

Dodem Kanonhsa' 15th Year Fun Facts

Did you know...

1. That our name represents three of the largest cultural groups in Ontario?

"Dodem" means "Clan" in the Ojibway language or Anishinabem.
"Kanonhsa'" <gah-noonh-sa> means "Lodge" in the Mohawk language or Kenienkeha <gah-nyen-gey-ha).
The name is also transcribed into Cree Syllabics
2. Dodem Kanonhsa' first opened our doors on Monday, September 21, 1998; seven years, eleven months, and twenty four days after the OKA crisis ended.
3. We currently profile 30 Elders, Teachers, and Healers on our website; (www.dodemkanonhsa.ca) many of whom (among others) have contributed, visited or taught at Dodem Kanonhsa'.
 - a. Some Nations that are represented are: Ojibwe, Oneida, Cree, Mohawk, Delaware, Seneca, Saulteaux.
 - b. Some of the Clans represented are: Wolf, Fish, Marten, Bear, Turtle, Red-tail Hawk, Kildeer, and Snipe.
4. Members of the same clan are related, even across Nations.
5. The Six Nations Confederacy is comprised of the following member nations: Seneca, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Mohawk, Tuscarora.
 - a. Each member Nation has their own language and clan system
6. The word "Hotinonshon:ni" (Hau-de-no-shoa-nee) means "People of the longhouse" or "Longhouse of the one family" (Yvonne & Jake Thomas Library)
7. There are three types of drums currently in use in Aboriginal culture: **The Big Drum**, sounded mostly during powwows & other large gatherings; **Hand drums** are used for personal healing as well as social events or Plains Cree peoples sound them at Round dance ceremonies; **The Water drum** is present during many ceremonies in Anishinabeg territories though not often present in social situations. There is ceremonial and social sounding of the Water drum in Hotinonshon:ni territories.
8. Dodem Kanonhsa' welcomes people from all ancestries, nations and backgrounds to learn from our Elders. It is a common misconception is that our services are for Aboriginal people only.

9. The Dodem Kanonhsa' has hosted our Elders bi-weekly. That's a total of 324 weeks, with an average of 22 weeks per year. If we hosted them back to back, an Elder would have visited the Dodem Kanonhsa' every week for 5.5 years!
10. Dodem Kanonhsa' Elders have provided approximately 8,250 hours of counsel & advice! That's 343.75 (24hr) days if the appointments were non-stop, it would be almost one full year of round the clock service! That's a lot of guidance 😊
11. With an average of 2-3 open teachings (one hour long) every other week for 15 years, Dodem Kanonhsa' has provided approximately 880+ hours of lunch time teachings.
12. The Turtle featured in our logo is a prominent symbol in Aboriginal culture. Both the Anishinabeg & Hotinonshon:ni Creation stories say that this land (North & South America) sits on the back of a giant turtle, hence the name: Turtle Island.
13. The Turtle also acts as teaching tool and "calendar" each segment on the turtle's back corresponds to a month in the 13 moon lunar calendar and the smaller segments around the edge of the shell to the corresponding 28 days
14. The Anishinabeg Confederacy also known as the Three Fires Confederacy, consists of three member nations: Ojibway or "faith-keepers", Odawa or "trades-people", and Potowottomi (Bodwewottomi) or "fire-keepers"
15. Dodem Kanonhsa' WORLDWIDE! In the last five years alone, we have had visitors to our lodge from: Australia, England, India, China, Hungary, Japan, Peru, Colombia, Brazil and many, many more!!