

Raised Voices: Carriers of Hope

February 1st – 4th 2019



Raised Voices: Carriers of Hope is a First Nations youth education policy forum hosted by the Assembly of First Nations and designed and facilitated by the Nova Scotia-Newfoundland Regional Chief's Office and Three Things Consulting. The three-day forum will provide a platform for 36 First Nations youth, from across the country to come together and discuss issues they face in education. Three First Nations youth from each region will be selected to unite in learning, healing, and knowledge sharing – to tackle the day-to-day issues in education and drive individual and local First Nations solutions.

Most often when First Nations 'youth' are engaged in leadership roles, either as members of national or regional advisory groups or councils, or in community-based work, the age of these young leaders are those in their mid to late twenties. Insight and input of all young people are valuable and important. That's why Raised Voices: Carriers of Hope aims to empower youth ages 14-18, to give these young people an opportunity to share their perspectives, goals and dreams as we all chart a path forward.

This gathering will provide First Nations youth the opportunity to make informed recommendations to First Nations leaders in education, and government policy and decision-makers. Through a consensus-based approach to decision-making, delegates will identify the most pressing or critical education-related strengths and challenges facing First Nations students in Canada.

The three-day forum will provide a platform for First Nations youth from across the country to come together and discuss issues they face in education, between Friday, February 1st and Sunday, February 3rd, 2019. With the assistance of trained facilitators and after having the chance to fully exchange their ideas in a safe space, delegates will have the opportunity on Monday, February 4, 2019, to share their perspectives with policy and decision-makers. Youth will be the center of the conversation and the policy and decision-makers will be there to listen and learn.



This event is geared to First Nations youth aged 14-18 years with diverse experiences; youth who may have faced challenges with school systems; those who have excelled; those who have been identified as leaders; and those who might not often take part in these kinds of activities.

The goal of this Forum is to build an increased awareness of education priorities for First Nations youth. AFN will encourage youth leadership and engagement, including the sharing of experiences and proposed solutions. The first-hand perspectives of First Nations youth is essential.

During the conference, First Nations leaders, education partners and government policy and decision-makers will hear directly from delegates to understand the way that their policy decisions affect First Nations youth. Delegates will lead the conversation and provide first-hand life experiences to describe current challenges and outline recommendations for change.

Three Things Consulting is a national Indigenous owned company that works to create safe and supported space for youth to speak, be heard and create change. Known for their 20+ years of experience supporting youth and families, their team has planned, designed, facilitated and hosted more than 250 events, such as:

- Coast 2 Coast (a national train trip with 50 youth in care between Vancouver and Nova Scotia)
- Enhancing Indigenous Education Through Co-Creation for the Rideau Hall Foundation
- Msit No'Kmaq: All My Relations, a trans-Atlantic sail training, cultural healing program for 45 Indigenous youth between the ages of 16 – 21 years old

Staffed by First Nations youth leaders, trained facilitators and youth friendly educators, recognized Elders and respected youth leaders, the young people attending will be fully supported during travel and while at the event.

We hope you will share this information with First Nation youth aged 14 - 18 and have them visit www.3things.ca to learn more and download an application. Complete applications are due January 6th, 2019 by email (youmatter@3things.ca). Selected youth will be notified and confirmed, and travel arrangements will be made. Selected youth and families/care givers will receive a full travel plan and package prior to the participants departure.

