



# Aboriginal Perspectives

Secondary

## The Teacher's Toolkit

Aboriginal perspectives bring the curriculum to life!



## Guidance and Career Education

Career Studies  
Grade 10, Open (GLC2O)

Aboriginal Teaching Strategy

### Language as a Career Asset

Students identify and discuss the ways in which speaking more than one language, and understanding more than one culture, can be an advantage in today's job market.

#### Related Curriculum Policy

- *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 9 and 10: Guidance and Career Education, 2006*

#### Strand

Exploration of Opportunities

#### Specific Expectations

*Identifying Trends and Opportunities*

- explain how knowledge of and respect for various cultures and languages (e.g., understanding customs and practices, multilingualism) can be an asset in the global job market

#### Aboriginal Context

Tomson Highway is an Aboriginal author and playwright. His writing recognizes the cultural assets of speaking more than one language and celebrates the diversity that multilingualism creates.

*Note:* When working within an Aboriginal community or any cultural community that is not one's own, it is necessary to learn about, accept, understand, and bridge cultural differences. Role playing is one way students can express different views in a relatively safe classroom climate. Be sure to explain the roles of interviewer, interviewee, and observer. For more information on policies that acknowledge, promote, and celebrate diversity in Ontario, see Resources: Ontario Ministry of Education.

## Teaching Strategies

- Discuss Tomson Highway's article "Music to My Ears" with the students. What message is he trying to send to his readers?
- Prepare suggestions for group discussion and brainstorming about which careers require multilingual skills. Discuss what level of fluency is required for such careers and whether both oral and written skills are required. Ask students to brainstorm about which cultures in your geographical area create a demand for fluency in a language other than English.
- Have students work in small groups to brainstorm possible questions for an interview for a job/placement that entails working in a cultural context other than their own. Have them brainstorm key points the interviewer might look for in the respondent's answers. Determine whether students obtained the necessary background information through brainstorming, and, if not, have them do further research.

## Resources

*The following recommended resources and web links were accurate at the time of publication. Teachers are encouraged to check that these reference listings remain current.*

Highway, Tomson. "Music to My Ears." In *Voices Past and Present*, edited by Jesse Porter. Toronto, ON: Wall & Emerson, 2000.

Ontario Ministry of Education. *English Language Learners: ESL and ELD Programs and Services, 2007*. [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/esleldprograms/index.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/esleldprograms/index.html)

### **ABOUT THE TEACHER'S TOOLKIT**

This teaching strategy is one component of *Aboriginal Perspectives: The Teacher's Toolkit*, a collection of resources designed to help Ontario educators bring Aboriginal perspectives into the classroom. Based on the revised Ontario curriculum, the collection includes resources for educators at both the elementary and secondary levels. Other resources in this series can be found on the ministry website, at [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca).

