GRADE 8: SOCIAL STUDIES
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Purpose: For students to learn about inspirational Aboriginal Canadians through the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards. Students will demonstrate skills in the areas of oral communication, reading and writing as they communicate the achievements of their assigned winner.

Estimated time: Three 60-minute class periods

Resources required:
- Computer and internet
- Class set of notebooks and writing utensils
- Poster size blank paper and drawing utensils

Resources included:
- Blackline master

Activity:
1. Discuss the ways people in their community are recognized for accomplishments or good deeds (e.g.: they receive an award).

2. Move on to discuss award ceremonies such as the Academy Awards or the Nobel Peace Prize Awards. Ask students to discuss the significance of such awards for both the nominees and the public.

3. Explain to students that the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards is an award ceremony that honours highly accomplished Aboriginal Canadians from a variety of personal and professional backgrounds. The awards were created to build self-esteem and pride in Aboriginal People, as well as to support, promote and celebrate achievement in Aboriginal communities. Tell students that each year, 14 recipients are recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in disciplines ranging from health, law, political science, culture, arts and one specific recognition to an outstanding youth achiever and one lifetime achievement award.

4. The recipients for 2014 are as follows:
   - Kent Monkman - Arts
   - Marie Yvonne Delorme - Business & Commerce
   - Maggie Paul - Culture, Heritage & Spirituality
   - Rita Bouvier - Education
   - Charlie Snowshoe - Environment & Natural Resources
   - Evan Tlesla II Adams - Health
   - Marion Meadmore - Law & Justice
   - James Eetoolook - Lifetime
   - Grand Chief Stewart Philip - Politics
   - Robert Watts - Public Service
   - Mary Spencer - Sports
   - John Nicholas Jeddore - Youth – First Nation
   - Sarah Arngna’naaq - Youth – Inuit
   - Christie Lavallée - Youth – Métis

5. Assign each student in the class to one of the recipients and distribute the blackline master to each student.

   Educator’s Note: If your class size is large, also assign students to the winners from 2012.

6. Using the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation website, Award Recipient page www.indspire.ca/indspire-awards/current-laureates/ and other sources, ask students to create a biographical sketch of their winner on the blackline master. Students must research the following information:
   - Name
   - Place of birth
   - Nationality
   - Occupation
   - Accomplishments
   - Influence on Aboriginal communities
   - Reason(s) for receiving the award
   - Reasons why this person is a good role model
   - Future directions

7. Once students have completed their biographical sketch, ask them to create a poster advertising the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards and their award recipient. These posters should include pictures and symbols, a brief description of the award ceremony as well as a description of their winner emphasizing his/her achievements.

8. When these posters are complete and students have a firm understanding of their winner, hold a “Mix and Mingle” in the class.

9. Explain to students that at the “Mix and Mingle” they will assume the identity of their winner. In character, they will walk around the classroom with a notebook and writing utensil and meet at least five other people.

10. When they meet another characters, they must shake hands and ask the following questions of each other:
   - Who are you?
   - What are your accomplishments?
   - Why did you win this award?
   - What are your plans after winning this award? How do you plan on giving back to the Aboriginal community?
11. Students must record the answers to each of the above questions in their notebook.

12. When the “Mix and Mingle” is complete, bring the class back together and ask students to talk about who they met and what they learned. Discuss how each of these people has made a difference in Aboriginal communities and in Canada.

13. Completed posters will be displayed around the classroom.
# NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS: BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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