



Festival and Education Days Return Next Week Starting June 1st!

For immediate release

Ottawa, Ontario, May 27, 2021: The Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival (SSIF) returns for its virtual run June 1 to June 21, 2021 bringing school-favourite Education Days with it! We are very honoured to be able to continue supporting Indigenous artists and performers by offering Education Days programming to teachers and students across Canada. Everyone with access to online is welcome to register and participate with us!

The Festival couldn't do this without the support of BMO which has been a key sponsor of Education Days since 2018: *"BMO is proud to support the Summer Solstice Indigenous Festival as the Presenting Sponsor. We're committed to supporting Indigenous communities with a spirit of inclusion and collaboration. I'm honoured to play a role in deepening the trust, respect and partnerships we have built with Indigenous communities coast to coast to coast,"* states Victor Pellegrino, Regional President, Personal Banking, Quebec & Eastern Ontario.

Programs will be delivered live on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the Festival. All live programming will begin at 1:00 pm EDT and will run for 45 minutes to an hour at a time.

Most programs will be pre-recorded, and debut live at a specific date and time. Following the video, the artist/presenter will be live to answer questions. This will give the students the opportunity to interact with the artist/presenter. In most cases, after the debut of the live event, the video will be accessible until the end of the festival on June 21st. The video can be paused and replayed but the artists will only be live to answer your questions during the scheduled time of the event.

For each program, registrants will receive an info package prior to the airdate/time about the artist/presenter, the activity description, and a dedicated YouTube link. It is suggested teachers set up a virtual meeting using Google Meets, Teams, Zoom, or use the school platform so that classes can watch the program together. Teachers can ask questions on behalf of their class by using the chat function.



Author Reading and Teaching: Nibi's Water Song
Presenter: Sunshine Tenasco
Recommended for grades K-4

Nibi's Water Song is a story about a young girl's search for clean water. Schools can participate in the signing of petition and letter writing if they wish.



Natural Printmaking

Presenter: Emily Hoefler-Brascoupé.

Suitable for all grade levels

Enjoy making beautiful art from natural materials with Emily Hoefler-Brascoupé. Collect leaves, twigs, grass, flowers, pebbles and other nature items. Check Emily's artwork paddle, "Rabbit Moon" which is featured on the Algonquin Canoe, at the Pimisi LRT Station, Ottawa. She learned about Algonquin culture from her grandfather.



Artcirq: Inuit Culture and Northern Life

Presenter: Artcirq

Recommended for grade 6+

Artcirq: "Circus without Borders" documentary performance 25 minutes in length, followed by a bilingual Q&A with an introduction to the youth involved who used circus skills to eliminate suicide in this community. (A French link will also be sent in the info pack to teachers.)



Summer Birds Storytelling & Stencil Print Art

Presenter: Simon Brascoupé

Suitable for all grade levels

This stencil print workshop includes storytelling of the summer birds. Simon's Grandmother would tell him and his brothers the story of the summer birds, where a giant head kept birds in a large cage preventing spring and summer from coming. Three children head South to release the birds facing adventure and

dangers along the way. Simon provides step-by-step instructions and encouragement in a 30-minute video followed by a 15-minute artist discussion.

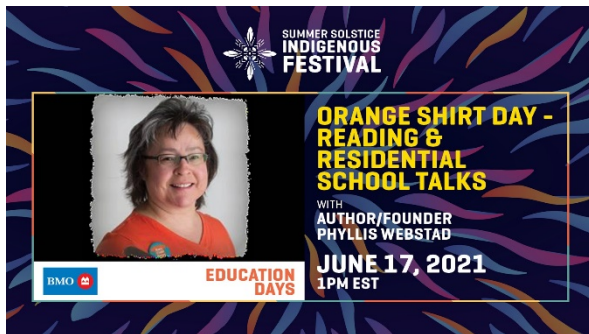


Cultural Showcase

Presenters: Prairie Fire Jiggers, Tarniriik, Indigenous Experiences

Suitable for all grade levels

Prairie Fire aims to teach audiences about Metis culture and the joy of the jig. Tarniriik continues to share and perform Inuit throatsinging. Indigenous Experiences has been proudly presenting Pow Wow dance performances for schools and public events for over 20 years.



Orange Shirt Day Reading & Residential School Talks

Presenter: Phyllis Webstad

Recommended for grades 5-8

Every year on September 30th, we wear orange shirts to honour residential school survivors. *Orange Shirt Day* grew out of Phyllis Webstad's story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day at residential school. Her story, told for the first time in May 2013, became Phyllis' first children's book. Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually, and an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools, and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

****This program is only available live at the date/time of airing. There will be no recording of this program for a later airing.***

To register individually, as a class or as an entire school please use the following link:

Click this link for the registration form:

[2021 SSIF Education Days Registration Form](https://summersolsticefestivals.ca/registration)

Make sure to check out the SSIF website (which is still being updated regularly with new programming). <https://summersolsticefestivals.ca/>. We have some great family programming including a colouring contest, movie nights, culinary and creation workshops, learning about the Ojibwe Spirit Horses, and so

much more. Keep up to date with programming by following us on Facebook.
<https://www.facebook.com/SolsticeFestivals/>

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