

**TURTLE LODGE ANNOUNCES**  
**Discovering Our Identity**  
**By Erica Daniels**



**Turtle Lodge Supports Youth Erica Daniels  
in her Initiative to Restore Sacred  
Teachings for the Youth -- We Call on  
Elders, Youth, Interested Parties who Want  
to Support Erica's Initiative!**

When I look around our First Nations Community, I am Proud, but also very concerned. It is not only my concern, but also a huge concern to our Elders. What we have been seeing over many years is a loss of culture, traditions, and identity of our Young people. These reasons take us back to history.

I look around and see so many of our Young people struggling with drugs, alcohol, and violence. Many people discriminate against us for these actions but never take the time to understand why we struggle with these problems - It is because our people have lost their Identity!

Being around the Elders, hearing their teachings, their stories, and their knowledge and experiences, I have learned so much that has helped and saved me in my path of life. I don't want to see our culture disappear or be lost. I keep hearing people say - "Our youth are our future." And we are, but we will never be satisfied with ourselves as a people until we know where we have come from.

People need to start taking action to save our identity!

My vision is to start a Youth drop-in program where we strictly focus on restoring our culture and traditions.

It can run once a week, having a variety of Elders come in and teach the youth:

- 7 teachings
- Who they are and where they come from
- Proper ways to make offerings
- How to use the medicines
- Women's and Men's teachings
- About the Grandmothers and Grandfathers
- Understanding of the sweat lodge – Field Trips
- Rites of Passage for Women and Men
- Knowledge of the Drum
- How to make a Drum
- Women – The power of the skirt
- Women – How to make a traditional Skirt
- What is a Bundle and the importance of having one
- Knowledge of the Pipe and what it means to our people
- Knowledge of the Sun Dance Ceremonies
- Knowledge and field trips to the Sacred Site Manito Api.

We will have a different Elder/Speaker each week sharing their knowledge.

The Youth will choose what they want to learn most about in their culture/traditions, and the guest Elders will be invited based upon the knowledge they carry. This initiative will begin in and be completely connected to ceremony.

Many of our Youth are lost and are craving to know who they are and where they come from, this will be the first step to recovery.

Publicly announcing this initiative through social media is the key to grabbing the attention of the Youth.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SUPPORT ERICA email [turtlelodge@mts.net](mailto:turtlelodge@mts.net).**