

NEWS RELEASE



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Aboriginal Awareness Week highlights Aboriginal culture in Brantford

BRANTFORD – A smudge ceremony, Métis fiddlers, an art show and a film screening are just some of the events scheduled for Laurier Brantford's Aboriginal Awareness Week March 21 to 25.

The opening ceremony will be held March 21 at 10 a.m. in the SC Johnson Building lobby, 38 Market Street. The ceremony will feature a smudging ceremony, which is a purification ceremony using sacred medicines such as tobacco, sweetgrass, cedar and sage. The smoke from the sacred medicine purifies the mind, body, and spirit. Tribal Vision Dance will also perform dances of both Powwow and Iroquoian styles.

"This week is an opportunity for both the Laurier campus and the community to celebrate the Aboriginal culture and heritage of this area," said Marnie Antoniow, Laurier Brantford's Aboriginal student support coordinator. "We are celebrating not only the Aboriginal culture of Six Nations and the Mississaugas of the New Credit, but also the strong Aboriginal heritage on the Brantford campus."

A highlight of the week is the screening of "Third World Canada" with producer/director Andree Cazabon. Set in the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (the people of the lake), a remote Native community in Northern Ontario, the film explores the aftermath of the suicide of three parents and the impact of Third World conditions on the children left behind. Inspired by the film, Laurier Brantford student Maureene Ninham created the "Adopt-a-Box" campaign to provide support to the community in need.

Other highlights of the week include:

- Performance by the Métis Fiddler Quartet March 22 at 2.p.m. in the Research and Academic Centre Foyer.
- Darren Thomas, a motivational speaker and Laurier graduate student, will host a comedy hypnosis show March 24 at 4:30 p.m. in the Odeon Building room 110.
- A visit to the Mush Hole Exhibit and The Art of Healing at the Brantford Arts Block, 80 Dalhousie Street at noon.

For a full list of events, visit: http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=12448&p=18847. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Marnie Antoniow at mantoniow@wlu.ca.

Laurier's Waterloo campus held an Aboriginal awareness week March 7 to 11.