



James Taylor

Ahniin Boozhoo Hello Greetings, Minodewiin Wassmowiin Nidishnikaaz, my English Name is James Taylor but my Anishnaabe name roughly translates into Kind/Gentle Lightning, Government says I am from Curvelake First Nation but Grandpa always said “Waasgigmong Anishnaabe Kawartha’s Doongiiba”, we are the ones that take care of the big lakes in the Kawartha’s in Ontario. Niigig Dodem, I am Otter Clan. I was raised and adopted by my paternal Grandparents and taught our ways by my Great Grandfather.

I graduated from Trent University in Peterborough Ontario in 2006 with a BA in Indigenous Studies and my undergraduate was in Political Science, however, I look at my teachings from my grandfather as my real education; I carry a medicine bundle and mideewin teachings and knowledge from our area along with songs and I am a drum keeper. I am full Blood Ojibwe.

I have worked with youth starting back in Toronto in 2006-2008 with the Native Canadian Center in a program called The Visiting School Program taking our cultural into classrooms and school’s to share our knowledge. I work have worked with the IGS (Institute Global Solutions) with SD63 for the last 4 years as a cultural resource and history support. I have worked with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a Cultural Support Person hired by Health Canada in Vancouver and volunteered in Victoria BC.

I am proud of my Anishnaabe cultural and instill that pride into my son, daughter and community. I live a clean and sober way by walking the good Red Road. I follow my dreams and in doing so I have walked across Turtle Island (Colonial Canada) for the last 2 years from Victoria to Ottawa. I walked in 2014 to honor the survivors of IRS Indian Residential Schools and for the children that never came home. In 2015 I walked to honor not only our Murdered Missing Indigenous Women and Girls but also our Men and Boys too, and bring awareness to the violence in our First Nation Communities and help bring an end to that violence.

I look forward to meeting the staff and youth and working with all of you.

Baamapii Gaawabmin Miiniwa
May you walk in the light till our paths cross.

James (Gentle Lightning) Taylor

- Oral Traditions: 4 directions, medicine wheel
- Teachings of the Drum: singing and drumming
- Storytelling
- Residential Schools
- Contemporary Social Issues, Restorative Justice etc.
- Traditional Medicines