

Cultural Connections

Jurisdiction: Newfoundland and Labrador

Contact: Eldred Barnes

Level: K-12

Theme: Curriculum/Materials

Description:

A provincial arts and cultural strategy (called Cultural Connections) was introduced in 2005. The strategy aims to raise historical and cultural awareness of all students in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. One component of the strategy is directed toward identifying and recognizing Aboriginal people who have made significant contribution to enhancing the cultural mosaic of Newfoundland and Labrador. A selection committee, in consultation with Aboriginal groups, identified the list of Aboriginal people and their biographies, with accompanying pictures or illustrations will be provided as posters to all intermediate classrooms. The posters' content can be integrated in discussions and classroom activities as a means of developing students' understanding of the cultural and historical importance of Aboriginal presence in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The project shows a commitment to accurately representing Aboriginal people in the province and to collaborating with Aboriginal groups to achieve this goal. To date, the collaboration and consultation process has proven to be effective and has met with approval from all stakeholders. The project has a multitude of possibilities for other Aboriginal contexts. It is a simple yet effective way of disseminating information to a wide audience about the significant cultural and historical contributions of Aboriginal peoples. These posters can also be supplied to public libraries and displayed in similar public places. The posters can also be digitized for use in other media formats.

Further Information:

Eldred Barnes

Director Program Development
Department of Education,
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
eldredbarnes@gov.nl.ca (709) 729-3004