



WIIDOOKDADIWIN FORUM 1 OF 4

First Nation-Led Collaborative Inquiry Project

The Wiidookdadiwin inquiry project teams began their collaborative work together on January 12, 2018, at a session facilitated by the OTC and hosted by the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation.

Wiidookdadiwin was introduced as collaboration between the Ogemawahj Tribal Council/member First Nations and partner school boards to strengthen partnerships and *help one another work together* to improve **student success**.

The first part of this forum provided the opportunity for participants to learn more about local First Nation history and perspectives. It also provided opportunity for the First Nation community members to discuss their education priorities with their school board partners. The second part of the day featured discussions leading to the identification of the research questions that the teams will be exploring in the coming weeks. A number of broad questions (examples on the right side of the page) emerged from the discussions at the team tables.

Next steps include ongoing engagement between the project coordination/facilitation team and the individual Wiidookdadiwin teams as they finalize their research questions and begin implementation of their project activities.



Emerging Questions



How to engage community Elders and students in this work?



How can we increase our empathy and understanding and the roles/responsibilities we all have as treaty people?



How can we continue to strengthen working relationships with each other to support student well-being and success?

How can we use cultural/land-based learning activities to further strengthen community/school board relationships, and to empower student voice?

“Working together and helping one another”

...Gifts I bring to Wiidookdadiwin

Participants were asked to share with each other the gifts that each person brings to the project. Many participants cited their willingness to learn, passion for the work, curiosity and good energy for the project. Many also cited their experience with collaborative inquiry or specific skills such as decision- making, perseverance and facilitation. All in all, the gifts that participants bring to the project are a wonderful mix that will serve this project well.

Miigwetch for sharing!

"My gift to support this project is my heart and soul passion for the work in supporting our educators and students in creating deep understanding and appreciation of our First Nation people and history, culture, and knowledge/ways of knowing ways of being"

Participant - Wiidookdadiwin Forum One

...New Learnings I have gained in this forum.

Participants were asked to identify the new learnings from the day. Many participants indicated that the historical review delivered by Dave Mowat was enlightening. A number noted the importance of learning more about the local history and the importance of ensuring that this information is brought in to all schools and classrooms.

...Questions I have about Wiidookdadiwin

Most of the questions focused on the following:

- the project process and the next steps
- how to better engage First Nation students and their families in the work going forward
- how to work more closely with First Nation communities to bring local First Nation history, culture, language and perspectives into schools and classrooms.

