

Indigenous Gatineau youth release song and music video “*Important to Us*” - October 28, 2015

In the summer of 2015, Indigenous hip-hop producer and community youth worker David Hodges visited Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School (PETES) in downtown Gatineau to work with local youth. Hodges and students from grades 4-6 from PETES worked together to create a very moving, emotional, and compelling song and music video entitled “*Important to us.*” The song and music video incorporated messages that inspire community connection, individual pride, peer support, and friendship.

Hodges represents a music collective called N’we Jinan that works with Indigenous youth and communities to use music to create songs that aim to inspire and encourage individuals to build attachments to their home and community, while focusing on issues such as cultural identity, inner struggle, relationships, love, and hope.

PETES is also known for its community activism, and its students have been involved in various community development initiatives such as Shannen’s Dream and Project of Heart (Truth and Reconciliation). With its record of community engagement, it is no surprise that PETES has partnered with N’we Jinan to help its students realize their creative potential and positive message. Principal Mr. McFall explained “the goal of the project was to engage our students and give them an opportunity to tell the world their story – they exceeded all expectations with this truly inspirational and astonishing song.”

“Important To Us” – Recorded June 19, 2015

Artists: Aisha (Gd. 4), Crystal (Gd. 4) Neebin (Gd. 4), Antonio (Gd. 4), Lucy (Gd. 5), Georgio (Gd. 6), Matthew (Gd. 6), Mia (Gd. 6)

Intro / Verse

I like to sing and express my soul
Follow my dreams, I won't let them go
When life gets tough, I know it's not the end
Cause I'm not alone, I've got my friends

Pre-chorus

Make the best of everything you've got
You have the power inside your heart
Let's tell the world that we're all the same
And heal together when we all feel pain

Let's make the best of everyday we see
Combine the colours of you and me
Let's tell the world, let's tell the world
Discover just what we can be

Chorus

Hello, hello
Is anybody listening?
Bonjour, bonjour
To everybody living here
Wachiyeh, wachiyeh (hello in Cree)
Our home is filled with colour and love
Kwe-kwe, kwe-kwe (hello in Algonquin)
These are things important to us

Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do
Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do

No matter where you're from
Let's fill our home with colour and love
Cause we are like the sun
And these are things important to us

Rap verse

I work real hard to get to where I wanna be
Working together with my team as I follow dreams

I try, try, I'm never gonna say goodbye
Lifting each other up, every day we fly
We bring each other down, it's so stressful
Turn that attitude around, and be successful
Always remember to share and include
Keeping our pride is what we're daring to do

My friends I like to support
I know that life is too short
I wanna reach out and change
The world around me today

I wanna see progress
Cause all I'm seeing is the nonsense, this the process
So I'm riding with my people and we got this
Our love is the food for the thoughtless

Pre-chorus

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Violin solo

Rap

I wanna think big cause I am home
And I know this could last long
If we join hands we could hold strong
As our history goes on

Pre-chorus

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You have the power inside your heart
Let's tell the world that we're all the same
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