

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS DURING COVID-19 SCHOOL CLOSURES

Our Connected North team at TakingITGlobal understands that school closures due to the COVID-19 global pandemic have disproportionately affected Indigenous students in remote communities. While our offices have been closed since March 16th, 2020, we have been working from home to modify and adapt our content delivery in ways that are accessible to students learning at home. We are pleased to be able to provide an overview of educational resources freely available for students and families to access.



Through our new *Connected North@Home* initiative, a variety of Connected North partners have offered continued opportunities for students across our network to connect live to museums, zoos, artists, and storytellers. These unique learning experiences have been available daily since March 23rd, 2020 to students and their families at home. **To date, over 110 sessions have been delivered for students to join from home.**

Acknowledging that many homes lack access to reliable internet connectivity, the delivery of sessions has been modified to include live streams and recordings. Partners have allowed recordings of sessions for wider and easier distribution and sharing - through our [Connected North video library](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) channels.

<https://connectednorth.org/athome/>

Connexions Nord à la maison, la contrepartie francophone de Connected North @ Home offre les mêmes expériences éducatives uniques en français pour continuer à servir nos élèves francophones et ceux qui apprennent le français. La programmation francophone a commencé le 30 mars 2020. Les ateliers se passent en direct également et sous forme d'enregistrements disponibles sur notre site web et nos médias sociaux.

Connexions Nord à la maison, the Francophone counterpart of Connected North @ Home, offers the same unique educational experiences in French to continue to serve our Francophone and French-learning students. French programming began on March 30th, 2020 with **over 17 sessions to date**. These workshops are also delivered live and available as recordings on the French website and through our social media.

<https://www.connectednorth.org/alamaison/>

Our Create to Learn initiative works with Connected North schools to build digital media production skills and creative confidence, connecting students to Indigenous media makers as trainer-mentors and providing digital literacy equipment to schools.

In partnership with ImagineNATIVE, we have launched *Create to Learn@Home*. Over the past month, **we have contracted 40 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit artists and media makers to develop over 100 instructional videos** on a variety of software tools and creative processes. Students are able to access this content across our social media platforms for students to follow along at their own pace to build their own creative skills. These creators have also shared the videos to their own networks of followers, which number over 44,000+!

<https://www.instagram.com/create2learn/>

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Code to Learn offers free resources to Canadian students and teachers to help them learn coding, robotics, computational thinking, and 21st-century skills. LYNX coding software is available at no cost to engage youth across Canada. We work with educators and other community members to co-design curriculum activities & Coding Challenges -including for the popular micro:bits!

TakingITGlobal has launched *Code to Learn@Home* to continue to serve students during COVID-19 closures. In partnership with LCSI, Cisco, Fair Chance Learning, and with support from the Government of Canada, we're offering coding and computational thinking learning experiences for students of all ages with daily live webinars and recordings posted to our various social media platforms.

<https://www.codetolearn.ca/athome/>

Future Pathways: Fireside Chats was developed in response to the current COVID-19 pandemic affecting the communities, schools, and students we work with. Social, print, and TV media is filled with information about COVID-19 - so much so that many are experiencing information overload and may be overwhelming to some.

An escape from the narrative is needed and Future Pathways is in the perfect position to provide this for students. **Our video series features over 40 Indigenous Role Models from a variety of careers speaking about their journeys, providing hope for the future**, talking about how they handle uncertainty in their lives and careers, and how they balance & maintain well-being. Themes of addressing uncertainty, hope for the future, and well-being offers insights on how students can deal with the current pandemic situation while simultaneously building skills and competencies to navigate a world of uncertainty and volatility.

<https://connectednorth.org/en/futurepathways/fireside-chat>

The *Connected North Future Pathways Navigator* platform is a tool for youth across the North to access support for their transition from high school. Tips, resources and video testimonials have been carefully curated as a result of focus groups and outreach by Connected North's vast network of Indigenous Role Models with the aim of offering easily navigable and highly practical advice from one youth to another.

At Connected North, we recognize that student's experiences in the classroom cannot be disconnected from their lived realities, and by offering learning that supports and celebrates the whole individual, our aim is to equip and inspire the next generation of community leaders to succeed on their next big step.

<https://www.futurepathwaysnavigator.org/>