

OCCCC NEWS

OUR CULTURE, OUR TRADITIONS, OUR LANGUAGES
SHALL SURVIVE



Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre

150 Brousseau Avenue, Unit B

Timmins, Ontario P4N 5Y4

(705) 267-7911 phone (705) 267-4988 fax

www.occ.ca

info@occ.ca





Honouring, our friend, Father Vezina



Many people were saddened with the passing of Father Rodrigue Vezina on October 29th, 2019 at the age of 87 years at the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Richelieu, Quebec. Father Vezina had 64 years of religious life and 60 years of priestly life. He served for 54 years for the Diocese of Moosonee and 43 of whom were in Attawapiskat. He holds a very special place in the community of Attawapiskat for many. Father Vezina arrived as a young man in 1973. He quickly learned to fluently speak the Cree language. He was also responsible for setting up a short wave broadcast channel for the local church. He always used it to communicate with the members of the community. Father Vezina became an extended family member to many. You can always see him either walking or biking in the community. Rest in peace, our friend. We will miss you.





ATTENTION All Native Language Teachers!!!!

We have many resources for your classrooms. They are available in the Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway languages.

A complimentary copy is available for request.

Contact the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre to obtain a list of resources or visit our website.

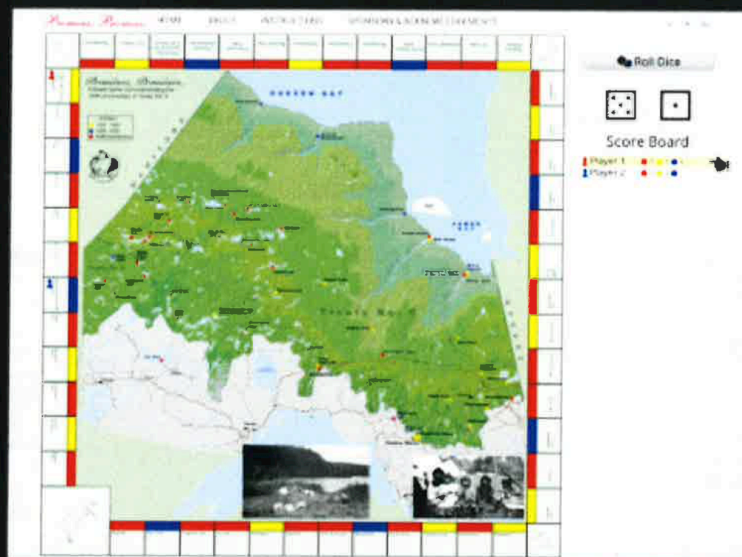
www.occc.ca (705) 267-7911



PROMISES, PROMISES BOARD GAME IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE!!

**Promises, Promises: A Board Game Commemorating the
100th Anniversary of Treaty No.9**

IS NOW ONLINE!!!



FUN AND EDUCATIONAL!

TREATY NO.9 HISTORY

GO TO:

www.promisespromisesgame.com

For more information please contact:



Ojibway & Cree Cultural Centre
150 Brousseau Avenue, Unit B
Timmins, ON P4N 5Y4

Tel: 705-267-7911
info@occc.ca
www.occc.ca

What You Will LEARN:

- ✓ LANGUAGES
- ✓ HISTORY & CULTURE
- ✓ PRE-CONTACT & NAN COMMUNITIES
- ✓ GEOGRAPHY & PEOPLE
- ✓ AND MUCH MORE!!!

Image with PromisesPromises.com

Funded by  Ontario

PROMISES, PROMISES BOARD GAME



Complimentary copy will be sent to all Native Language Teachers in the NAN area. The Board Game will come with game cards in the language (either Cree, Oji-Cree or Ojibway)

Hopefully these will be sent out by the end of March 2020.

Watch for them!!!!



CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS



The Ojibway and Cree Cultural is pleased to announce the winners of its annual OCCC Scholarship awards.

Congratulations to **AURORA BOUCHARD** from **Migizi Wazisin Elementary School** in Longlac, recipient of the *Willie Wesley Memorial Award 2019* and.



Congratulations to **ANTHONY MEKANAK** from **Michikan Lake School** in Bearskin Lake, recipient of the *Gilbert and Barbara Memorial Award 2019*

These scholarships are provided in recognition of the students' efforts in promoting language and culture within the NAN area. Consequently, the purpose of these scholarships is to honor those Grade 8 students who are actively involved with language and culture activities in the schools or communities, and show good attendance, attitude, and achievement in school.



The students received a plaque and \$200.00 presented to them during their schools graduating ceremonies, surrounded by friends and family. In addition, their names will go on a plaque displayed at the OCCC in Timmins.

Special thanks to Mrs. Sheila Gaffney and Mr. Howard Miller, Mrs. Alice Meekis and Mrs. Schwindt for nominating the students.



Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre

Grade 8 Scholarship

2020-2021



The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring its 15th annual OCCC scholarship for two Grade 8 First Nation students in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. These scholarships are provided in memory of Willie Wesley (for the east) and Gilbert and Barbara Baxter (for the west) for their efforts in promoting language and culture within Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Consequently, one student from the east and one student from the west will be chosen as recipients of these awards. To be eligible these students must be members of one of the 49 NAN communities and returning to Grade 9 in the new school year.

The purpose of these scholarships is to honour those students that exemplify the following qualities: (a) actively involved with language and culture activities in the school or community, and (b) show good attendance, attitude, and achievement in school. If you feel a student in your school is worthy of such an

award then please submit a one page essay describing why you feel that this student should be honoured with this scholarship. Entries should be submitted on or before May 1, 2020

Two students will be selected from the entries received by the staff of the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre. These winning students will receive a plaque, \$200.00, and mention in the OCCC Newsletter or Wawatay News. In addition their names will be placed on a plaque located at Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre in Timmins.

Please fax submissions to **Kim Piche at (705) 267-4988** or e-mail to kpiche@occc.ca

Or Mail: Ojibway & Cree Cultural Centre
150 Brousseau Ave, Unit B
Timmins, ON P4N 5Y4

SUMMER STUDENTS 2019



Tessa Dobson



Arianna Gagnon



During the summer months, we are grateful to have had our 2 summer students assist the cultural centre. Tessa Dobson and Arianna Gagnon spent 8 weeks working closely with the staff members. These students were committed in completing their task assigned. They always walked in with beautiful smiles and actually taught some staff members a few things about power-point presentations and smart boards. They were always willing to do anything. They had the pleasure to work with small children who came to visit from 2 local daycares in Timmins. We wish them the very best and we hope that they will stop by and visit with us in the near future. We cherished our time with you. Thank you for all the hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank Mushkegowuk Employment and Training and Service Canada for funding the summer student position.

From the language program corner,

Hello to everyone! My name is Angela Shisheesh from the language department. Still here working at the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre as an interpreter and translator.

I am happy to say that I deal with the language everyday meaning , I translate the documents whoever wants them to be translated. I translate resource materials too that staff at O.C.C.C made for the language teachers for the schools in the Nishnawbe-Aski area.

I have another trainee that I teach how to do the work I do, her name is Lucie Iserhoff she is learning the syllabic writing and reading, she is good interpreting and reading in syllabics. I didn't really get a chance to spent time with her to teach her syllabic writing. At times it get to busy at our language department, so many things to do.

On July 8-9, 2019 we had environment terminology workshop with the elders at Miken Otaski. We had another workshop called Nan song book with the language teachers from James Bay communities on November 27 to 30, 2019. I also brought her with me two times at the chiefs assembly, so she can start learning how to do the simultaneous translation just the basic stuff. That's what I do when I teach people the work I do. Knowing is not that easy.



I was so lucky to have had worked with Margaret Scott a year ago, another good one. Unfortunately, she had another dream, her dream was to become a teacher and she accomplished that dream she is now a qualified teacher. **CONGRATULATIONS MARGARET SCOTT**

My name is Lucie Iserhoff. I am from Attawapiskat First Nation.

On April 1, 2019, I started working as a trainee as a Translator/Interpreter with the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre in the Language Department.

I want to say thank you to my trainer, Angela, for her guidance and teaching me the proper fundamentals of how to use syllabics and their ending sounds in a proper way in reading, writing, translating or interpreting in Cree Language.

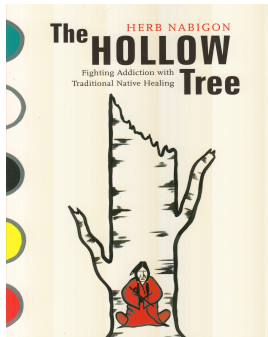
Throughout my training, I attended NAN meetings and shadowed the interpreter, workshops, and language conferences. I also assisted in language workshops, translated some documents and produced Resource materials in Cree.

Thank you to Diane Riopel and to the OCCC staff. It is a pleasure working with you all. I also want to say thank you to Mushkegowuk Employment and Training for their assistance and support with the language program.



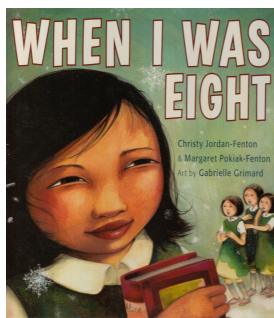
NEW RESOURCES IN LIBRARY

The Hollow Tree



Before discovering native healing methods, Herb Nabigon could not imagine a life without alcohol. His powerful autobiography, "The Hollow Tree", tells the story of his struggle to overcome addiction with the help of the spiritual teachings and brotherly love of his elders. Nabigon had spent much of his life wrestling with self-destructive impulses, feelings of inferiority and resentment, and alcohol abuse when Eddie Bellerose, an Elder, introduced him to the ancient Cree teachings. With the help of healing methods drawn from the Four Sacred Directions, the refuge and revitalization offered by the sweat lodge, and native cultural practices such as the use of the pipe Nabigon was able to find sobriety.

When I Was Eight

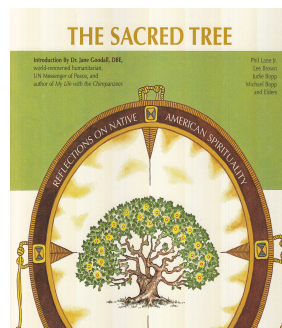


Olemaun is eight, and even if it means leaving her Arctic home, she is determined to go to the faraway school where she will learn how to read. The nuns at the school do everything to rob her of her dignity: they change her name to Margaret, cut off her long braids, and force her to do menial chores. Based on the true story of Margaret Pokiak-Fenton, When I Was eight makes her best-selling memoir Fatty Legs accessible to young children. Now they, too, can meet this remarkable girl who reminds us all about the power of books.



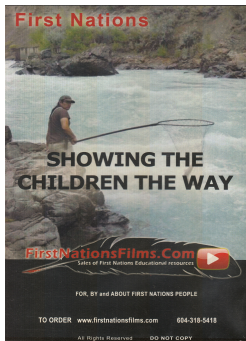
The Orange Shirt Story

When Phyllis Webstad (nee Jack) turned six, she went to the residential school for the first time. On her first day at school, she wore a shiny orange shirt that her Granny had bought for her, but when she got to the school, it was taken away and never returned. This is the true story of Phyllis and her orange shirt. It is also the story of Orange Shirt Day, an important day of remembrance for all Canadians.



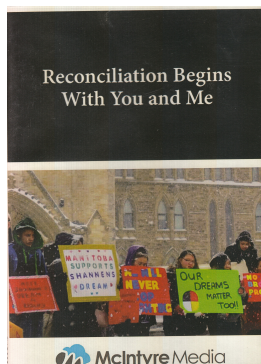
The Sacred Tree

Was created through the sharing, consultation, and guidance of Indigenous elders and spiritual leaders from many different tribes and nations. This collective wisdom brings forth ancient teachings that remain powerfully relevant and serve as a primary key for unlocking the Spiritual Force that moves human beings on the path of their own development. Indigenous Elders have prophesied that the revival of these Spiritual Teachings in rebuilding our lives and communities will heal and transform Indigenous societies and all members of the Human Family. As well, this promised transformation will spark an ever-increasing awareness of the interconnectedness of all living beings.



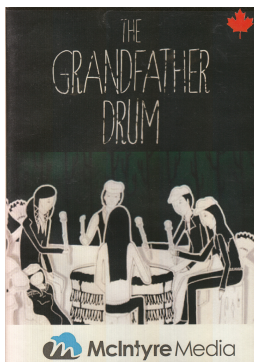
Showing The Children The Way

The Esk'etemc people are standing up their culture, their governance and their children. After suffering oppressive policies and having their land pre-empted, they are now healing and declaring their rightful place as caretakers of their land. This beautiful and exciting film highlights the struggle and success of these people. Great for all audiences.



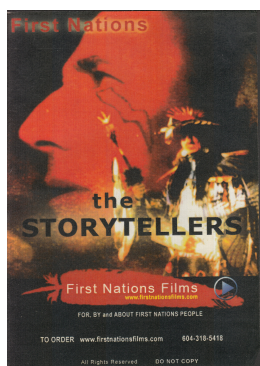
Reconciliation Begins With You and Me

Young people need to have an active role in reconciliation. In this compelling short film, Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth discuss contemporary inequities in relation to what reconciliation means to them and how everyone can play a role.



The Grandfather Drum

The drum is very much a part of the social and spiritual fabric of life in the First Nation, Metis and Inuit culture. The drum healed people for many years until Christianity was introduced to the community and colonialism became the new reality. The drum represents the heartbeat of the community. The film tells the true story of a First Nations elder. After his grandson dies, Naamowin builds a healing drum to restore balance and connection to his community. The program explores the heritage of colonialism and the subsequent trauma still deeply affecting First Nations communities.



The Storytellers

Native People saw the history of their land differently than the White man. The early European settlers brought many new things to this land - like horses and guns. They also brought mumps, measles and small pox which destroyed entire Indian Nations. The Indians in return taught the settlers the principles of democracy as well as how to survive on the land and preserve the natural environment. Join us as we tell some of the real stories as they happened to the Native peoples. A wonderful journey thru time and patience and a must see for anyone interested in First Nations.

FRIENDLY REMINDER ON



The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre is one of the largest native libraries in Ontario and Canada. The Resource Centre has a small budget to purchase a variety of resources that can be very expensive.

I encourage all patrons who loan any resources to please return them on or before your due date.

**IF YOU HAVE OVERDUE MATERIALS, I WILL FORGIVE
YOUR LATE FEES IF RETURNED PROMPTLY.**

Meeqwetch!

If you have any questions, please call 705-267-7911 or email

Kathy Perreault – Resource Centre Coordinator at kperreault@occc.ca or
Debra Hookimaw – Resource Centre Assistant at dhookimaw@occc.ca

LEGENDS CORNER

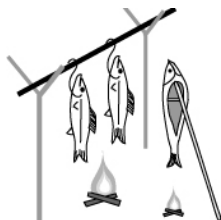
The Boy and the Man of Snow

A Cree Legend

Told by Annie Whiskeychan

adapted by Linda Guebert

Once long ago there was a little boy who lived by himself. His mother and father had frozen in the cold winter before. Now the boy was all alone. Soon it was spring and the snow was melting. It made a “choo” sound as it melted. “Choo,” said the boy to the snow. “You can’t freeze me!” “Just wait till I come back again!” he heard someone say in a cold icy voice. All summer long the boy got ready for winter. He went fishing every day and caught many fish. He dried the fish over the fire, then he put the fish and grease in baskets. He even dried the scales of the fish and put them in baskets. In the fall the boy made a wigwam. He put extra moss on the walls to make it warmer. He gathered lots of “Now I’m ready for winter,” winter day the boy was Suddenly, the wind began to louder. The boy began to door blew open making it wigwam. The boy looked up the door. A strange visitor He was all white and looked snow. The man of snow the wigwam and sat down. Right away it became very cold inside the wigwam. Icicles hung from the roof and everything was covered with snow. The boy quickly went outside and brought in the baskets he had gotten ready before. He took out the food, the grease and the fish scales and put them on the fire. As the fire got bigger and bigger the wigwam got warmer and warmer. The snow and the icicles began to melt. The boy looked at the visitor. The man of snow was melting too! “I can’t stay in here,” he said. It’s too hot!” The man of snow got up and went out the door. The little boy lived at that place for long time. The man of snow never came back again. That is how the boy beat the man of snow who tried to freeze him .



MATAWA EDUCATION 2019 CONFERENCE

Staff members, Angela Shisheesh, Debra Hookimaw and Kim Piche travelled to Thunder Bay to attend the Matawa Education 12th Annual Conference. Debra, Angela and Kim had the opportunity to set up a display during the conferences. Teachers were welcome to visit our booth and received free resources to bring back to their classrooms. The Education Conference took place from March 5-7 at the Valhalla Inn in the traditional territory of Fort William First Nation. The theme is : Gi-chi-inen-da-gon ga-ishi pi-matisi-yang- Ish-shii-kii-shi-wey-win Kaayay Mino-pii-ma-tii-si-win (Language and Wellness: Honoring our Way of Life).

Teachers, staff and others involved in community schools/education from the Matawa area participated in various workshops. These are excellent opportunities to create meaningful connections and learning experience. Over 70 workshops in the areas of cultural curriculum, assessment and evaluation, early learning First Nation language/immersion programming, anti-bullying, technology, teaching strategies for literacy and numeracy, mental health, child development, nutrition, language revitalization, first aid training and much more. Highlights of the conference include 3 keynote speakers on each day. The staff of the cultural centre was very happy and grateful in meeting new people and making connections with the teachers. We are looking forward to the next conference. Great job to the Matawa staff members in organizing such a great conference.



GREAT MOON GATHERING 2019

On February 14 & 15, the Northern College Timmins Campus welcomed the teachers from the James Bay – Mushkegowuk communities for the Great Moon Gathering. Christina Neilson from Mushkegowuk Council/Education Program coordinated this huge conference.

Over 350 teachers, support staff, principals, and education authorities attended the conference. The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre had the privilege to set up a large display for the 2 day conference. The Ojibway and Cree Cultural were happy to distribute free resources to the teachers who came to visit our booth. It was really nice to meet the teachers. We also honored 3 staff members who worked for the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre who have passed on. Those individuals worked in the education field. They are the late Bertha Metat, Hannah Sutherland and Celine Sutherland.

This conference builds positive relationships with students in order to support their learning. Professional learning opportunities were provided through over 30 plus workshops in the areas of cultural curriculum, early learning, First Nation language/immersion programming, teaching strategies for literacy and numeracy, child development, language revitalization and much more. We look forward to next years Great Moon Gathering. The Cultural Centre hosted a workshop for the teachers on Friday afternoon. The winner for our free draw was Laura Redwood.

Great job to the conference organizers for hosting such a great conference.



Special Evening: Honoring our Volunteers

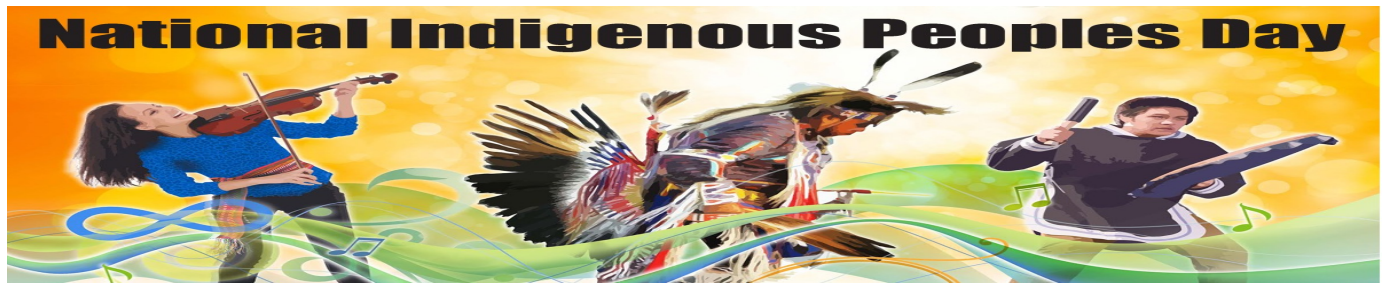
The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre hosted a special supper for our wonderful volunteers.

What is a volunteer? A person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task. On *January 23*, the staff cooked up a storm in preparing a delicious supper for our volunteers. The Menu consisted of delicious turkey, ham, mash potatoes, potatoes salad, veggies, stuffing, macaroni salad, gravy, bannock, indian pudding and other delicious deserts. We honored the volunteers with a small gift. Some of our volunteers range from youth providing us with artwork, elders assisting us with facilitating workshops, our service providers, elders cooking for the centre for special occasions, bingo volunteers, and maintenance people.

Those people are:

Dorothy York	Jean Wesley
Kenyon Shisheesh	Patrick Edwards
Clara Tomagatick	Shawnee Etherington
Laurie Steep	John Koostachin
Venessa and Tony Iserhoff	Mitch Côté
Sharon Furlan	Diane Kelly
Monique Edwards	Kyle Couture
Mike Piché	Gil Kelly





National Indigenous Day in Timmins at Participark



Lucie Iserhoff preparing different tea for tasting.
She made cedar tea and Labrador tea



Elder's having a great time

NEW HORIZON FOR SENIORS

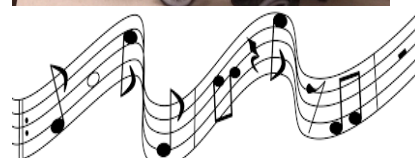
The OCCC received funding from the Government of Canada, to host workshops with the elders from Golden Manor and Extendicare in Timmins. These workshops consists of Goose and Moose Calling, Music and Bingo. These workshops were completed by March 2018.



GOOSE AND MOOSE



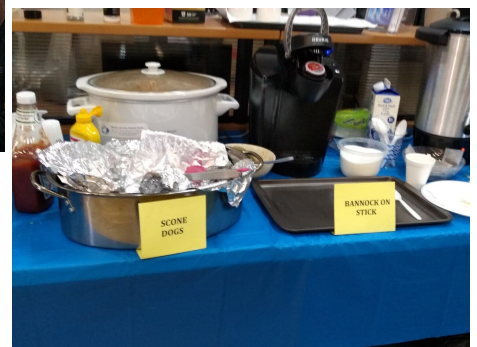
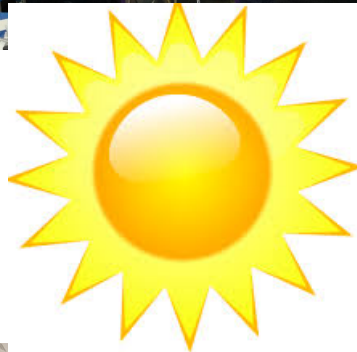
MUSIC WITH THE ELDERS



 Government of Canada
Canada

OPEN HOUSE

June 19, 2019



THANK YOU AIR CREEBEC



FIRST WINNER - Jamie Davey



*Left; Angela Shisheesh (OCCC Language Coordinator),
Jamie Davey – WINNER Dianne Riopel (OCCC
Executive Director)*

SECOND WINNER - Melissa Iahtail



*Left; Dianne Riopel (OCCC Executive Director), Marina Lebrun (Air
Creebec Staff), Melissa Iahtail (WINNER), Noella Lefebvre (Air
Creebec Staff),*



We want to say thank you to our Executive Director, Dianne Riopel for her 45 years of employment with the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre. You are one of kind; we can't think of anyone who really compares to you with such commitment, dedication and compassion. Your smile is very contagious. You are a source of inspiration and motivation. You bring the best in each one of us. We are all privileged and honored to work alongside you. We are truly blessed.





The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre has been located in Timmins since 1974. It all began in 1974 as one of seven programs of the Grand Council Treaty #9. Now known as Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Incorporated since October 1975. Our role is to serve the educational cultural and language and traditional interest of the people of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre has received numerous requests from many cities in the USA, European countries, including Sweden, Germany, Poland, Japan, New Zealand. Travellers from Spain, Philippines, Turkey, and Italy have visited the Cultural Centre.

One of the major accomplishments has been the establishment of the indigenous oriented library.



2019-2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Back left: Gary Naveau, Bill Louttit, Frank McKay, Cathy Therriault

Front left: Geordi Kakepetum, Irene Ross and Ballena Anderson

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre is please to announce that we are now on FACEBOOK.

We will use **FACEBOOK** to announce any coming events or accomplished projects, or any items that the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre has for sale. We will also promote our new library books available to everyone.

We would appreciate if you can take a minute and share our pages.



This is a great marketing tool to reach our audience and advertising.

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre keeps in connected with

- OCCC Wesbsite
- FACEBOOK
- OCCC Newsletter (distributed 1 a year)

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact our office.

Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre

150 Brousseau Avenue, Unit B

Timmins, Ontario P4N 5Y4

(705) 267-7911 Telephone

www.occc.ca