

## **Native Awareness**

Jurisdiction: New Brunswick

Contact: Aleida Fox

Level: K - 12

Theme: Community-based practices

### Description of Practice:

We have a population of 430 students whereas 40 of our students are native. We have a native resource worker that works daily with our students' academic needs. She has been employed since January of this year. We also have an intervention worker that is a mentor and is a liaison between the home and school. She works at our school on a yearly basis. We also have a Maliseet language teacher that teaches half of the year and an Arts and Crafts teacher that teaches the other half of the year. We believe strongly in these interventions as it works for our students.

We do our best to recognize our students in a positive manner by including their culture in our school. We want our native students to feel valued and we teach our other students how to appreciate their culture. We do this by having Native Awareness Days, have a lacrosse game with our native students against our teachers {as this was an activity that was asked for by our native students to do as an activity} having a dinner for the parents and native students at the school and having a focus group to find out how we can make the school a good place for our students.

### Background:

We recognize that our students need support in these areas and thankfully St. Mary's band to do their best to support their children.

### Development:

Communication between the First Nation Band and the school is imperative. We have started meeting once per month at the school and we also meet as a district about once per month.

### Evidence:

We believe that these interventions have made and are still making positive impact on our school population.