



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.



“A Skirt with a Story” by Emily Kewageshig



Donna Augustine, Thunderbird Turtle Woman, is Mi'kmaq from the Elsipogtog First Nation in New Brunswick. She is a spiritual ceremonial leader and a strong advocate for her culture. When she was growing up, there was no evidence of the ceremonial component of her culture. Before her, in her grandfather's and great-grandfather's time, there was actually a bounty placed on the heads of her people if they were caught having anything to do with culture or ceremony.

Donna is a dreamer and a strong intuitive person; a gift carried by a few that is highly respected. At a young age of about four or five; before she learned how to speak English; she told her Dad in her Mi'kmaq language that there were still native people somewhere that still prayed and did ceremony in the old way. She knew it, she felt it to be true.

So, at the age of twenty-two, when she attended her first ceremony with the Ojibwa people; guided through a dream, she knew she had to help to bring back the ways of her people. She knew that through colonization and assimilation; her people had been robbed of what was rightfully theirs.

She went on a mission to help her people and others, reclaim their identity by going back to ceremonial way of life. Now, everywhere in her community and surrounding areas, the people are celebrating and honouring their rich heritage. Donna's storytelling presentation is titled: *Reclaiming Our Traditions, Our Ceremonies, and Our Spirit.*

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPDLsqn7Rh8>

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