



Curriculum Links
The Sharing Circle, Season 14, Episode 4:
Restoring the Sacred

Suggested Grade Levels:

All Grades

Curriculum Themes:

- Administration and Counselling
- Counsellors with rural students
- School Planning
- Transition and Urban Issues Urban and Rural Schools
- Urban and Rural Schools

Summary of Episode:

Each autumn, high school students from reserve communities leave their homes to go to school in a city hundreds of miles away. They must face and cope with a way of life that is foreign, confusing and oftentimes dangerous. For them, the hardest test they will face isn't in the classroom. It is found in simply finding the will to stay in school, in overcoming their homesickness, in adjusting to the way of life in the city, and in avoiding the dangerous social traps surrounding them. Historically, half or more of the first year students don't last through the school year, with the greatest portion giving up before Christmas. Sadly, many of them become involved with urban gangs and leave school for a life of criminal activity. Even worse, some simply cannot adjust and commit suicide.

In Winnipeg an Aboriginal non-government agency has launched a program, Restoring the Sacred, designed to offer the students some of the support they need in order to stay in school and to live safely in the city. The Sharing Circle travels to one community in northern Manitoba and discovers the hopes and fears of the parents there, and journey with some of the students to their new school in Winnipeg and to this significant challenge in their lives.

Vocabulary:

- 500 relocate
- Access
- Alcohol
- Assess needs
- At risk
- Belonging
- Bus
- Challenges
- Chief
- City
- Curriculum
- David McDougal
- Different Lifestyle
- Drop out
- Drugs
- Education
- English second language
- Expand
- Exploit
- Exposure
- Facilitator
- Future
- Gangs
- Guidance
- Healthy
- Help
- Identity
- Intervention
- KaNiKanichihk
- Knowledge
- Large schools
- Leadership
- Listen
- Lonely
- Math
- Mentorship
- Natural Learning
- Normal
- Pace
- Physical activities
- Post secondary
- Prepare
- Prevention
- Program
- Quality
- Recruit
- Relationship
- Relocate
- Resources
- Rural students
- Sacred Standing
- Safety
- Society
- Spiritual activities
- St. Theresa Point
- Supports
- Tec Voc High school
- Technology
- Trades
- Traditional
- Train
- Transition
- Travel time
- Value system
- Vision
- Wisdom
- Youth
- Youth Welcome youth

Suggested Activities:

- Study reserves in your province.
- Consider their way of life and experiences.
- What can you learn from them?
- Get a pen pal from a reserve.
- What is the history of reserves? How did they come about?
- What does it mean to be a mentor?
- What can staff in schools do to help rural students?

Suggested Activities (Continued):

- Dr. Martin Brokenleg has many books. One is called Reclaiming the Youth at Risk and he talks about a Circle of Courage. This circle shows psychological needs of all people. Read the book and look at how your school promotes a sense of belonging for rural students.

Additional Resources (online):

- KaNiKanichihk Website
<http://www.kanikanichihk.ca/index.php?action=rts>
- Dr. Martin Brokenleg
<http://www.augie.edu/dept/soci/martin.htm>
<http://www.reclaiming.com/speakers/?action=1&ProductID=6>

Related Episodes:

- The Sharing Circle. Season 14, Episode 3
Children of the Earth

Support and Prevention for Rural Students

Who are the students coming to your school from rural settings?

What is some background information about their home communities?

What supports were in place for them at home and what is missing here?

What risks does this pose for these students?

What are your long term goals for supporting these students?

What are your short term goals? What other agencies are helping to support these students?

Student Information

Name: _____

Home Community: _____

Favourite Subject:

Least Favourite Subject:

Do you have supports here? If so, who is helping?

What is your biggest concern while here?

How can we help you transition your move?