



Anishnawbe Health Toronto

Wisdom Weavers

Storytelling & Traditional Teachings

Join Anishnawbe Health Toronto for a series of storytelling presentations on enduring troubling times, surviving challenges, keeping families strong, and emerging stronger for it all. Elders and Knowledge Holders from across Turtle Island will share their experiences as well as stories within their own cultures and Nations.



The Dawning of a New Day by Gabe, a client of Anishnawbe Health Toronto – “When I used to draw this cabin before my time of healing, the window and door would be black, and I could not see through. I used to live in darkness as I would sleep all day and would be up all night. Now, when I draw this cabin, the window and door are white, and I can see everything clearly. I am thankful to the Creator for helping me in my healing journey. To me, the cabin represents living in nature and the connection to Land. The colours of the sky represent the dawning of a new day in my life’s journey.”

Unkan Wandbi Wakita (Grandfather) is a strong leader, who is gentle and kind. Unkan’s early life was infused with love and teachings from his mother and grandfather. He grew up speaking the Dakota language, learning about Ceremony, and living the Dakota way of life. As a child he had many Sacred experiences that foretold of the work that would come later when he was an adult. When he would share about these experiences, his grandfather would reassure him, “Takoja, Ija hna wakanpi. They are holy too. Do not be afraid.” This was in sharp contrast to the harsh treatment and abuse that he experienced for eight years in Indian Residential School. When he was old enough, he ran away and joined the Canadian Armed Forces as a Peacekeeper where he served for six years. Upon his return home, and after years of healing the wounds that those experiences caused, Unkan surrendered into the role that was always waiting for him, that of a Wicasa Wakan or Holy Man. Unkan has attended Sundances, both in the United States and Canada, for over fifty years. He is a Sundance chief, spiritual leader, and strong voice to preserve Dakota language and culture. Wanbdi is described as, “gentle and soft spoken, a man of profound wisdom.” He possesses a rare breadth of traditional and culture knowledge, which he combines with a message of love.

Unkan’s storytelling presentation will be titled *Living a Life: Sacredness and Healing*. Unkan will speak about Natural Law which offers a guide to health, well-being, and healing of Indigenous people in heart, mind, body and Spirit. Unkan shares stories that help the listener to know and practice their culture, way of life and sacredness.



Photo is courtesy of Dave Brosha

To view the presentation, please click on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hO4gvcl3ERc>

This presentation series is made possible by the generous donors to the Anishnawbe Health Foundation.