

# National Indigenous Peoples Day

**OHCOW 2026**

**In celebration of June 21, 2026**



# Agenda

- Land and Water Acknowledgment
- History and Meaning of Indigenous Peoples Day
- Indigenous Artist Highlight
- Introduction to OHCOW's Land and Water Acknowledgement Framework
- Resources and Actions
- Open Discussion



# Land and Water Acknowledgment - Georgia



# History of National Indigenous Peoples Day

- In 1982, the National Indian Brotherhood (now the Assembly of First Nations) called for a National Aboriginal Solidarity Day
- In 1995, the Sacred Assembly (a conference of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people) called for a national holiday to celebrate the contributions of Indigenous Peoples
- In 1995, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended a National First Peoples Day
- In 1996, June 21 was declared "National Aboriginal Day"
- **In 2017, the Prime Minister renamed it "National Indigenous Peoples Day"**

Source: Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)  
<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013718/1708446948967>



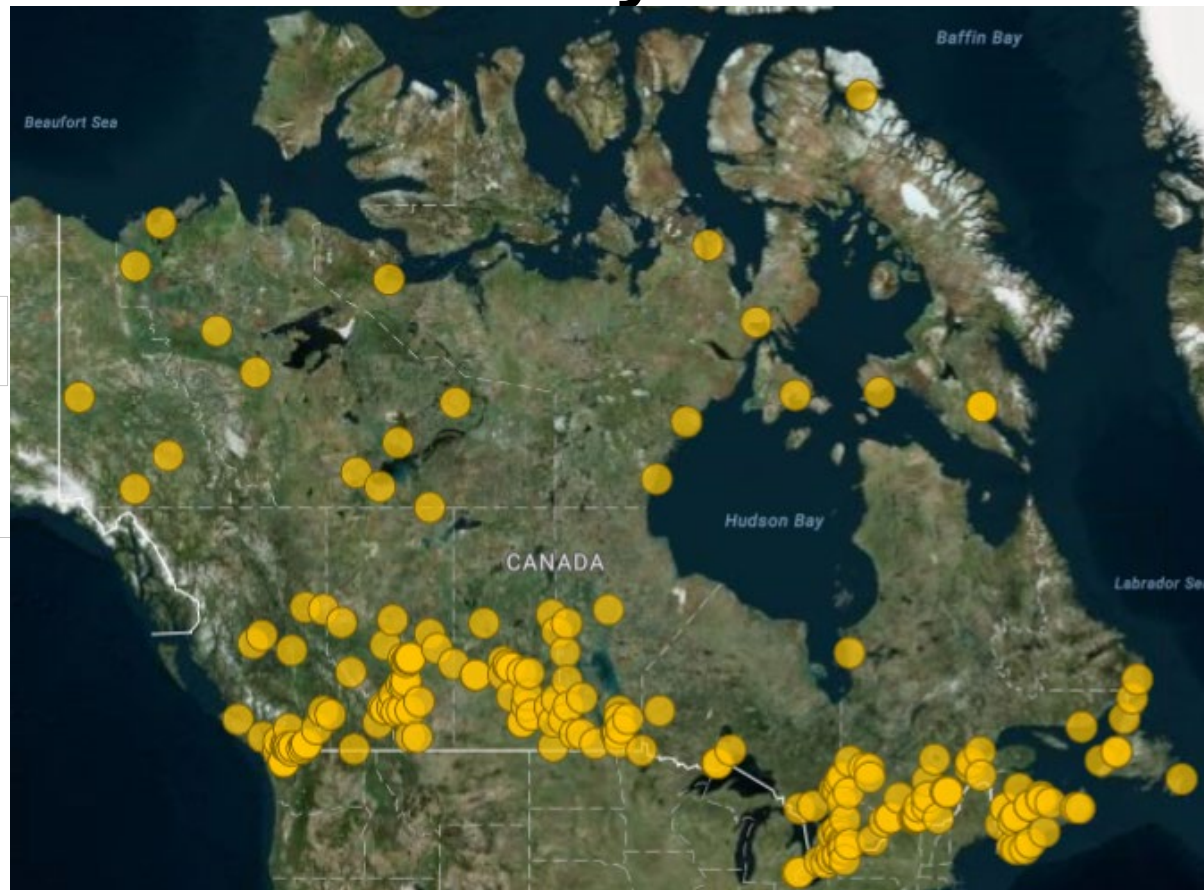
# Meaning and Significance

- June 21: on or around the Summer Solstice
  - Summer Solstice holds deep spiritual and cultural significance for many Indigenous peoples
  - A time of celebration, renewal, and connections
  - Traditions vary for each First Nation, Métis, and Inuit community
  - Some celebrations: sunrise ceremonies, pipe ceremonies, feasts, offerings, storytelling, powwows, ceremonial dances, playing games & sports, art installations, musical performances
- The month of June is also National Indigenous History Month

CIRNAC resources on Indigenous History: <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1621447127773/1621447157184>



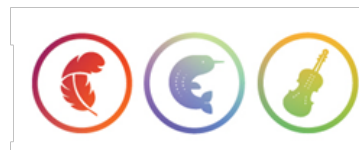
# Map of Local Celebratory Events



Celebrate Canada CIRNAC Listing of Events:

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100013718/1708446948967>

and click on “Interactive Map”



# Windsor Highlight

## Water Protectors Exhibit for National Indigenous Peoples Day

- Artists: Christian Chapman, Ruth Cuthand, Melissa General, Tanya Harnett, Roy Kakegamic, Glenna Matoush, Roy Thomas

- **Art Windsor-Essex:**  
<https://artwindsor-essex.ca/exhibitions/water-protectors/>



Roy Thomas, *Water Clan*, 1992, lithograph on paper, 20/115, 50.0 cm x 63.0 cm, Gift of the Estate of Elizabeth Gillespie, 2003



# Windsor Highlight

- These artists communicate individual and collective relationships to water to highlight how critical water is to Indigenous knowledge and identity
- This art exhibit demonstrates the Indigenous cultural connections to water, and focuses our attention on the systemic inequities of unsafe drinking water in many Indigenous communities



Roy Thomas, *Water Clan*, 1992, lithograph on paper, 20/115, 50.0 cm x 63.0 cm, Gift of the Estate of Elizabeth Gillespie, 2003



# Artist Highlight: Wolf Babe Collective

Danielle Printup is a member of the Wolf Babe Collective, a group of curators and artists who create work that draws from their lived experiences as racialized First Nations non-binary people and women

**Wolf Babe Collective:**

<https://wolfbabecollective.com/please-remove-your-shoes>



Danielle Printup



# Artist Highlight: Wolf Babe Collective



<https://wolfbabecollective.com/please-remove-your-shoes>



# OHCOW Land and Water Acknowledgment Framework

- Are you comfortable giving a Land and Water Acknowledgment?
- What resources have you used in the past? (Please put resources you have used in the chat...community resources, google, Indigenous websites, government websites)
- What are we preparing and why?
- Would a resources list be supportive? (Thumbs up, if yes)



# Resources/Actions

## **Resources:**

[The Assembly of First Nations \(AFN\) 4th National Climate Gathering — Indigenous Climate Action](#)

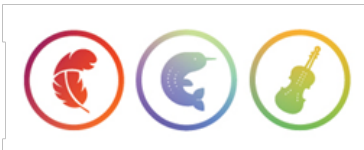
## **Actions:**

Continue revisiting and considering OHCOW's relationships with Indigenous workers, and or communities:

Example 1: [Indigenous Partnerships: Learnings - To be stored on Teams.](#)

Example 2: [Reporting form- Output Indicator 10: Number of new and ongoing collaborative partnerships](#)

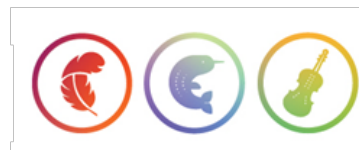
- Column G: Is this partnership with a First Nations, Métis, or Inuit stakeholder?
- Should we explore considering a future number we want to aim for?





# Thank you!!

- Sarah Rhodes
- Eduardo Huesca
- Georgia Pollard
- Krista Thompson
- Jennifer Hayde
- David Chezzi
- Andréane Chénier
- Andy LaDouceur



# Extra Slide: Considerations

- **Relationship**

- What is your relationship to the lands and waters you're on?
- Are you visiting? Living? Learning? Working with the land? Seeking connection?

- **Action**

- What meaningful actions can you take to support the ongoing care of these lands and waters?
- Supporting Indigenous-led initiatives, learning histories, showing up for community efforts, etc.

- **Commitment**

- How will you commit to these actions moving forward?
- Your acknowledgment becomes a living statement of your role in stewardship.

Source: <https://native-land.ca/resources/territory-acknowledgement>

