



OMBIGIAAWSIWIN TEACHINGS

THE TALKING STICK

Learning information about traditional culture came through Elders, families, friends, and other community members who shared stories about what their lives were like and why things are done in certain ways. The Talking Stick is a very important part of Aboriginal culture and history. It is used when meetings take place and when decisions have to be made. The Talking Stick is an essential part of the oral tradition of Aboriginal communities.

The Talking Stick is a very special tool that gives the holder the courage to speak the truth and the power to speak from the heart. It is a symbol of respect for the thought, stories, and individual histories of each member participating in a circle. When a person is holding the Talking Stick in a sharing circle, they can speak from the heart without being interrupted. Other people in the circle listen to the speaker and try to understand the message. Everyone in the circle gets a chance to hold the Talking Stick and say what he or she would like to say. If the receiver chooses not to speak, he or she simply hands it to the next person until the Talking Stick has been passed to everyone.

