



Enhancing Indigenous
Education Through
Co-Creation

Favoriser l'éducation
des autochtones par
la cocréation

GATHERING OF YOUTH WISDOM

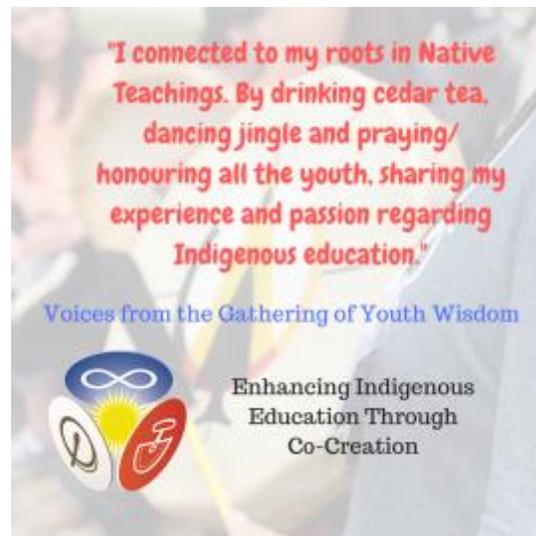
Convened by The Rideau Hall Foundation

Hosted by the Owning Partners of the Manitoulin Hotel & Conference Centre: M'Chigeeng First Nation, Whitefish River First Nation, Sheshegwaning First Nation, Aundeck Omni Kaning First Nation, Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Sagamok Anishnawbek, and The Great Spirit Circle Trail

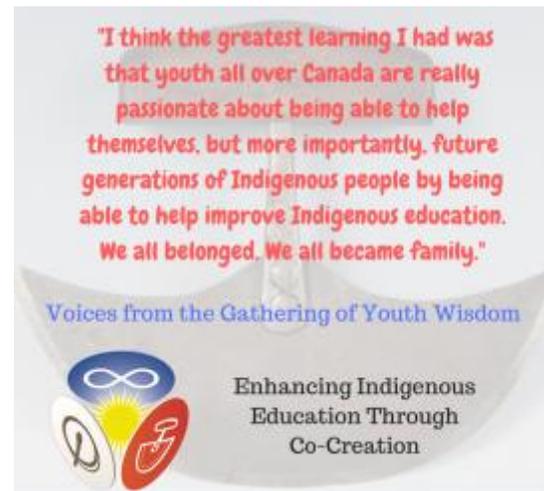
Facilitated by Three Things Consulting

Thoughts and Perspectives on The Gathering

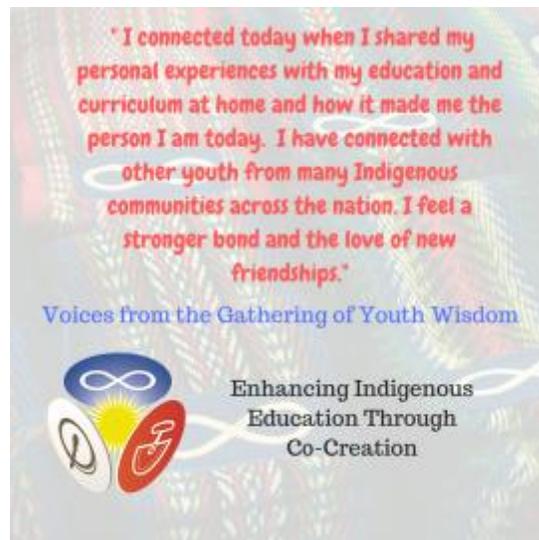
- *I connected with myself so I can not be so shy. We have also connected with each other today by showing and sharing our emotions and stories with everyone. Also by connecting to our Elders.*
- *It was day one and I feel like I have made lifelong friends and built a stronger connection to mother earth. I know that I must put my heart first and trust myself because the truth is there from the Higher Power or Creator. I must go out on the land and do cultural and spiritual things to nourish my spirit and mind.*
- *I have learned lots...about medicines and more about a life of balance and resilience. I learned to not be ashamed of who I am, to not be afraid to express myself. Today I learned about the kindness of others and the excitement of new things.*
- *Today, I learned that you need to express yourself with others. Don't be shy.*



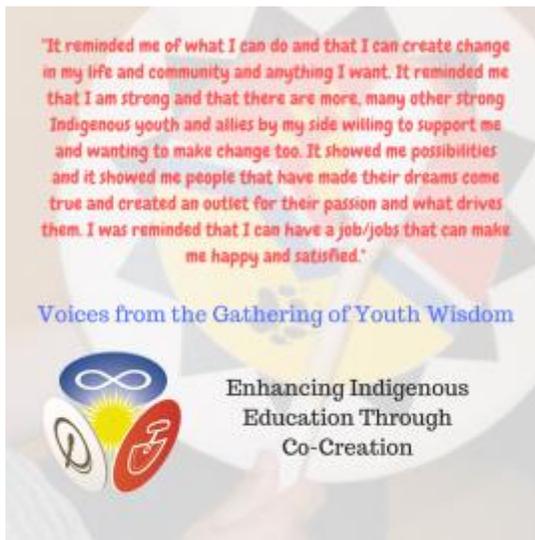
- *I will apply what I learned today to my life, and remember the lessons I gained that help me be balanced and help me in my life. I want to share my experience with others from my community and try my best to empower other youth and encourage them to get involved. I also want to take action and make change with these issues in education.*
- *When I leave, I will probably be sad because its time to leave but spread and cultivate what's been taught. I will keep what was taught to me and the experience and memories in my heart.*
- *When I leave here, I will tell people of my experience, reflect on it and carry it into tomorrow. I feel very confident, and in time I'll be able to express myself and continue to express myself freely.*
- *I feel proud to have learned the things I did today. I feel really great and proud of who I am as a person.*
- *I feel very honoured to be here; this is a very cool opportunity. Today was empowering, and it made me feel good. Also, you could feel everyone's high positive energies.*
- *I feel more knowledgeable in other cultures, how different and similar we are as a people.*
- *I feel emotional and reminded of what I need. I feel good but very emotional. The path to self healing and empowerment is hard and emotional. But it is necessary for my body, mind, spirit and soul.*
- *I connected participating in the events and sharing with everyone. Letting myself be guided to enlightenment and helping myself get in touch with myself and my culture.*
- *I connected with many stories of peoples struggles with racism and education experiences. I have connected through my culture, and the beliefs I hold today. I believe that my beliefs were well heard today.*



- *It's always hard for me to be able to talk to new people, especially when it's a group because of my social anxiety, and me being anti-social. But this gathering really helped me overcome it a bit. I felt more connected here. I was able to talk and give ideas more than I thought I would and it's a step forward for me to help share my story and overcome a lot of things.*
- *It was an amazing experience and I learned a lot. I got to meet new people and I experienced new things like traveling east for the first time or being able to have a connection with so many other youth when usually I'd be shy and try to stick myself, but I am very inspired by all the different people I met.*
- *For us youth to gain this opportunity was life changing for me and many of my peers. I was able to voice my ideas/opinions, have fun, learn, awaken, heal, travel, gain friendships, and have a different perspective of the world. We are so powerful! & I wouldn't have had that insight if it wasn't for the conference.*
- *I learned that lots of people have been effected in many different ways by residential schools, not just being in them, but having family members in them also effected the family negatively. I didn't know the extent that it went to.*
- *What an amazing experience for me as a student to gain this knowledge. My love has been deepened and my passion has been reinvigorated. I feel such a beautiful connection to each and everyone of the individuals I met during the gathering and they will forever be held close to my heart. I learned that it's okay for me to be passionate, for wanting to be involved and driven, to learn and make*



change and this is shared by many youth within this beautiful country that we all call home. I learned that together we will make this place a better home for ourselves and the future generations simply by being involved with this gathering. The cat is out of the bag now and change is happening now, not tomorrow: it's happening now.



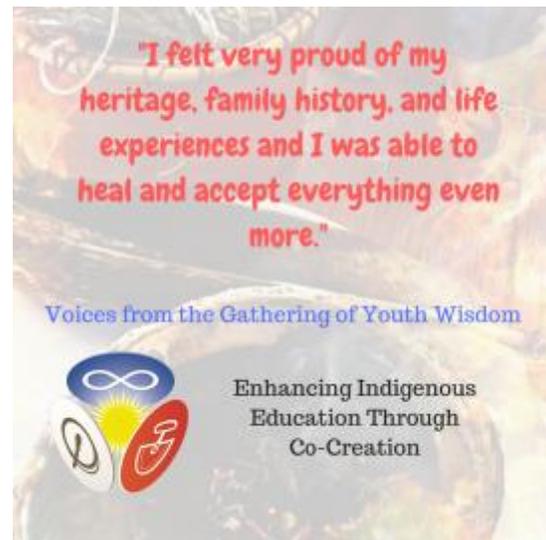
- *We are the generation that will be teaching the next generation our traditions and culture. If we do not take responsibility and learn these aspects of our culture, it might be lost forever.*

- *I think it is very important for people to learn about their own cultures because it is what they are and who their ancestors*

and relatives are and I think it is an important thing to know about yourself. When you are aware of your cultures history and strength it helps you find your own identity and connect with yourself/others easier.

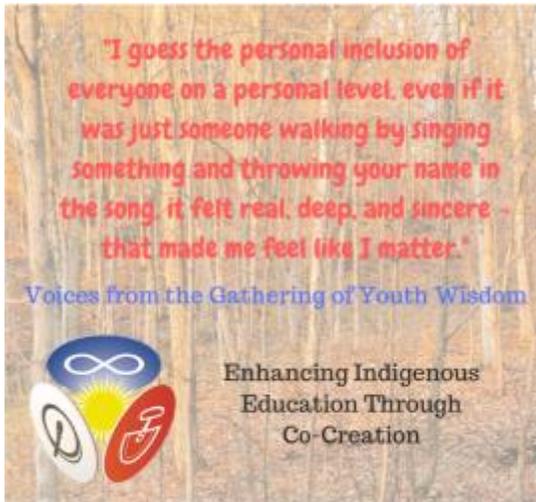
- *Learning about culture is important because it helps us feel connected and feel like we belong. Learning about your culture and its history is the first step to knowing who you are as a person and where you will go. Without learning your roots then you can't move forward. And learning other people's cultures bring more knowledge and awareness to the people around you.*
- *I learned more about how people really see me; I didn't expect to be in the inner circle or one of the champions, so it made me feel grateful, proud and honored. I also learned that I should most definitely continue making music. I also learned that I could make a lot of friends if I just keep trying and continued to get out of my comfort zone.*

- *I was sort of able to learn a little about myself because of the things people said about me in my warm fuzzies and what people were saying to me during the conference; it was more of a realization of myself and self-worth rather than 'learning' about myself.*
- *I found this gathering to raise a lot of deep seeded emotions within myself and gave me a new drive for the things I believe in. It also gave me a new outlook on the future of education in Canada. I feel like I've figured out who I am, what I stand for, and what I'm here to do now.*
- *Prior to this event I was scared because I thought everyone else at the event would know more about my culture than I did. However, I learnt that we are all in the same boat when it comes to knowledge about our culture. I was both relieved but also sad that most of us knew very few things about our culture.*
- *I felt like I did some growing since I took part in this project; I definitely felt like a changed person when I got home. I felt that I am less of a 'not important person' as I normally thought I am because some people said some really kind things about me that I do identify with myself, but I doubt myself about all the time, and from that I was able to see my 'awesomeness' a little.*
- *The Gathering helped me stop doing drugs until I got home. There was just so many activities and people to talk it never came across that I went those days without drugs, I wish I can go back to it because it helped me so much.*
- *Being able to share and deeply connect directly from the heart with /all/ those people really did something to me deep down, I'm currently*



still trying to figure it out. I feel closer to who I am meant to be, very inspired by the work that all the adult allies do.

- *I think that I could talk a little bit about Indigenous education issues in Canada thanks to this gathering, I don't think I would have been able to talk much at all about issues with indigenous education besides a few things.*



- *The Chiefs and Elders, adult allies, and youth all inspired me to become involved with the Band Council on my reserve and maybe once I've finished post-secondary I could run for Chief and I only said maybe, because my reserve has never had a woman Chief. I feel by the knowledge I have gained I now have a better*

understanding and would feel more comfortable making my voice heard in my community.

- *I definitely realized I do not have to be as shy as I thought I was and that I just got to be myself: vulnerable, and honest. I am beginning to share my story with pride and strength, which is comforting because I'm not too fond of crying in front of others.*
- *I will keep learning about my culture through my post-secondary program but I will also try to come in contact with more elders in order to learn from them as well. I have learnt that education is not only found in a class room and I look forward to learning more about myself and my ancestors.*
- *I have been very motivated to dedicated to becoming sober. I am very motivated to help my family heal and learn along side me, by trying to make healthier choices and trying to get family members more involved in our culture.*
- *I'll push my way through school even though I dread it. I'm already a big impact on my brothers' life basically being his mom, so push him to*

- do his homework. Not being ashamed of my culture because this workshop helped me embrace it. I felt very connected with all the people, the creator, myself and all the different cultures. I am very grateful for the experience.*
- *Just having this conference, made me feel like we are doing something important and trying to make a change for the better. Being able to connect with so many different people from different backgrounds and environments, and to be able to learn from them really meant a lot to me, everyone deserves to experience connections like this.*
 - *I enjoyed the trip so much, it was an experience of a lifetime that I will always remember; even if I did have my up and down with things, but overall I would love to do it again and try and speak up and talk to more people.*
 - *I've never flown and I was scared for my life when I got on my first plane. Truth is, it wasn't scary at all and to take opportunities like this in life is important because it can impact you so much more than you'd ever think. This experience changed my life and I will always remember this. Opened my eyes up to so much more than just my culture.*

