



# Niijaansinaanik

Child and Family Services

## *Alternative Care* Newsletter



### *O'Demini Güizis* Strawberry Moon



## June 2020

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# Cultural Connections

## The Concept and Worldview of "Family"

For indigenous people, "Family" has always been everything. All things evolve around family. We believe we were related to all of Creation, therefore had many different types of families that we are connected to and that are a part of us.

There is our **Blood family** made up of our brothers, sisters, mom, dad aunts, uncles and grandparents. We have our **Clan family**, who may live far away and/or whom we have never met, but they are part of our family. Many of us who attend ceremonies have our **Lodge family**, who are those who we celebrate ceremony with are part of our greater family. Our **Community family** are aunts, uncles and others that live in the communities, that were not related directly through blood, but have become a part of our life through raising us as children. We also have our **Animal family**, which are the creatures of creation that we rely on to give us food, clothing and medicine and who teach us about life on our Mother - the Earth. Our **Plant family** are our plant relatives who come up every year, raising up their arms offering us their medicines so we can live a good and healthy life.

For us, when we look at family we look at *everything*. When an elder at an invocation or prayer at the end says "all my relations", they aren't just talking about their blood, they are talking about the air, earth, fire, water, plants, animal beings and the human relatives. Everything that is connected to us we see as family. Even science is catching up to us, catching up to the teachings of our elders and ancestors. When scientists look at matter and elements and see those constant elements that makes up all things. They too now realize that everything is family... everything is related!

As indigenous people this is something we have always felt, even though we couldn't articulate it or in intellectually understand it fully, we felt it as something deep inside of us. It is a part of our genetic makeup and a part of our connection to our Creation Family.



All My Relations,  
**Perry McLeod Shabogesic**

## Cultural Teaching Videos

**NEW**

Check out teaching videos posted to the [website](#) and [social media](#)!



“

**Children spell love, T-I-M-E.**

”



# Happy National Indigenous Day!

June 21

National Indigenous Peoples Day is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples.

Due to provincial restrictions and recommendations for gathering and events, many Indigenous Day celebrations have yet to be scheduled, and/or are going online.

## Indigenous Day Ideas for Children

- Bake a traditional dish
- Create a traditional craft, or a day-based craft
- Watch shows, movies or concerts
- Talk about the day and what it means to you
- Read about influential Indigenous people
- Drum, Dance, Sing
- Take a virtual Art Tour



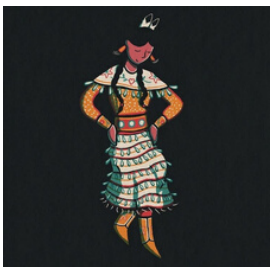
A series of indigenous artwork for colouring is available: [click here](#).

**SUMMER  
SOLSTICE  
CONCERT 2020**

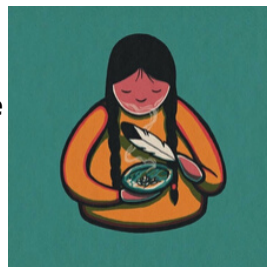
### APT N SUMMER SOLSTICE CONCERTS

Tune into APTN for the Summer Solstice Concert on June 21 for a virtual celebration in honour of National Indigenous Peoples Day. This special event features at-home musical performances from Indigenous artists across Canada. Even while apart, we can still come together as a nation and celebrate our Peoples.

June 21 on APTN from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., concert featuring:  
*Carolina East, Cris Derksen, Federal Lights, G.R. Gritt, Ghostkeeper, Julian Taylor, Leela Gilday, Nelson Tagoona, Sierra Noble, Susan Aglukark and Twin Flames.*



Niimi - They Dance



Abaabaso - They smudge  
Nookwezo - They smudge medicinally



Miigwech to Joshua Mangeshig Pawis-Steckley for sharing his images with us. Pawis-Steckley is an Ojibwe woodlands artist from Barrie, ON. He is a member of Wasauksing First Nation.

“The bird, the bee, the stone, the tree, the four-legged, the two-legged, the fish in the sea. These are all my relations - they are equal to me.

Mitakuye Oyasin



# Upcoming Webinars

Two webinars for caregivers (kin, customary, foster, group) and staff who support families: children and youth with neurodevelopmental disorders and navigating learning from home. These webinars are being hosted by Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS).

## Helping Children & Youth with Neurodevelopmental Disorders Cope During the Pandemic

Monday June 1, 1:00 – 2:30pm

Children and youth with neurodevelopmental disorders and disabilities (e.g. Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD, learning disabilities and intellectual disabilities) are experiencing heightened challenges during the pandemic, with disrupted routines due to school and program closures and greater stress while staying at home without regular supports.

Families and out-of-home caregivers are also struggling. In response, the COVID-19 Residential Services Work Group is hosting a webinar that will bring clinical expertise, practical guidance, and creative coping strategies to kin, customary, and foster caregivers, group home staff, and Society staff who support families in the community.

This webinar will feature clinicians from two prominent institutions:

Dr. Jacob Vorstman and Dr. Jane Summers are from the SickKids DAGSY clinic which, during the pandemic, provides families and caregivers with advice and strategies to help them manage challenging behaviours.

John Clark manages autism and behaviour services at Mackenzie Health and has expertise in helping young people who experience severe behavioural challenges.

[Click here for ZOOM Video Meeting link and instructions.](#)

For immediate information on supporting children and youth with neurodevelopmental disorders through the COVID-19 crisis, [click here.](#)

## Navigating Learning from Home

Friday June 5, 2:00 – 3:00pm

Caregivers and parents are struggling to support the learning needs of children and youth and to keep up with school requirements while school is happening virtually. The COVID-19 Residential Services Work Group is hosting a webinar to help caregivers and staff supporting parents in the community to understand:

- Ministry expectations vs reality
- What does learning look like
- Supporting students with special learning needs
- Getting ready for next year
- Support for caregivers - the role of Education Liaisons

This webinar will feature two agency-based Education Liaisons:

Jill Bennett (CAS Ottawa)

Eileen Topliffe (CAS Windsor-Essex)

[Click here for ZOOM Video Meeting link and instructions.](#)

## Upcoming Training

### Part X - Training Sessions for Alternative Caregivers & Pre-Service Training for New Alternative Caregivers

*Dates to be determined*

Due to events and circumstances beyond our control, we have had to postpone some events we were hoping to have delivered this Month. We will share information regarding dates for training, cultural events and more, as soon as they are available.

## Contact us

We love to hear from you.

Your role as caregiver is crucial in many aspects. Thank you for choosing your role and making a sincere difference in the lives of many. Thank you for believing in our Agency and helping keep Indigenous, Métis and Inuit children in our/your communities. Together we can provide positive and healthy experiences for children and youth, who can grow up with true and strong connections.

 Miigwech!



**1-855-223-5558**



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