

Exploring the Rights of the First Nations  
Child through the Arts:  
Our Dreams Matter Too

**Artist/Educators**

**Jim Adams**

**Starr Muranko**

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**Dr. Norbert Witt**

with

**Mary-Elizabeth Manley**

**Project Director**

# Inspiration for the Project



Childs Rights Activists - Attawapiskat's Shannen Koostachen and her grade 8 classmates.

# Inspiration for the Project

**“I don’t want others  
to go to school in  
portables that leak,  
windows don’t open,  
washroom doors  
don’t close, and  
ceilings are cracked.**

**This is not an  
atmosphere for  
learning.”**

Shannen Koostachin, 13, 2008



# Inspiration for the Project

**Dr. Cindy Blackstock  
CEO First Nations Child &  
Family Caring Society of  
Canada (FNCFCSC)**

**FNCFCSC's Mandate  
equity in all aspects of  
life for Aboriginal  
children and families**

**Shannen's Dream Foundation**

**Dr. Cindy Blackstock, MP Charlie  
Angus, Jenny & Andrew Koostachin**



# Project Location: Getting There!



# Attawapiskat



# Project Goals



**Assist children to:**

- **Discover their personal and cultural identity**
- **Understand key United Nations Children's Rights**
- **Become empowered through the arts**
- **Explore their dreams for their future**



# Integration with Core Subjects of the Ontario Curriculum

Language Arts

Cree Language

Science

Physical Education

Health & Wellness

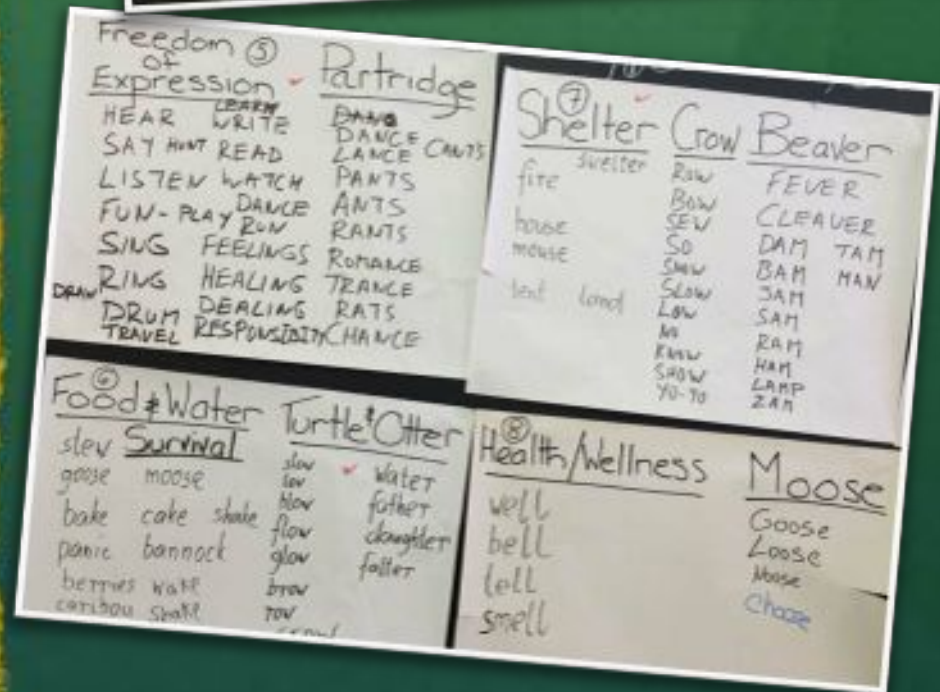
Fine Arts



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# UN Children's Rights

- Name
- Nation
- Family
- Protection
- Play
- Health & Wellness
- Education
- Shelter
- Food & Water
- Freedom of Expression



# **Phase I**

## **Arts Education Residencies**

### **Timeline**

**Five, 2-week residencies, April 2013 - June 2014**

### **Participants**

**Grades 3, 4, & 5 at J.R. Nakogee Elementary School**

### **Schedule**

**2 hours each day - 10 days per residency**

# Phase I Activities

drawing  
painting  
storytelling  
dancing  
journaling  
drama  
sculpting  
singing  
song making  
rapping  
story making  
drumming



# Phase I Residency #1 Projects

Stained Glass Pictures

Body Image Banners

Dancing

Song Creation

Echo Drumming

Story Telling



# Phase I Residency #2 Projects

Storytelling

Writing Raps

Drama Tableaus

Clay Scenes/Sculptures

Journaling

Brain Dance



# Phase I Residency #3 Projects

Contemporary and  
Traditional Dancing

Winter Wishing Wall

Paws and Patterns

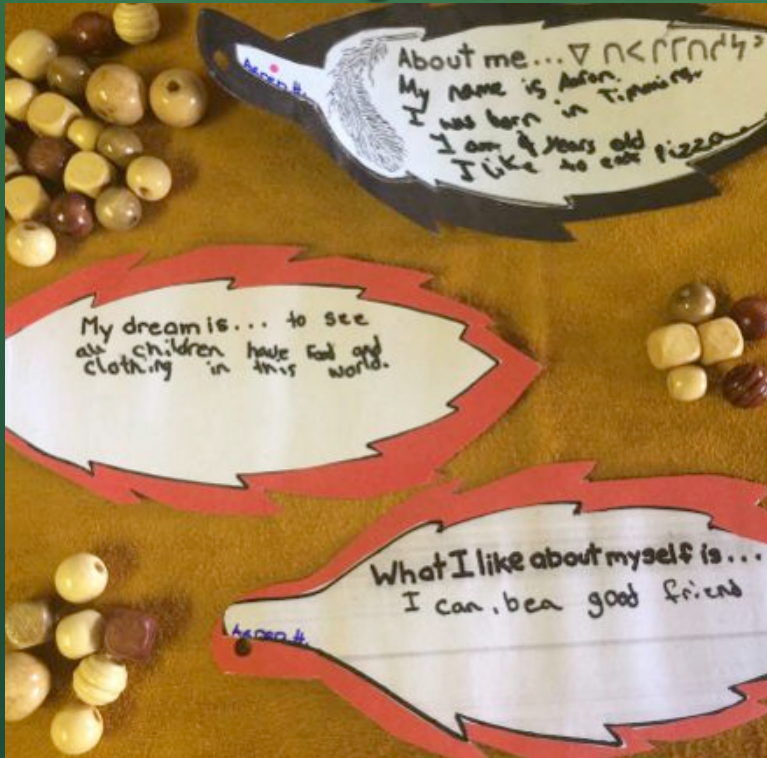
Talking Sticks



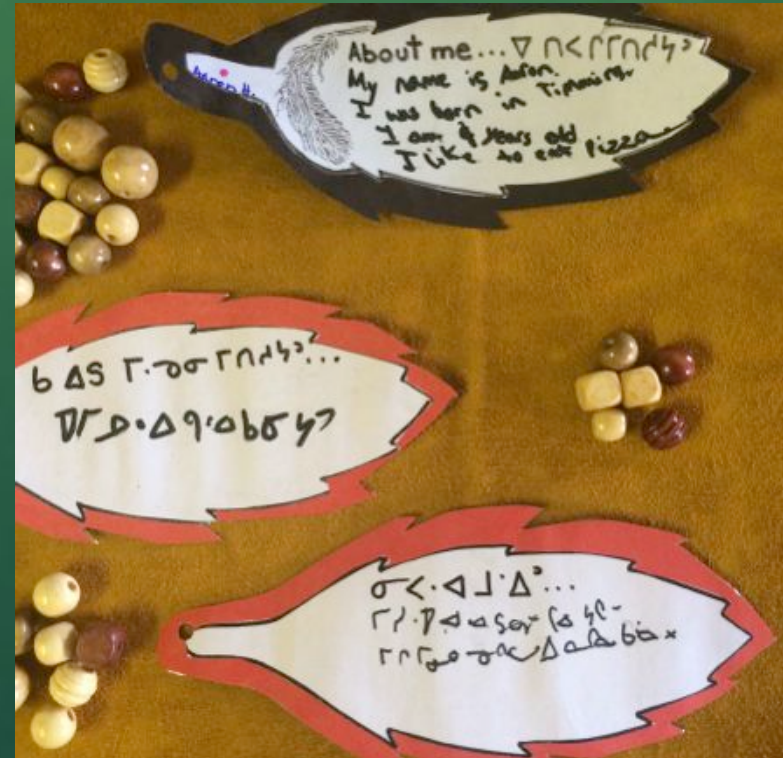
# Phase I

## Residency #4 Projects

### Personal Statements for Dreamcatcher Feathers (English)



### Personal Statements for Dreamcatcher Feathers (Cree)







# Phase I Residency #5 Projects

Contemporary and  
Traditional Dancing

Drumming

Outdoor Movement  
Explorations

Development of the Theatre  
Piece



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# Phase II

## Pre-production Residency

**Timeline**    One-week residency, August 2 - 7, 2014

**Participants**        Mostly children from grades 4, 5, and 6

**Schedule**    4 hours each day - 5 day residency linked to  
Frontier College Summer School

**Phase II  
Pre-production  
Residency  
Projects**

- Dancing**
- Drumming**
- Performance Skills**
- Mask & Prop Making**
- Outdoor Cree Cultural Activities**



Jackiehookimawwitt

# Phase III

## Production Residency

**Timeline** Three-week residency, Aug. 29 – Sept. 21, 2014

**Participants** Kattawapiskat Elementary School - Grades 5 & 6

**Schedule** 2 - 3 hours a day: in school & afterschool program

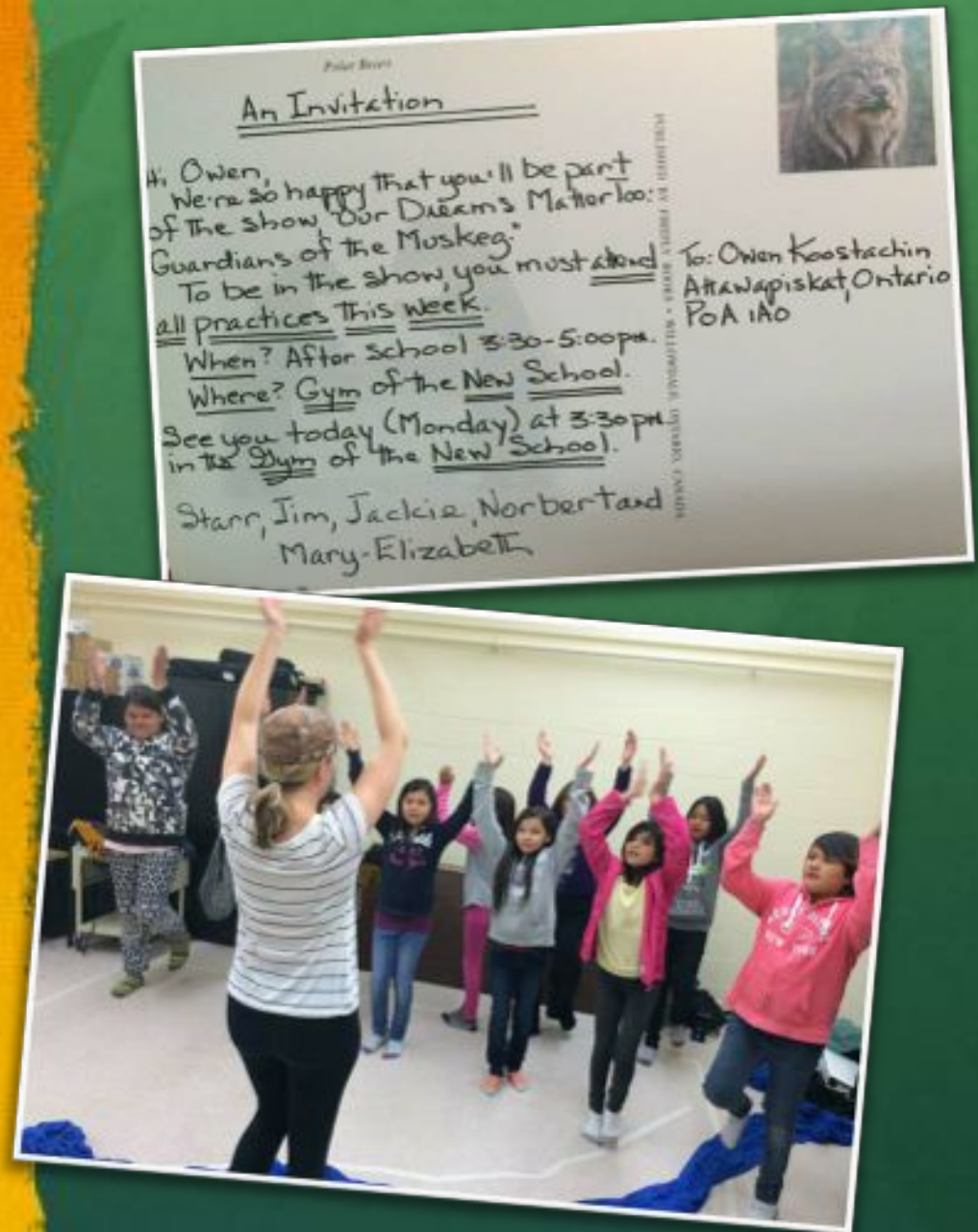
# Phase III Activities

Dancing

Singing

Drumming

Developing  
Performance Skills



# Phase III Activities

**Constructing Sets &  
Backdrop**



**Costuming**



# Phase III Activities

Tech & Dress  
Rehearsals

Presentation  
of  
*Guardians of the  
Muskeg*

Feast





# **Starrwind Muranko**

## **Choreographer**



# Acknowledgement of the Children's Participation

Art Projects in Display Case of New School

Certificate of Participation



# Acknowledgements

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CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO



50 YEARS OF ONTARIO GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF THE ARTS

50 ANS DE SOUTIEN DU GOUVERNEMENT DE L'ONTARIO AUX ARTS



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