



Kikandaaswiwin Mookiisin (KM) STEAM Teacher Virtual Training
In partnership with Actua's InSTEM Program
Wednesday, August 12th – Wednesday, September 16th 2020

Overview

As part of our collective efforts to improve the learning experience, and enhance teacher skills and knowledge, Actua and Canadore College are collaborating to create a virtual training pilot program. Our goal is to support teachers, educators and Actua network members who are working with Indigenous students and communities in the area of land-based education within the STEM and STEAM fields.¹

It is our goal to assist teachers, educators across Canada and throughout the Actua network to gain a better understanding of how Indigenous Land Based Knowledge of the land and STEM activities align in a way that contributes to greater success for students in STEM areas of study.

With this in mind, we are taking our steps in response to the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action for reconciliation in the areas of education.**

We are inviting K-12 educators across Canada to join for a **free teacher course.**

The course will run over 5 weeks on the following dates:

Wednesdays, August, 12th 19th and 26th @ 1:00 PM EST

Wednesday, September 9th and 15th @ 1:00 PM EST

While the training will be grounded in Indigenous land-based knowledge of STEM, it is not meant to replace current local Indigenous training. Instead, it is meant to provide teachers and Actua network members with a more in-depth understanding of Indigenous STEM. The training grounds science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics in Indigenous ways of knowing, using experiential learning and live sharing circles with Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and other STEM practitioners. Using the Medicine Wheel for guidance and direction, this year's KM Indigenous STEAM training combines approximately 30 hours of individual home-based learning and live group sharing circles.

¹ Actua uses "STEM" (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and the KM STEAM program and some Actua network members use "STEAM" to recognize the role of the "Arts" in relation to STEM concepts. In our work together, we use the terms interchangeably.



Beginning with the feather in the centre and moving first to the East direction of the Medicine Wheel, participants work through each of the four directions. On their own, participants complete activities that encourage experiential learning in relation to the land. At the conclusion of each direction, participants come together in a live sharing circle offering opportunities for reflection, connection and community.

During the live circles, participants will be able to connect with Actua and partner STEM instructors and land-based educators from across Canada as well as Elders, Knowledge Keepers and instructors who will facilitate discussions. Actua's InSTEM team will also be present to offer continued support to network members.

We welcome your participation and especially your feedback on how we can adapt the pilot to meet the needs of teachers and an ever-changing world of land-based education.

There are 5 sessions for a total of 30 hours (approximately 20 hours of home-based work and 10 hours of live virtual sharing circles).

SESSION 1 - THE EAST: FINDING YOUR VISION (approx. 7 hours incl. live circle)

Live Virtual Circle: Wednesday, August 12 @ 1:00 PM EST, 2 hours

Participants discover their vision and intuitive practices. They will develop:

- *An understanding of their own personal journey*
- *A focus on awareness, empathy and compassion, all important for teaching, sharing and learning with students*
- *Knowledge of the 7 Grandfather Teachings, 4 Sacred Gifts, and more, through an introduction to Indigenous STEAM knowledges and values*

SESSION 2 – THE SOUTH: WAYS OF KNOWING (approx. 7 hours incl. live circle)

Live Virtual Circle: Wednesday, August 19 @ 1:00 PM EST, 2 hours

Participants discover more about viewing the world through an Indigenous lens as the training focuses on Indigenous knowledges or “ways of knowing.” Many of the activities will be taught by Knowledge Keepers and Elders. Participants learn:

- *How language is embedded in the land*
- *Land as knowledge*
- *Ceremonial practices honouring the spirit of all your relations*
- *Inter-connectivity (balance and harmony) and Inter-relationships*
- *Wholistic approach*

SESSION 3 - THE WEST: ACTION AND INFLUENCE (approx. 7 hours incl. live circle)

Live Virtual Circle: Wednesday, August 26 @ 1:00 PM EST, 2 hours

Participants learn to act and influence others, understanding how individual and collective knowledge can lead to positive action and change. Topics include:

- *Self-care (physical, emotional, mental and spiritual)*
- *Responding to the impact of colonialism on Indigenous Peoples (best practices, trauma-informed approaches, Indigenous mental health)*
- *7th- and 8th-Fire Prophecy and 7th-Generation principles surrounding sustainability and environmental stewardship*
- *The concept of well-being for all, including ecosystems*

SESSION 4 - THE NORTH: GIVING BACK AND COMMUNITY BUILDING (approx. 7 hours incl. live circle)

Live Virtual Circle: Wednesday, September 9 @ 1:00 PM EST, 2 hours

Participants learn to give back and build community. They gain the tools to provide guidance, support and mentorship to youth enrolled in a land camp. They will understand how to positively influence learners and communities to see, acknowledge and use education as “the New Buffalo.” They will also learn:

- *How to build a community at home, including discovering the value of natural space in urban settings*
- *How to share vision and knowledge with the next generation*
- *How to plant seeds and make new connections*
- *How to further connect STEAM values to all directions of the Medicine Wheel as well as holistically integrating STEAM into Indigenous understanding*

SESSION 5 - INDIGENOUS STEAM LAND CAMP 101 and CLOSING WITH THE FEATHER (total 2 hours)

Live Virtual Circle: Wednesday, September 16 @ 1:00 PM EST, 2 hours

This final live session gives participants a basic primer on planning and running their own land camp. With experienced land camp instructors, coordinators, administrators, community members and Knowledge Keepers in the live meeting, participants will learn administrative and management processes of how to build, plan, organize and operate a land camp or land based learning opportunities for students. This includes:

- *Registration*
- *Managing risk*
- *Health and safety*
- *Scheduling staff*
- *Curriculum links and activities*
- *Engaging community members, Knowledge Keepers and Elders*
- *Engaging Indigenous youth and incorporating the values of Indigenous Knowledges*
- *Reflecting and wrapping up*

To learn more, please contact:

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