

# First Nations Studies Program Major



Image created collectively by students and community members at the  
“Music, Arts and Culture” celebration at Fanshawe College

## Looking back at 2013 -2014

# Shekoli! Koolimalsi! Boozhoo!

The spring has sprung, and year two of the First Nations Studies Program Major at Fanshawe College is complete. And what a year it's been!

## Summary

The following document is an executive summary of the major engagement activities organized for students, staff and community members, through Fanshawe College's First Nations Studies Program Major, over the 2013/2014 academic year. Many individuals contributed to the program this year in beautiful and inspiring ways and we want to extend our gratitude to them for making this year our best yet!

Golden Eagle stands atop a Deer  
in the middle of the train tracks.



Image courtesy of Andrew Judge

## Guest Speakers and Performances

We had another stellar lineup of 18 Indigenous community members and leaders who visited the College this year, to act as guest speakers, teachers and guides. Each, in their own way, shared beautiful teachings with the Fanshawe College community! The following is a list of speakers and the topic they shared:

**Wahzayzee Deleary** - Anishinaabe Clan system

**Brent Debassige** - Indigeniety and the impacts of colonization

**Mario Wassaykeesic** - Speaking an Indigenous language

**Candace Brunette-Debassige** - Using the body to learn

**Luke Nicholas** - Land claims, band law and treaty rights

**George Kennedy** - "Dish with one spoon"

**Isaac Day** - The medicine wheel and traditional medicines

**Juan Sanchez** - Indigenous cultures of South America

**Rick Fehr** - Traditional uses of land in Southwestern Ontario

**Molly Peters** - East Coast Peoples and their rights

**Jan Longboat** - Traditional medicine

**Courtney Dakin** - Standing up against environmental degradation

**David Maracle** - Performance using multiple instruments

**Nimkii Osawamic** - Hoop Dance and hand drum demonstration

**David White** - Male Pow Wow dance techniques

**Sandra Albert** - Female Pow Wow dance techniques

**Mary Deleary** - Waynaboozoo and Nanabush

**Trish Whiteye** - Haudenosaunee Clan System

Wolverine



Drawing courtesy of Andrew Judge

Wolverines are one of the fiercest and most mysterious of all mammals. They have been known to battle bears and can catch the scent of blood up to 20 feet below the surface of the snow.

Trish Whiteye and the Traditional Indigenous Knowledge class



Image courtesy of Andrew Judge

Big thanks, to all the speakers and performers who've strengthened the capacity of our students and community through leading by example. We look forward to inviting many of you back to the College so that we can continue to strengthen our student and community member capacity for Indigenous knowledge. If you are interested in booking any of the above speakers or performers, please contact Andrew Judge ([a\\_judge@fanshawec.ca](mailto:a_judge@fanshawec.ca)). Contact information will only be shared with permission.

## 2013-2014 Events

### Sunrise Ceremony

Students and community members gather with Isaac Day, after the sunrise ceremony to hear a medicine wheel teaching.



Image courtesy of Andrew Judge

At this year's sunrise ceremony, in September, the day started with dense fog. The fog was so thick that street signs could not be read while driving. Despite the fog a number of community members showed up to the sacred circle at 6am. Before the sun came over the horizon Isaac Day lit a sacred fire. Isaac led the sunrise ceremony in a most beautiful way. Everyone gave thanks to creation, the sun, the fall equinox and the future leaders of our communities. Isaac Day is a great teacher and we are always thankful for his teachings!

### “A Music Arts and Culture Celebration”

In the winter a major event was organized alongside our partners in the First Nations Centre. This event celebrated the winter solstice, winter moons and student excellence. The event entitled “A Music, Arts and Culture Celebration” brought together no less than seven College faculties and organizations; ten vendors; two incredible performers; two high schools; and more than 200 guests! The following is a list of participants and the role they played:

Nimkii Inini showing off his excellent hoop dancing skills!



Image courtesy of Agata Lesnik

**Sustainability** - Provided compostable cups and recyclable spoons for the Three Sisters Soup sample. Amanda Richman ([arichman@fanshawec.ca](mailto:arichman@fanshawec.ca)) also shared the importance of environmental sustainability with the audience. Thanks a lot Amanda for helping to make this happen!

**Fashion Design** - At this event several prayer clothes were hung. They really created a welcoming atmosphere for the day. Each textiles was sewn by students in the fashion fits program and they did a great job! Thanks to Lorrie Lawrence ([llawrence@fanshawec.ca](mailto:llawrence@fanshawec.ca)) for assisting with this!



Image courtesy of Peggy O'Neil

**Fanshawe Student Union (FSU)** - FSU played an integral role, not only in helping to organize the event, but also by financially supporting the gathering. Their team set up Forwell hall and their kitchen staff made the Three Sisters Soup. The soup was a huge hit and we had to get security to hold back the hungry crowd... Haaaay! just kidding. Honestly though, within 45 minutes of the first cup being served, the 1200 litres of soup was gone! Delicious, I must add! Thanks to all the FSU staff and Tiffany Kicks ([tkicks@fanshawec.ca](mailto:tkicks@fanshawec.ca)) for being so patient in making this event come to life.



**Music Industry Arts (MIU)** - Leading up the event a former student approached me in the hall. After congratulating him on his acceptance to one of the most competitive programs at the College, I told him about the upcoming event. He suggested that students in his program be invited to manage the sound for the event. This ended up being a great suggestion! Their team brought all the own equipment, were set up early and the whole event sounded great! The students in Music Industry Arts did an excellent job! I would recommend their services to anyone running similar events on campus. Thanks also to Steve Malison ([smalison@fanshawec.ca](mailto:smalison@fanshawec.ca)) for facilitating this connection for us, you're awesome!

David R. Maracle  
Playing the ultra rare hang drum.



Image courtesy of Agata Lesnik

**Facilities** - Facilities always plays a major role in any event hosted at the College. When I approached staff at facilities for a small favour they didn't hesitate and were extremely accommodating. We have to hand it also to Fire Safety Specialist Derek Flynn ([d\\_flynn5@fanshawec.ca](mailto:d_flynn5@fanshawec.ca)) who has always been so kind in helping us balance cultural safety and facility safety! Thanks so much Derek and all facilities staff!

**The School of Language and Liberal Studies (SLLS)** - The First Nations Studies Program Major is housed in SLLS. SLLS plays a major role in allowing FNS the space to share culturally relevant programming at Fanshawe College. Without the financial and directional support they provide, none of this would be possible. There is a really awesome team in SLLS who are always ready to tackle any event with enthusiasm. Thanks especially to Steve, Mike, Alysha, Ingrid, Kizhay and Jess B.

Paddle carving demonstration.



Image courtesy of Agata Lesnik

**The First Nations Centre (FNC)** - The Music, Arts and culture celebration was the first time that the FNC and FNS worked closely together to deliver something special at the College. The partnership was a great success. FNC staff and the First Nations Students Association played a major role ensuring this event ran smoothly. We are grateful for the teamwork of Simone, Kevin, Mallory, Bev and more than 15 volunteers!

**Event Summary** - The “Music, Arts and Culture Celebration” was a major success. Vendors sold many items related to music, art and culture and also shared their Indigenous knowledge with community members. Two amazing performances dazzled the crowd, which at one point exceeded 200 participants. Isaac Day opened the event with a smudge and song. He also spoke about the importance of communities uniting. World renown musician David R. Maracle (<http://www.davidrmaracle.com>) shared his talents in the afternoon, while Nimkii inini (<https://www.facebook.com/Dedicated.Native.Awareness.Stage>) preformed a hoop dance demonstration that had the crowd buzzing in the morning. Poet and Indigenous wisdom carrier Juan Sanchez was also present. He spoke about the Indigenous Message on Water (<https://m.facebook.com/IndigenousMessageOnWater>) and the importance of protecting clean water for all future generations. All those who participated agreed that this event should be hosted annually and that it become even bigger and better in the future. Please stay tuned for another similar event projected for fall 2014.

Community member checking out one of the vendors



Image courtesy of Agata Lesnik

## Academics

Student numbers are always hard to predict especially with a new program. That being said, we were glad to see numbers in the core courses increase by 30% this year. Cumulatively the two core courses had a total of 48 registered students and we look forward to even more amazing students in the future. This summer our energies will be focused on recruitment. By visiting local communities, reaching out to school boards and contacting news agencies we will share a positive message about the importance of Indigenous education. Internally, we are also working on a **full scale marketing campaign** to show the community we are committed to increasing the capacity of all students when it comes to Indigenous knowledge. Thanks to everyone supporting the effort. We hope that you continue to show support, as we celebrate education now and in the future.

Painting courtesy of students in the Traditional Indigenous Knowledge course



## Articulation Agreement

The articulation agreement with Western is signed, sealed and delivered, which means now **students taking First Nations Studies at Fanshawe College can officially earn Western University credits for the successful completion of several courses!** We have already witnessed several students take advantage of this excellent opportunity. We wish these students the best in their pursuit of university degrees! We also wish all our students the very best in whatever avenue they choose to pursue in their lives.

## Courses

There are currently 7 courses in Indigenous Studies offered at Fanshawe College. Those courses are as follows:

**Contemporary Knowledge** - A look at contemporary topics affecting local First Nations communities including band council operations, land claims, colonization and the residential schooling legacy.

**Traditional knowledge** - A look at customary practices of the ancestors of the three local First Nations groups (Oneida, Munsee, Chippewa) prior to the colonial influence. Topics such as traditional governance, land management and beliefs and values are covered.

(Both of the above courses were developed entirely based on the input of local community members)

**Indigenous Resistance** - A look at cultural restoration efforts of Indigenous communities around the world. Topics include traditional styles of education, language revitalization, customary practices and physical culture restoration.

**Anishinaabe 13 Moons** - A look at the metaphysical, cultural and philosophical foundations of the Anishinaabe people.

**Four Sacred Directions** - A look at some of the unique cultural characteristics of Indigenous groups from the four directions of Turtle Island.

**Introduction to First Nation Studies** - The curriculum for this course was shared by our partners in Western University's First Nations Studies program. The course offers a historical foundation of First Nations peoples in Canada.

**Global Spiritualities (new)** - A look at the spiritual and ceremonial characteristics of various ancient cultures around the world. This course investigates the chakra system, sacred geometry and the cultures of ancient Egypt, the Maasai and Mayans.

**Courses in the First Nations Studies stream, offered at Fanshawe College, are open to all students.** We always look forward to a diverse population of students interested in strengthening their capacity for Indigenous knowledge.

## **Community Partnerships**

**N'Amerind Friendship Centre, The Ontario Trillium Foundation and Fanshawe College's First Nations Studies Program Major "They Will Teach You" culture teachings program**

The success of the "They Will Teach You" cultural teachings program, offered at N'Amerind Friendship Centre, has come as a bit of a surprise. A trio of individuals dedicated to Indigenous knowledge initiated this program in 2013. Community members identified a need for alternative venues for learning Indigenous knowledge outside the College. The Ontario Trillium Foundation was at first concerned with the ability of such a program to attract high numbers. We can officially put their concerns to rest. **After just our first four teachings/gatherings, nearly three hundred people have participated.** We were overwhelmed with the incredible response from our community members at first, but as the dust settles **we have established a great rhythm and are excited to continue to deliver cultural teachings every two weeks for the next three years.** This program is guided by the expertise of a seven member Elders Council, which includes Elders/Teachers from the three local Nations. Below is a list of the members of the Elders council and future dates for the program:

## Elders Council

### Oneida

Lot^nt Honyust  
Bruce Elijah  
Marlene Greene

### Anishinaabe

Mary Deleary

### Lenape

Virgil Tobias  
Irene Peters  
Tracey Whiteye



Image courtesy of Agata Lesnik, featuring the artwork of Métis artist Anette Sullivan

## List of upcoming events

The events, as identified below, were chosen by the Elders council. Each season has a specific focus on one of the three local Nations. Please contact Ron Hill ([rhill@namerind.on.ca](mailto:rhill@namerind.on.ca)) the program coordinator for more information or to suggest an event.

### Haudenosaunee - Spring

(Speakers confirmed)

1. Mar 31st - Creation (Lot^nt and Bruce Elijah)
2. April 14th - Maple (Mary Deleary)
3. April 28th - Spring Feast (Philip Snake)
4. May 12th - Planting Preparations (Nick Deleary)
5. May 26th - Pow Wow Dancing (David White & Sandra Albert)
6. June 9th - Strawberry (Marlene Greene and Tracey Whiteye)



### Anishinaabe - Summer



Ontario  
Trillium Foundation



Fondation Trillium  
de l'Ontario

An agency of the Government of Ontario.  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario.

(Speakers not yet confirmed)

1. June 23rd - Summer Feast (Haudenosaunee Mini Social)
2. July 7th - Medicine Gathering (Contact Ernestine Mcleod)
3. July 21st - Fullness of Life – Earth’s Garden - (Mary Deleary)
4. August 4th - Green Corn (Howard Elijah)
5. August 18th - Water of Life (Mary Deleary and Irene Peters)
6. Sep 8th - Tobacco Pouch Making (Aaron Dolson)

We look forward to and are grateful for returning participants, week after week. We also welcome new participants for any and all of the teachings. Each week a diverse crowd gathers to learn from local Elders and community leaders. **Everyone is welcome to attend the “They Will Teach You” cultural teachings program!** Please feel free to share these events with those you think may be interested.

## Conclusion

There are many initiatives that the First Nations Studies Program Major team engages each year, dedicated to Indigenous knowledge and uniting the community. This document has summarized, just some of our major successes. **Thank you for your continued support of the program, without you none of this could be possible!** Please continue to be apart of the growth of Fanshawe College’s First Nations Studies Program Major community.

**“In the spirit of education now and into the future”**

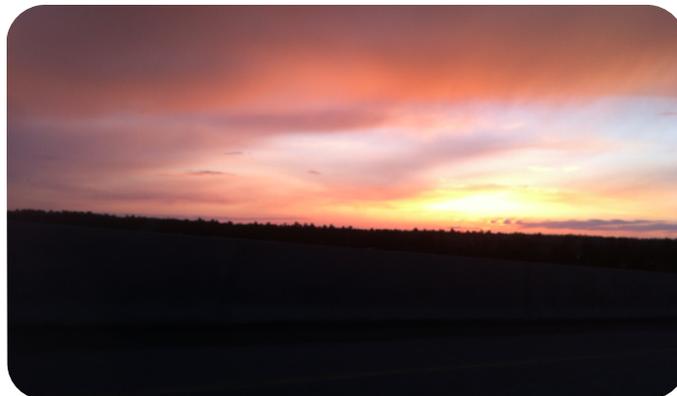


Image courtesy of Andrew Judge

**For more information please contact:**

Andrew Judge [a\\_judge@fanshawec.ca](mailto:a_judge@fanshawec.ca)

First Nations Studies Program Major development coordinator

“They Will Teach You” cultural teachings program helper