



MEDIA RELEASE

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Six Nations Tourism

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Discovering Kaná:ta receive the OMA Award of Excellence in Programs

SIX NATIONS, ON – November 22, 2016 – Chiefswood National Historic Site and Niagara Falls History Museum was honoured by the Ontario Museums Association (OMA) as the 2016 recipient of the Award of Excellence in Programs for *Discovering Kaná:ta: Exploring the Culture and History of the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations)*. The half day program was designed by staff from the Niagara Falls History Museum and Chiefswood National Historic Site and was delivered to Niagara schoolchildren both in February by Cultural Coordinator Heather George and last week by Cultural Coordinator Alysha Longboat.

“The Awards of Excellence is our opportunity to recognize those institutions and individuals who exemplify their roles in the museum sector, reminding us of the impact museums have on their communities, and on Ontario as a province,” said Marie G. Lalonde, Executive Director of the Ontario Museum Association.

The development of this program will have a lasting effect on both the Ontario museum community, and on the local Niagara community: the program is highly replicable, and can serve as a template for programming in which First Nations voices are heard, and the success of this partnership has led to a commitment by the Niagara Falls Museums to include First Nations content in their programming whenever possible.

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The Discovering Kaná:ta program is characterized as a true partnership between Niagara Falls History Museums and Chiefswood National Historic Site, the two organizations built on one another's strengths to ensure that high-quality, engaging programming could be presented by First Nations educators. The week long program, featured half-day sessions about various elements of Haudenosaunee culture, which were facilitated by Niagara Falls History Museums, but led entirely by First Nations Chiefswood staff.

Originally, Niagara Falls Museums had intended to be able to lead the program themselves, but quickly realized that the Chiefswood staff's ability to use first-person language when talking about First Nations culture had a much greater impact on both their First Nations and non-First Nations students, and adjusted their plans for the program accordingly. The Discovering Kaná:ta program recommenced last week in the Niagara Falls area and was delivered to over 120 youth.

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About Six Nations Tourism:

Formally a branch of Six Nations Elected Council, Six Nations Tourism is now a department of Six Nations of the Grand River Development Corporation (SNGRDC). Six Nations Tourism employs 4 full time staff who manage Six Nations Tourism, Chiefswood National Historic Site & Mohawk Chapel. SNGRDC employs over 100 staff in the areas of Tourism, Bingo, Property Management, Human Resources, Finance, Business Development and Corporate Affairs.

For More Information: Visit www.sndevcorp.ca or www.sixnationstourism.ca.



About the OMA Award of Excellence

The Award of Excellence in Programs from the Ontario Museum Association is presented to individuals, institutions, corporation or agencies for programming that creatively engage new audiences, or provided exemplary service to existing ones.

For more information on each of the recipients and their achievements, please visit the OMA website, <https://members.museumsontario.ca/programs-events/awards-of-excellence>.

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