



20 Indigenous Youth to Spend One Week at Windhorse for Inaugural Land-based Education Program

HALIFAX, August 11, 2022 A partnership between [SuperNOVA at Dalhousie University](#) and the [Ulnooweg Education Centre](#) will bring 20 Indigenous youth together for a week of culture and hands-on, experiential learning. The program, called Melkiknuawti (mel-gig-new-oh-di), is a Land-based Education Program that aligns STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) concepts with local Indigenous knowledge.

Indigenous High school youth will spend the week of August 15-20, learning from the land. This free, summer program will be the first youth educational programming taking place at Windhorse since it was transferred to Ulnooweg. Windhorse will serve as the classroom for all educational and cultural activities. The program's location recognizes the inherent connection that Indigenous peoples have always had with the land.

Melkiknuawti (that which gives you strength) describes the Mi'kmaw idea of "nature" as a path of strength. The program's curriculum was developed in collaboration with community partners, representatives and youth, and is directly informed by local educational and cultural priorities. Participants will have opportunities to take part in traditional practices and ceremonies, be engaged in land-based learning activities, develop general skills ranging from survival to digital literacy, and take time for meaningful reflection. Participants will also receive mentorship from local Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

Quotes

"It has been a long-standing goal of SuperNOVA to establish STEM-focused land-based learning opportunities in Atlantic Canada."

- Alexandra Fenton, Executive Director, SuperNOVA at Dalhousie University

"Through reconnecting with the land, learning becomes a way of being, rather than just a way of knowing. Land-based learning programs allow all ages to experience their childhood innocence and wonder of the possible. We are honoured to provide this space to Elders and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers for the sharing of our ways of knowing to Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth for future generations to come."

- Chris Googoo, Chief Operating Officer, Ulnooweg Education Centre

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SuperNOVA is a network member of Actua. Actua provides training, resources and support to its national network of members located at universities and colleges across Canada in the delivery of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education outreach programming. Each year, these members engage over 350,000 youth in 500 communities nationwide. Please visit Actua at www.actua.ca.