, 2017

How to nominate someone:

Download this form; https://sencanada.ca/media/310375/com_form_indigenouslyouthleaders_2017-04-24_e_draft.pdf

- Fill it out and save;

Email it to engagement@sen.parl.gc.ca no later than May 14, 2017 at 11:59 p.m. EDT.

The selection committee will choose eight nominees. Selected nominees will be informed by May 18, 2017.

Questions?

Kate McCarthy, Outreach Officer

kate.mccarthy@sen.parl.gc.ca

1-800-267-7362

<https://sencanada.ca/en/newsroom/indigenous-youth-leaders-2017/>

Amanda Keay

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Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

Website: www.ocya.alberta.ca

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Grande Prairie and District
Catholic Schools

Cultural Day



Come and enjoy a variety of Aboriginal cultural experiences with the FNMI support staff from Grande Prairie Catholic School District.

Fun for all ages

- ◆ Bannock making
 - ◆ Dream catcher
 - ◆ Jewelry making
 - ◆ Music
 - ◆ And more
- ◆ Tipi teachings
 - ◆ Talking sticks
 - ◆ Drumming
 - ◆ Games



Saturday, May

27th, 1 to 5 p.m.

St Joseph Catholic High School
10520 68th Avenue,
Grande Prairie

All GPCSD families are welcome to attend this fun day.