

**NORTH AMERICAN  
INDIGENOUS  
GAMES 2017**  
TORONTO • ONTARIO



**2017 JEUX  
AUTOCHTONES**  
DE L'AMÉRIQUE DU NORD  
TORONTO • ONTARIO

This summer, two major events have taken place in the Toronto area – the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) and the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE).

“The Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) will unite individuals and communities across North America through sport to celebrate our past (heritage), present (unity) and future (youth). In the spirit of the NAIG movement, the Toronto 2017 NAIG strives to promote the unity of Indigenous Peoples across North America and cultivate opportunities for physical, cultural and social development.”(NAIG Website)

The World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education is one that happens every three years. This year was hosted in Toronto with Six Nations Polytechnic as a major partner and host. “The 2017 WIPCE conference will explore the ways in which Indigenous people around the world are interacting with similar movements [Truth and Reconciliation] and how resiliency is playing a major role in the revitalization of our diverse cultures.”

The OTC communities have had participation at various levels in both events. What a great moment for us - athletes, volunteers, educators, parents and partners. We are in a time of positive recognition and honouring.

Just this past weekend, OTC communities participated in a Language and Culture Camp held at Springwater Park. Beausoleil First Nation’s formal partnership with the Province of Ontario in the management of Springwater enhanced the planning of this event. All six of our communities were represented. Facilitators, also from our communities, led Ojibway language-based activities that inspired fun and enjoyment through a rich, sharing experience. The nucleus was our Elders’ Circle where there was a special connecting in our language and in our ways, where the conversation underscored our hopes for revitalization, where there was laughter, and where there was a rediscovery of who we are when we come together in this informal, quietly powerful way.

More highlights from the Language and Culture Camp will be shared over the next while. Also, our communities will be coming together in September to define future directions in many areas of focus – Language and Culture will be one at the forefront.

Language and Culture Camp Group Photo

(<http://naig2017.to/en/>)

