



COURSE IN INDIGENOUS CULTURAL AWARENESS

DESCRIPTION OF CERTIFICATE

Led by facilitator Julie Pellissier-Lush, the Indigenous Cultural Awareness course will focus on two key areas—traditional knowledge and reconciliation.

The first part of the Indigenous Cultural Awareness course will delve deeply into traditional knowledge, with a discussion beginning with the seven sacred teachings and the medicine-wheel teachings. These teachings are the building blocks that help to support Indigenous peoples be better community members, family members, and better to themselves. As a safe space is created—that fosters learning and growth with these powerful teachings—stories, songs, and poetry will be added to further reinforce this fundamental knowledge. This will create a fun learning space for all who can enter the circle, where they can learn about these wonderful gifts from the Elders across Turtle Island and how to use them in their own life.

The second part of this course will have Julie take participants through a journey of the Mi'kmaq: what their life looked like before colonization, how they lived and interacted with one another, and their roles. Participants will then embark on the true story of colonization, what happened to the Mi'kmaq as a people—as an unconquered nation—and then where they are now, what are their roles, and how all Mi'kmaq and non-Indigenous people can move forward together positively. These stories are full of hard truths but are very important for every Canadian to know, so that they can find a way to start on their own path of reconciliation. This will be done to ensure everyone feels safe learning in the circle provided.

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

The long relationship between Canada and Indigenous peoples has often been difficult. There is a need for all Canadians to address the reconciliation and restitution called upon and required by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

In the Indigenous Cultural Awareness course, facilitator Julie Pellissier-Lush will highlight and explain in depth the traditional knowledge of the Mi'kmaq, the Indigenous peoples of Mi'kma'ki and Epekwitk (the Mi'kmaw name for Prince Edward Island), their life before contact with Europeans, the role of colonization on the Mi'kmaq, and how all Canadians move forward positively with Indigenous peoples.

At the end of this course, participants with have a greater understanding of the traditional ways and knowledge of Indigenous peoples—specifically the Mi'kmaq, their journey, and how all Canadians can move forward positively in terms of truth, reconciliation, and restitution.