“When I Grow Up I Want to be a Doctor”

Promoting Atikamekw Children’s Interest for Health Professions Through a Book Collection

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Aboriginal people account for 4.3% of the Canadian population but less than one per cent of doctors are aboriginal
ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION IN CANADA

– Health

62.6 % of adults living in First Nations communities live with one or more chronic condition(s)

20.7 % prevalence of diabetes in adults aged 25 years or older living in First Nations communities

Substance abuse, mental health, tuberculosis and sexually transmitted infections are also important health issues in aboriginal communities


Photo: Brandon Towne
ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND EDUCATION IN CANADA

-Education

39.9% of adults living in First Nations communities did not complete high school

4.9% of adults living in First Nations communities have a university or professional degree

Photo: Brandon Towne

THE MINI-ÉCOLE DE LA SANTÉ AT UdeM

- Created in 2011

- GISA, *medical students' interest group in aboriginal health*, in charge of the Mini-école's educational activities

- First Nations Program Advisor responsible for logistics

- CÉI, *Interfaculty student council*, in charge, since 2013, of recruiting students outside of the medical program

- Bibliothèque de la santé, in charge, since 2014, of the book collection
CONNECTING HEALTH, EDUCATION AND CULTURE THROUGH NARRATIVES

Dr Stanley Vollant’s conference on aboriginal health
To introduce aboriginal children to the health professions

To support the University's outreach activities

"READ!
Every book is a doorway to a hundred other doorways that allow you to see the world." Richard Wagamese
Aboriginal Reading Champion
National Reading Campaign

UdeM Mini-école de la santé

Libraries in Aboriginal communities
A book collection, to be donated to the schools visited by the Mini-école, to support UdeM Health sciences faculties in achieving their goal of reaching out to Aboriginal children and making them aware that a career in health sciences is possible for them.

- A two-year pilot project

- 4 Atikamekw schools

- 1000 $ per school

- Fiction and non-fiction reading materials

- Subjects: health, anatomy, health professions, sciences
BOOK SELECTION

Selection tools for children books were suggested by Valérie Bastien, Education librarian, UdeM

Other websites were consulted for health sciences material or aboriginal content
Overall, Native American-authored books used a greater variety of illustrative tools, encouraging viewers to approach the story from more multiple perspectives.


Books about science -- hard or impossible to find

...books in Atikamekw
...books with aboriginal characters
...books by aboriginal authors
...books with aboriginal content
HOW TO ADDRESS ABORIGINAL CULTURE IN A SCIENCE BOOK COLLECTION?

Books with North American animals

Books allowing children to be "inside the story"
DEVELOPMENT OF THE BOOK COLLECTION

- List submitted to the elementary school in the aboriginal community
- List enriched by the person in charge of the school library
- Books purchased by UdeM libraries
- Physical preparation done at the Health sciences library
We hope that, when the reader will see the Mini-école de la santé stamp in the book, it will bring back memories of the Mini-école visit and activities.
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS VISITED IN ATIKAMEKW COMMUNITIES

École Simon-P Ottawa, Manawan

École Seskitin, Wemotaci
HIGH SCHOOL COLLECTION. ÉCOLE OTAPI, MANAWAN
A library student joined the Mini-école and, with the medical librarian, hosted the books stand.

Bookmarks advertising the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec online resources were distributed.
FROM PILOT PROJECT TO INTEGRATION IN THE MINI-ÉCOLE

- Pilot project

One high school left in the pilot project: École secondaire Nikanik, Wemotaci

The four schools' collections will be updated when the Mini-école returns for another visit

- Integration

Planned budget from the Mini-école for book collections for 10 schools in Innu communities on the Quebec Côte-Nord

Planned Integration to the visits of one or two library student(s)
INNU COMMUNITIES ON THE QUEBEC CÔTE-NORD

Source: Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones. Carte des onze nations autochtones du Québec, Gouvernement du Québec, 2011
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