



Summer students worked together to learn about territory, leadership, and hosting

The summer students, Governance Committee members, and elders participated in the *Emerging Leadership Rebuilding Nations Program* during the summer. The program was designed and delivered by the National Centre for First Nations Governance staff, Pawa Haiyupis and Robin Vernest. The program consisted of three workshops; the Traditional Territory Tour, Power to the People and the Art of Participatory Hosting. All three workshops built upon one other to initiate emerging leadership within participants. The workshops were geared toward learning about traditional territory, igniting leadership through group activities and learning about individual power, team building and the importance of working together to become successful future leaders of Membertou First Nation.

Traditional Territory Tour

The workshop began on July 12, 2011 with a brief introduction about the program including what the youth wanted to learn and what their expectations were. The group participated in icebreaker activities to get to know the National Centre for First Nation Governance staff and Governance Committee members. They enjoyed the hike to Kluscap Cave which was approximately a 45 minute walk. Once the youth reached the cave, some of them entered the cave by rock and water. The other youth who stayed back hung out on the rocky shore listening to the waves crash against the coastline. The youth had the option to spend the night at Camp Carter near Kelly's Mountain to learn more about the territory.

The workshop ended on July 14. The students participated in a sharing circle about what they experienced at the Kluscap Cave hike. Many of the youth thought their hike encompassed what it is be balanced since it challenged them physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. The group also collectively worked on a mind map of what Membertou would look like if they had a magic wand. The youth were happy to know that Membertou is in the process of making some of their suggestions a reality. A few other suggestions from the youth were that they want to have water access and shopping malls.



Medicine Walk led by Tuma Young with the Emerging Leadership group.

Tuma Young was the guide for the Medicine Walk and he led the adventure. He guided the group to a place to pick sweet grass and also on a hike near Louisburg to view medicinal plants. The students and elders in attendance learned a lot about how to pick sweet grass and about a plants medicinal use during the Traditional Territory Tour.

Power to the People

The workshop was July 19-21, 2011 and involved a few activities that were suited to the needs of Membertou summer students. This included teachings; the importance of oral history, identifying and discussing student interests, budgeting information, and discussions about developing a youth advisory council.

Cathy Martin, videographer, talked to the group about recording oral history and its importance to treaties. The group also discussed what is important to them and their community. The students identified developing a youth advisory council on governance and they also discussed budgeting tools, the importance of living within their means and maintaining their credit scores. When asked about the program, Tyler Francis, stated he really loved the trip to Kluscap's cave because it was a life changing experience. "I felt overwhelmed-- it was like I belonged there, like I was there before in my dreams. I would recommend this to my friends!"

The Art of Participatory Hosting

From August 3-5, the summer students, Governance Committee Members and elders received Warrior of the Heart training, as well, they learned about effective hosting techniques. They participated in activities that shed light on personal energy and power and how important it is to stay focused. One major milestone was the fact that traditional knowledge and teachings are very effective tools in hosting discussions

The group not only learned from the facilitators about hosting but they were also teachers to the facilitators. The group steered the facilitators on how to proceed with the workshop activities. Participants played an equal role in their ability to effectively engage and host discussions. During the training the group participated in sharing circles, practiced teachings, and worked together to learn about the Warrior of the Heart.

Special Thanks to those who helped to make this program a success! Governance Committee Members, Jane E. Meader, Katy McEwan, Lawrence Paul, Clifford Paul, Nelson Paul, Tuma Young, Cathy Martin, Ike Paul, Shawna Boyer, Carola Knockwood and Deanna Joe.



Emerging Leadership group picking sweet grass with Tuma Young and Cheryl Knockwood.



Emerging Leadership, Power to the People group photo.



Bob Wing teaching the Emerging Leadership group Warrior of the Heart techniques.

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