



**JUNE IS
NATIONAL
INDIGENOUS
HISTORY
MONTH**

**YES, IT
MATTERS!
ADDRESSING
SYSTEMIC
RACISM**

THE IMPORTANCE OF **MOCCASINS**

This land has been home to Indigenous Nations long before others came. Concerted attempts have been made to erase their language, history, traditions, and culture creating a knowledge void. It is incumbent on all of us to learn more about the first peoples of this land. Take some time today, and in the days ahead, to learn more about the first people's language, history, traditions, and culture so that the story below is never repeated. Click the 2 stories below that intend to shed a light on the importance and value of moccasins.



**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
ATLAS OF CANADA**



Sarain Fox and the Power of Indigenous Storytelling
www.youtube.com/watch?v=i_pDrjL9kjs



Indigenous Filmmaker Turned Away from Cannes Red Carpet for Wearing Moccasins
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bPOLli4bNi0>



GAVIN LAWRENCE

EDUCATOR PROJECT DIRECTOR

Gavin Lawrence is a proud member of Saugeen First Nation. He is passionate about creating pathways to construction careers. Having worked for over a decade in construction and pre-apprenticeship program development, coordination and facilitation, Gavin brings a wealth of experience as Project Director to the TradeLinx team at Labour Education Centre (LEC). Before working for LEC, Gavin worked for several Indigenous-serving non-profit agencies. For two years, he was the chair of the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Board of Ontario (AABO) Eastern-GTA Link Steering Committee.

Gavin has worked with communities across Ontario and some of the largest union training centres in North America, establishing longstanding programs and relationships. Prior to a career in construction training, Gavin worked in the field as a residential home framer, and a site labourer. He spent several years as a general contractor and painter, specializing in custom residential, commercial, and light-industrial projects.

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THERE CAN BE NO **RECONCILIATION** WITHOUT **TRUTH**

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA: CALLS TO ACTION #59

On April 1, 2022, Pope Francis apologized to delegations of First Nations, Inuit and Métis, acknowledging the harm done by residential schools in Canada. The apology answered Action #58 of the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action*. Now we must question to what extent is Action #59 being answered:

Call to Action #59

"We call upon church parties to the Settlement Agreement to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary."

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DR. NADINE CARON

SAGAMOK ANISHNAWBEK FIRST NATION

Dr. Nadine Caron, a member of the Sagamok Anishnawbek First Nation, is Canada's first female First Nations general surgeon. She is also a faculty member in the University of British Columbia's (UBC) Faculty of Medicine and is leading an innovative biobank project located at the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia.

In 2005 she began her practice as a general and endocrine surgeon at the Prince George Regional Hospital. Caron is an associate professor in UBC's Northern Medical Program and founding co-director of the UBC Centre for Excellence in Indigenous Health.

At the University Hospital of Northern British Columbia Caron is spearheading the Northern Biobank Initiative. This initiative will bank tissue from medical procedures to enable northern British Columbians, including members of rural, remote First Nations communities, to have more equitable access to genomic research into diseases such as colorectal, breast and thyroid cancer. Among other partners in the Northern Biobank Initiative is the British Columbia First Nations Health Authority.

Source: www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1559226684295/1559226709198#chp11

Photo: Martin Dee



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Before the arrival of colonizers, the First Peoples of this land freely practiced their spiritual beliefs each in their own tradition. However common, among Indigenous spiritual traditions, are creation stories. Take some time today to watch this video base on the Ojibway's story of creation.



An Ojibway Story of Creation - Pic River First Nation
www.youtube.com/watch?v=cX4GJTtSigY

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