



**EMBRACING  
TRANSFORMATION**

CESBA Conference 2023  
December 6-7

**ACCUEILLIR LE  
CHANGEMENT**

Conférence de CESBA 2023  
6-7 décembre

# **Uprooted: Grounding Instruction in Indigenous Worldviews**

with

**Cathy and Julie**

# Outline



- Introductions
- People, places, and spaces
- Centering Indigenous strengths, contributions, and futures
- Considerations for program building
- Questions / comments



# Boozhoo!

*Boo pertains to the breath of life.  
Zhoo pertains to the feel of the experience of life. Not the thought of it, but the feel of the experience.*

*Boozhoo - using one's breath of life to speak about the experience of life at its greatest.  
When met with a Boozhoo in response from another, it's very similar to an agreement to speak about the feeling of life at its greatest.*

*Have you ever spent time with someone who was compulsively negative, critical, or in bad spirits? How does it affect you?*

*Conversely, have you ever spent time with someone who was positive, warm, and in good spirits? How does that make you feel?*

*It literally impacts another's life.*

*It opens up the question - how do we use our words to impact another's life? Responsibly? Consciously? Words are powerful.*

Robert Horton  
M.Ed., M.A., B.Ed., B.A., PAED, TAED  
Anishinaabemowin Revitalization Program Instructor/ Cultural Facilitator  
Seven Generations Education Institute



# The Pierogi Effect

What's your pierogi?



What images do you immediately think of when you hear...



Métis

Inuit

Anishinaabe / First Nation



Any of these things?





Where are your people from?



shutterstock

# Aboriginal First Nations

## Our Own Names & Locations



## We Are Many Different Nations

This map uses the original tribal names for each Nation and shows where each Nation was originally before contact with Europeans. It includes the names of the Nations who survived contact and colonial violence as well as those that did not, honoring the memory of those who have fought to hold on to their homelands.

It is a visual reminder of those who have called this land home since time immemorial, creating a sense of pride for Indigenous people, and a better understanding for the settler public. For Indigenous Nations Peoples, this land will always be home.

This map is the product of years of research by cartographer Aaron Carapella who wanted to create a more historically accurate visual of representation of who lived where on Turtle before the arrival of Europeans.

Source:  
<https://www.ammsa.com/publications/windspeaker/map-maker-provides-pre-contact-look-Canada>

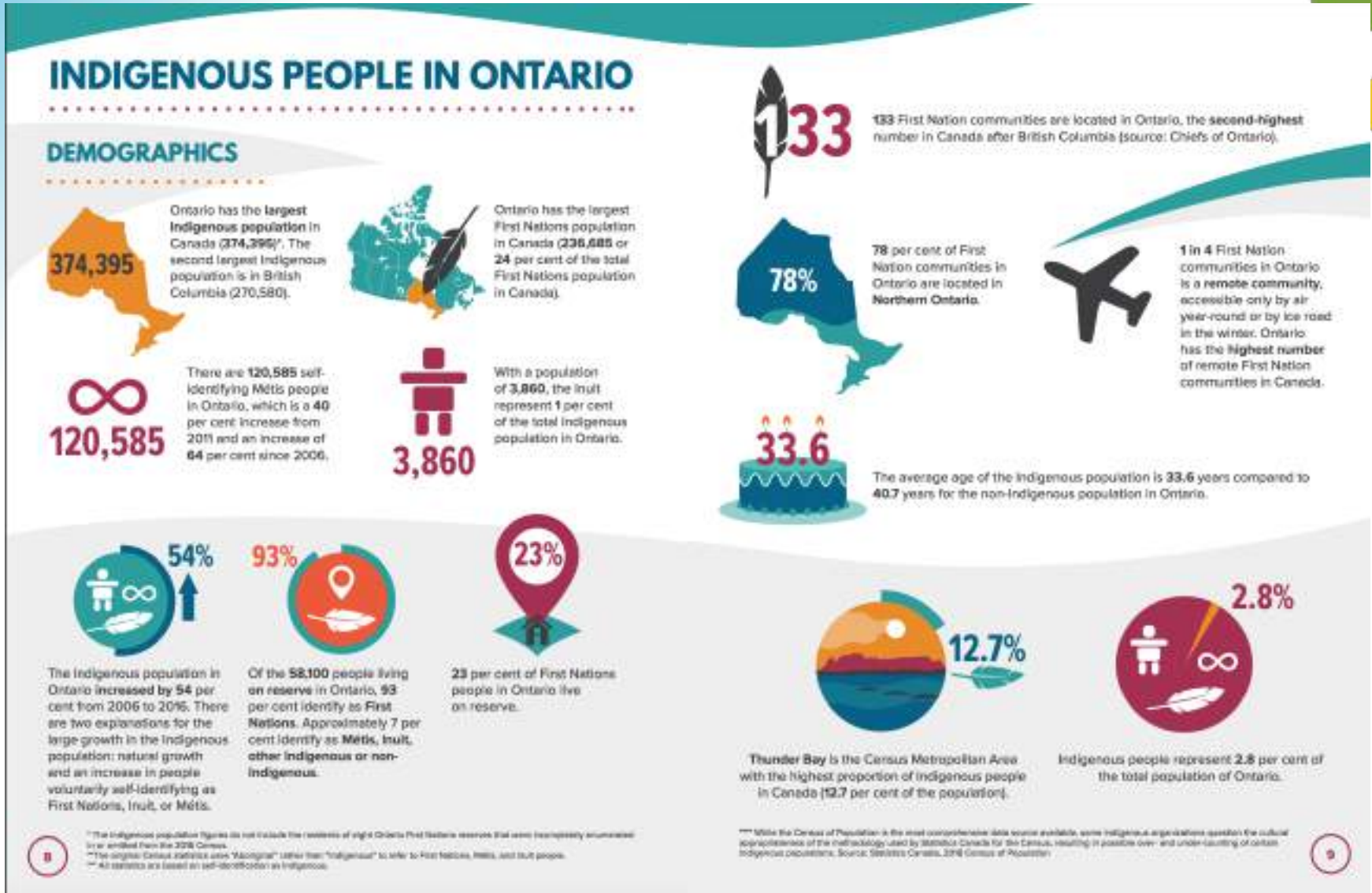


# Each Nation has its own:

- Language
- Clothing
- Housing
- Food
- Ceremonies / Traditions
- Music / Artistic Style
- Legends / History



# In Ontario...







# First Nations Status Ontario



Everything about who we are is connected to Land on which live.

**Disclaimer**  
This map is for illustrative purposes only.

Source:  
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Community Lands Development  
Directorate, June 2022; Demographic Management System  
(DMS), June 2022.  
Natural Resources Canada: National Atlas of Canada, 1 : 7 200 000.  
©1991 LogiMac. CartMap® v2021.1

**First Nation Status (125)**

- 125 First Nations (125)
- First Nations Land Management Act - Operational (23)
- First Nations Land Management Act - Developmental (19)
- Self-Government (3)

\* Six Nations of the Grand River consists of 13 legally recognized groups: Six of the Six Nations, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, Tuscarora, and Mohawk.

PH: PH/STUDIO/STUDIO



# Lessons from Miskwaadesi

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# Instructions

The turtle calendar is a simple way of tracking time, while keeping closely connected to Mother Earth.

Place a MONTHLY HEADER above the calendar.



Each moon cycle has 28 days. At the start of each moon (in this example Elder Moon) a monthly header is placed above the turtle, and a moon scute is added to the turtle's back. Each day a number scute is placed on the turtle's outer shell until the next moon (28 days).

To start the next moon remove the 28 number scutes and change the monthly header. Leave the current moon piece on the turtle's back and add the next moon piece (the goal is to cover the entire turtle's back with moon pieces). Begin placing the number scutes each day again starting at one.

Each day read the moon description, to remind students what occurs during that moon.



large turtle calendar



## Thirteen Moons

This calendar tells us what is happening in the natural world.

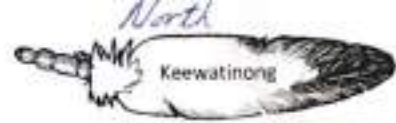
It follows the seasons and reminds us that there is a time in nature for everything, and everything we do is connected to nature and the Land.

Each Nation's calendar is representative of the Land on which they live.

For example, the 4<sup>th</sup> moon for some Ojibwe is *Iski-Gamizige Giizis* (Sugarbush Moon).

Some Oneida call this moon *Káhsakayu té se' Włhni tale'* (Thunder Moon).

Some Mi'kmaw call this moon *Penatmuikiku's* (Birds Laying Eggs Moon).

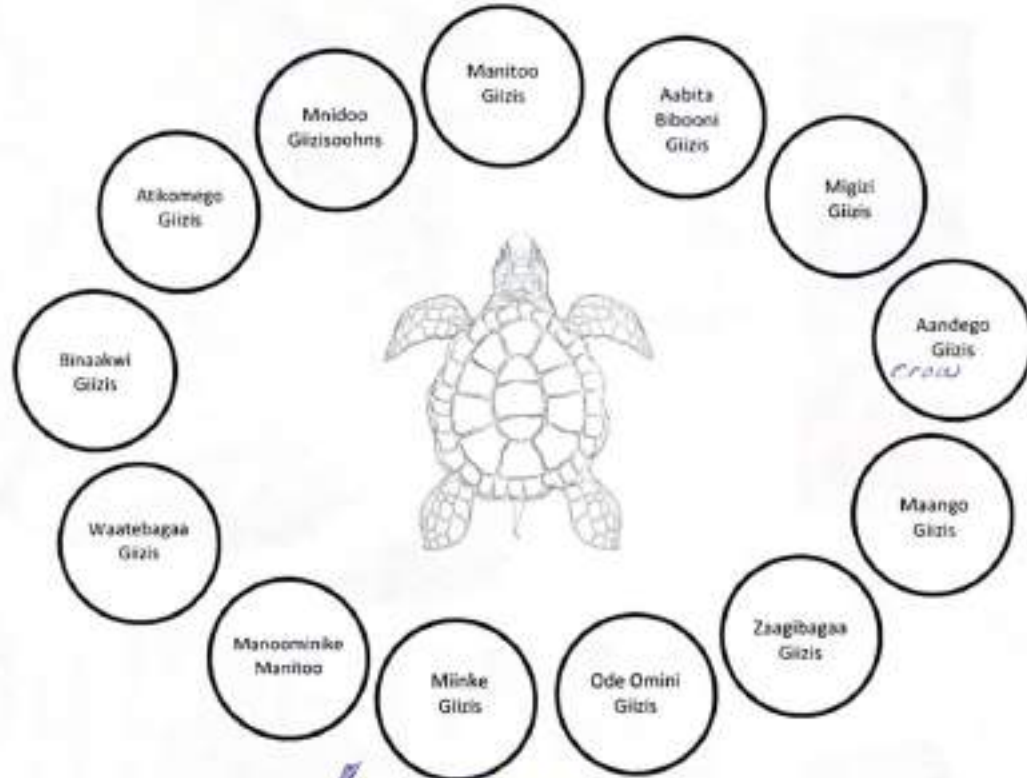
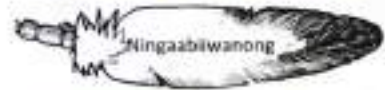


Cedar

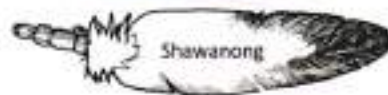


polar bear

Sage  
Nugabianong

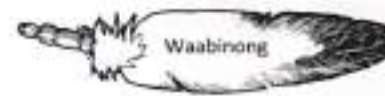


Sweetgrass  
Summer



white wolf

East



Tobacco  
white eagle  
spring





# Re-Rooting: A Sweetgrass Teaching





# Considerations for Content Design



# Whose voice is at the forefront?



Sometimes we unintentionally place Indigenous voices in the background.

How / when  
Indigenous people  
arrive in North  
America?



*Sky Woman*  
JB Thomas 2001



# Is it the 'easy' version?

Sometimes we default to the most common or stereotypical examples.



*FAMILY*  
BY NORVAL MORRISSEAU 2005

BEAR SCULPTURE, BY BILL REID





Autumn Peltier, Anishinabek Nation  
Chief Water Commissioner

<https://globalearthrepairfoundation.org/autumn-peltier/>



## Is the focus on trauma or strength and resilience?



Bear Clan Patrol in Winnipeg

<https://www.instagram.com/whatbringsushere/>

Photo of [@jamesfavel](#) by [@karen.asher](#)

The Patrol is a community-based solution to crime prevention, providing a sense of safety, solidarity, and belonging to both its members and to the communities they serve.

Does it situate  
Indigenous  
identities and  
traditions as  
historical?  
Consider the  
modern Ikwe:





Does it reflect the experiences of your students?  
Is it meaningful to them?



Credit: Photo by Ron Lach

# Resources and References



- [https://files.ontario.ca/books/in\\_spirit\\_of\\_reconciliation\\_pdf\\_0.pdf](https://files.ontario.ca/books/in_spirit_of_reconciliation_pdf_0.pdf)
- <https://www.instagram.com/whatbringsushere/>
- <https://sweetgrassteachings.com/>



# Evaluation Surveys | Sondages d'évaluation

Provide your feedback with the QR codes or visit [cesba.com/2023surveys](https://cesba.com/2023surveys)

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