



# CULTURAL CAMP SUMMARY

Prepared By:

Brenda Slomka, Program Manager  
Applied Research, Pembroke Campus  
Algonquin College



We gathered.

We heard.

We listened.

We reflected.

By being together.

By being with Elders.

By hearing the Drum.

By being on the Land.

By being within Creation.

By being asked to be  
accountable for Reconciliation.

**We were CHANGED.**

# ALGONQUIN STARTS A JOURNEY.

13 incoming and current students, as well as our Indigenous Cultural Teacher and two staff formed community from August 22 to August 27 for our first Indigenous Cultural Camp. This deeply profound experiential learning opportunity was initiated by our Applied Research office through our SSHRC grant for our Mamiwi Maadaadizi project.

In partnership and led intentionally and thoughtfully from Joanne Haskin, Executive Director of Mashkiwizii Manido Foundation and her team of Elders, Knowledge Keepers and special guests, we were invited to listen, reflect, engage and act.

Our partnership with Ontario Parks, allowing us the utilization of Foy Provincial Park for this unique time, was a gift. The beauty of the land cannot be overstated.





INDIGENOUS VETERANS MEMORIAL



PAINTING THE LAND



KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE



WATCHING THE EAGLE SOAR



VIEWING A SWEAT LODGE

Cultural Camp was a very significant and profound time for all with much learning, healing and looking forward. The potential for continued immersed learning as we continue the journey of truth and reconciliation must be foundational and the College must continue in these ways to allow for all Indigenous students to know there is a place for them, and for partnership in the journey.

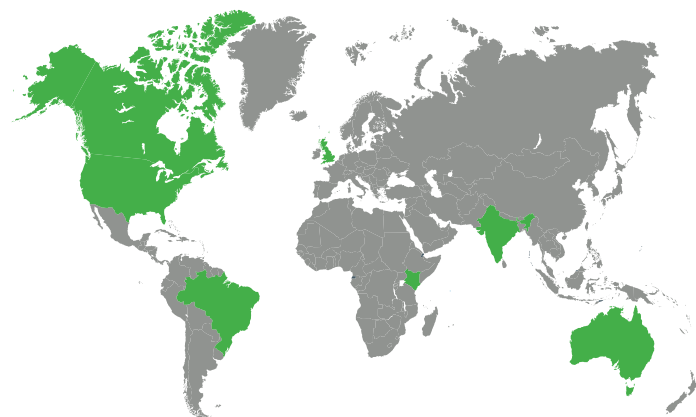
Joanne Haskin,  
Executive Director of Mashkiwizii Manido Foundation

## Cultural Camp Participants

**13**  
Students

**2**  
Staff

**2**  
Partner  
Organizations



### HIGHLIGHTS

- 2 partner organizations: Mashkiwizii Manido & Joanne Haskin; Ontario Parks.
- 1 on campus day (Pembroke Campus) + 5 on the land days (Foy Provincial Park)
- Visit to Pikwakanagan First Nation, Kairos Blanket Exercise and special Elders & Guests.
- Painting, talent/sharing, self-reflection and journaling.

### OTHER AREAS OF LEARNING DURING OUR TIME WERE:

- Clan System
- Self Governance
- Forestry Management
- TRC Calls to Action
- Residential Schools & Sixties Scoop
- The Seven Grandfather Teachings

Indigenous history, traditional values, ways of knowing and being were the foundation of our time learning about truth.



CULTURAL CAMP PARTICIPANTS



PIKWAKANAGAN FIRST NATION CULTURAL GROUND



UNCEDED AND UNSURRENDERED ALGONQUIN TERRITORY



LISTENING TO TRUTH ABOUT SIXTIES SCOOP & RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS



PAINTING THE LAND



TRADITIONAL TEEPEE AT PIKWAKANAGAN

The deeper story of this profound experience is how 16 individual people came together to form a community of care and love and hope; how our students after this time together are stronger, kinder, and more aware of our role in the journey of truth and reconciliation.

## Our students said

“I cannot express the depth of my gratitude for this experience, for learning about Indigenous culture and for being so changed by being on the land”

“This was life changing for me”

“I have felt safe and included when this has not normally been my reality”.

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We were privileged to have Kate Monahan, a professor at our Pembroke campus who was a core part of preparation for camp also join with us during this time. Kate said the following about her time: “This was an impactful experience that touched me spiritually and emotionally. It challenged me to move away from thinking about allyship towards acting in allyship, always with ‘nothing about us without us’ in mind. The College and broader community can expect a more concerted effort from me to move us forward in understanding the truth and pursuing acts of reconciliation. It was my honor to participate.”

In 20 plus years of working in higher education, it has been a while since I have seen such a cohesive, thoughtful, kind group of people gather together. This was deeply meaningful to witness and be part of. The impact from our SSHRC grant, allowing us to focus on Indigenization within our rural campus has been so important and we are thankful. We are deeply hopeful that this will be the first of many more Cultural Camps to come.

Brenda Slomka  
Program Manager, Applied Research

## CONTACT

Brenda Slomka, Program Manager,  
Applied Research, Pembroke Campus  
[slomkab@algonquincollege.com](mailto:slomkab@algonquincollege.com)

Applied Research, Algonquin College  
1385 Woodroffe Ave, C211  
Ottawa, ON K2G 1V8  
(613) 727-4723  
[research@algonquincollege.com](mailto:research@algonquincollege.com)

[algonquincollege.com/applied-research](http://algonquincollege.com/applied-research)