



Isohetst ne ostó:ser | Pass the Feather

Feather Bundle Workshops and Sharing | Talking Circle Gatherings

Our Feather Bundle workshops are infused with valuable lessons that reflect respect for others, respect for our land and the animals that we share it with. We explore the value of talking circles within our systems of work and education – how they teach trust, respect and co-operation. We will practice and explore the healing and spiritual benefits of sharing circles. We also touch on sustainable hunting practice, ornithology and address intergenerational trauma as a result of the 60's scoop and residential school system.

This workshop initiative envisions a more respectful connection between Ontario's Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities by tapping into mutual interests despite different histories or ideologies. By recognizing mutual ground such as art and environment, we have an opportunity to create a reciprocal relationship and decrease the perceptions of inequality.

Isohetst ne ostó:ser has created this one of a kind Community Arts Workshop that reminds us of our connection to the natural world and it's importance to our physical and emotional wellbeing.



Process

Each participant must first recognize the importance of each individual bird that flies above us, walks or swims beside us and that it can be directly connected to our spiritual and physical health on the land. These teachings are important and when you hold feathers in your hand you cannot ignore how the unusual opportunity of touching and admiring their aesthetics influences our consciousness of the responsibilities that birds carry.

Feather bundles or 'Talking Feathers' play a very important role in our Nations. Historically used by tribal council circles to control discussions; the individual that held the feather was given a turn to speak uninterrupted. This practice is now used widely in our school systems and workplaces and our organization travels to teach about talking circles and make feather bundles with participants of all ages. Feather bundles are also traditionally used by individuals to direct medicines in spiritual and physical healing and cleansing (ex: smudging). All of these teachings are visited in our workshops.

This project is important and the process explained is unique. We are the only program of this kind in North America.