

# Networks

The Newsletter of the  
International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture  
Number 1 January 2019

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## The International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture

We are very pleased to launch the International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture (Network on Culture), an outcome of the InterCulture Research Centre at the University of Ottawa.

We are a not-for-profit corporation federally incorporated in Canada, and we are currently applying for charitable tax status.

The mandate of the Network on Culture is to recognize, protect, and support intangible and material cultures, cultural heritages, and cultural environments, especially those of cultures under threat, through training, education, and research.

*We believe that culture is an essential component of human life, that culture is learned, shared, and transmitted, and that it is systemic and symbolic.*

### Who Is The Network on Culture?

The Network on Culture is a network of researchers including professors, independent researchers, elders, experts, graduate students, other professionals, and community members who are committed to an ethic of collegiality. Our collective is composed of individuals with their own expertise, bolstered by their own projects and professional lives, who are accustomed to pooling resources, assisting each other, and collaborating on larger projects. Together, we will serve as a network of knowledge generation and sharing, as well as a facilitator of community-oriented projects. Each project is headed by one of our members in collaboration with a circle of peers and draws upon the knowledge and skills of our associates according to their fields of expertise and availability.

## Networks

Welcome to this inaugural issue of **Networks**, the regular newsletter of the International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture. This isn't going to be a fancy newsletter, but a few times every year, we will provide news and information about the activities of the Network on Culture. Members are welcome to forward information about their activities for inclusion in the newsletter to [info@networkonculture.ca](mailto:info@networkonculture.ca).

### What Is Our Mandate?

Our mandate is three-fold:

- to work with Indigenous and minority communities in the maintenance and strengthening of identity, cultural heritage, and cultural environments in the face of modern challenges and encounters with dominant societies.

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## **The International Network for Training, Education, and Research on Culture (con't)**

- to cultivate an interdisciplinary understanding of culture, especially of intangible culture including language maintenance and revitalization, arts of all media, history, local economy, family structures, environment, customs and traditions, and religious beliefs and practices, among others.
- to build networks within Canada and abroad linking Indigenous groups, government departments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics, charities, and others.

### **Reaching Out**

We disseminate our findings through publications, public lectures, development programs, workshops, seminars, conferences, in the classroom, and through other media. We collaborate with Indigenous communities in the construction of development tools that protect and strengthen local cultures and languages, and in the exploration of cultural issues and culturally appropriate business opportunities that emerge as a result of development, globalization, internationalization, and other aspects of modernization. We offer training in effective intercultural communication and cultural awareness to the larger community and in the classroom, particularly for those working in intercultural industries such as tourism, cultural site management, diplomacy and foreign affairs, emergency responders and security, and others.

### **Guiding Principles**

Cultures develop organically but they do not survive and prosper apart from the active engagement of their members and the contributions of these people to the shaping, sharing in, or transmission of their cultural heritage.

*The fundamental guiding principle that governs all the Network on Culture's projects is that cultures are essential foundations and building blocks for a human world in a healthy environment.*

The second guiding principle that governs the Network on Culture's work is that local people themselves are most familiar with the challenges they face. Preferably, our projects are initiated and led by local people and, wherever possible, they must be involved in projects and have authority over our participation. We bring our expertise as researchers, facilitators, and administrators to projects but we do not aim to provide answers. We work with people to discover answers together.

The Network on Culture is a membership-based organization, functioning along sociocratic principles. The next issue of **Networks** will include information on how to join. Our website URL (currently under development) is [www.networkonculture.ca](http://www.networkonculture.ca). Our founding Directors are Marie-Françoise Guédon, Angela Sumegi, Pauline McKenzie Aucoin, Idoia Arana-Beobide, and Linnéa Rowlett.

## **Upcoming Projects**

### **Global Matricultures Research Network**

Early in 2019, the Network on Culture will activate a world-wide network of scholars focused on matricultures. In the immediate context, activation means publishing a scholarly journal, as well as hosting and participating in conferences, and publishing monographs on the topic. Applications to join *Matrix'* Editorial Collective are welcome; please send a message for more information.

### **Possible Collaboration with Cultural Horizons**

The Network on Culture is exploring a potential collaboration with Cultural Horizons, a Canadian organization devoted to 'instilling an appreciation for the diversity of the human experience by promoting excellence in the teaching and presentation of art from all cultures. This involves presenting artistic educational performances that would enhance and improve the public's understanding, aesthetic appreciation and respect for all forms of cultural expression.'