

Come Celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day!

On June 21, you and all your friends are invited to a very special celebration! That date, the first day of summer, has been chosen as **National Indigenous Peoples Day**!

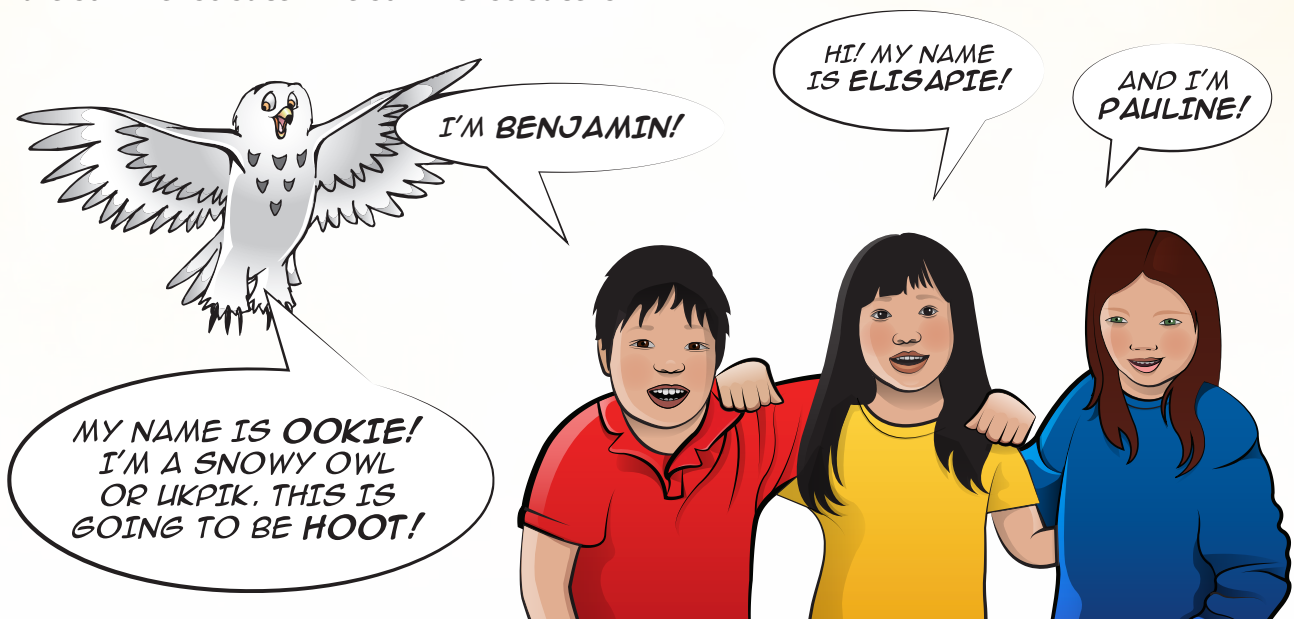
In 1996, the Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc, proclaimed it National Aboriginal Day! It's an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the cultural richness and contributions of **First Nations, Inuit,** and **Métis** peoples. In 2017, the Prime Minister announced the day would be renamed **National Indigenous Peoples Day**.

Why June 21? For centuries, many of the first inhabitants would celebrate the arrival of the warm weather and the pleasures of the summer solstice. The summer solstice is

the day of the year with the longest light. It is a day with spiritual significance for many people and is a good time to celebrate Indigenous people and cultures.

Activities for **National Indigenous Peoples Day** are organized across Canada every year. You can take part by getting in touch with an Indigenous community or a local Indigenous organization, or by organizing your own activities with your relatives and friends. For more information about the day's activities, you can visit **Canada.ca/national-indigenous-peoples-day**.

National Indigenous Peoples Day is for all Canadians, so share in the celebration.



OUR CULTURE

AN INDIGENOUS WAY OF LIFE

Did you know that there are three groups of Indigenous Peoples in Canada? They are First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

Our **culture** is reflected in our way of life, and we like to celebrate the heritage given to us by our ancestors. **Indigenous languages** are made up of **several** language families. If we wanted to refer to all the First Nations in Algonquian, we would use the word "**anicinabec.**" Algonquian is one of the many Indigenous language families. Each language family includes a number of related languages. For example, the **Beaver** and **Tahltan** languages are part of the great **Athabaskan** language family.

THERE ARE THREE GROUPS: **FIRST NATIONS**, **INUIT** AND **MÉTIS**.



MANY MÉTIS SPEAK **MICHIF**!

MANY INUIT SPEAK **INUKTUT**!



Today, **culture** is the key to **our pride**. Indigenous languages, history and culture are taught by our **families**, our **Elders** and our **teachers**. In 1999, the first Indigenous television network in the world was launched. The **APTN** or **Aboriginal Peoples Television Network**, has given Indigenous people like us a great opportunity to share our stories on television with the rest of the country on a regular basis. For all Canadians, this network is like a window looking out onto the incredibly diverse world of Indigenous peoples in Canada and other countries.

From Oujé-Bougoumou to Batoche

Indigenous people are **dynamic** and **creative**. A great number of our achievements are a source of pride to all Canadians.



FOR EXAMPLE, IT WAS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WHO INSPIRED CANADA'S **TWO NATIONAL SPORTS**.

ICE HOCKEY IS CANADA'S NATIONAL WINTER SPORT.

AND **LACROSSE** IS ITS NATIONAL SUMMER SPORT.



In Quebec, the **Cree** community of Oujé-Bougoumou received an international award from the United Nations for its circular-shaped village. This village is recognized around the world for its original design, which is exactly suited to the needs and culture of the Oujé-Bougoumou Cree.

On Vancouver Island, the village of the **Cowichan First Nation** is a tourist attraction that contains a world-class conference centre. The village and the centre host a series of fascinating activities all year round. This village is a beautiful, colourful place that attracts visitors for a wide variety of entertaining and educational activities.

During the **Back to Batoche** cultural festival held every year in Saskatchewan, the **Métis** celebrate their traditions with many events, including the "**Métis Voyageur Games**." Inspired by traditional Métis work and leisure activities, the competitions include carrying a 245 kg bag, tomahawk throwing, firing a slingshot, as well as fiddle and dance competitions.

On April 1, 1999, all of Canada celebrated the creation of **Nunavut**, Canada's third territory. The word Nunavut means "our land" in **Inuktitut**.



KIND OF A **BIRD'S-EYE VIEW**.

