

Sharing Knowledge: National Indigenous Peoples Day

Humber College and the University of Guelph-Humber are located within the traditional and treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit, known as Adoobiigok, the “Place of the Alders” in Michi Saagiig language. The Humber River Watershed historically provided an integral connection for Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Wendat peoples between the Ontario Lakeshore and the Lake Simcoe/Georgian Bay regions. Now home to people of numerous nations, Adoobiigok continues to provide a vital source of interconnection for all.

June 21, 2021: National Indigenous Peoples Day

On June 21, 2021, Canada observes **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. This is a day for all people living in Canada to acknowledge and recognize the outstanding contributions, unique heritage, challenges and diverse cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. This year in particular marks the 25th anniversary of celebrating the history, cultures, and achievements of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples¹.

As part of National Indigenous Peoples Day this year, we are honouring the missing children, the families left behind and the survivors of residential schools.² During this year's National Indigenous Peoples Day, many will be taking time to reflect and mourn the children found in 215 unmarked graves in Kamloops, B.C.³ The organizers of the [kid's shoe memorial](#) at the Vancouver Art Gallery are inviting Canadians to mourn and remember the children tonight at 10:00 p.m. EST as part of a vigil.⁴

A joint statement regarding the discovery of the remains of the 215 children from Humber President Chris Whitaker and Dean of Indigenous Education and Engagement Jason Seright can be found [here](#).

In response to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Humber identified as its Strategic Priority #7 (under Pillar #3) “Healthy and Inclusive Community” to continue to build a diverse and inclusive community of exceptional students, faculty and staff. The supporting action is to establish and implement an institutional framework and strategy for equity, diversity and inclusion that addresses the particular needs of Humber students and employees.

The following two actions reflect Humber’s commitment to the well-being of Indigenous Peoples. Firstly, Humber will implement an Indigenous Education Plan, which outlines programs and services in support of Indigenous learners and communities. Secondly, Humber will honour authentic Indigenous voices by enacting the Protocol for Indigenous Community Engagement, which advances cross-cultural engagement, mutual respect and understanding.

The Centre for Human Rights, Equity & Inclusion invites you to applaud the immense contributions of Indigenous Peoples in Canada 365 days of the year. It is imperative that we acknowledge the historical and current challenges resulting from colonization and work towards full reconciliation.

[Learn more](#) about National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day by exploring the rich and diverse cultures, voices, experiences and histories of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Resources:

- 1) Government of Canada; Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada; Communications Branch. (2021, June 1). *National Indigenous Peoples Day*. Government of Canada; Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada; Communications Branch. <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013248/1534872397533>.
- 2) Government of Canada; Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. (2021, June 1). *Learn More About National Indigenous History Month*. Government of Canada; Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1621447127773/1621447157184>.
- 3) Cordasco, L. (2021, June 20). *National Indigenous Peoples Day a time for reflection, not celebration, this year*. vancouver.sun. <https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/national-indigenous-peoples-day-a-time-for-reflection-not-celebration-this-year>.
- 4) *National Indigenous Peoples Day: 2 events to celebrate and mourn on Monday, June 21*. British Columbia. (2021, June 20). <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/national-indigenous-peoples-day-2-events-to-celebrate-and-mourn-on-monday-june-21-1.5478505>.

This document is available in an alternate format upon request.