



"The Creator's game has so much to offer!"

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Spirit of the Stick is pleased to report on our first two, and by all accounts very successful, projects held this winter/spring.

Beaches Minor Lacrosse introduced us to our first, fittingly at the First Nations School of Toronto. Through preliminary contact last fall, about the time we were in our formative stages, together we were able to organize a five week introduction to the Creator's game. A form of the game adapted for indoors, intercrosse, was chosen as the teaching tool as we were limited by the weather and the lack of the protective equipment required for the box version.

Two dozen children, girls and boys ranging in age from 4 to 14, participated with a contagious enthusiasm.

In no time, under the guidance of Co-chair Jim Veltman and Frank Ham along with some amazing volunteers from Beaches Minor, the children had mastered the basics and were involved in fun games adapted to the space.

The highlight for most of us was a traditional tobacco ceremony at the conclusion of our fifth session. After Jim explained the very special stick that was the inspiration for our name, Spirit of the Stick was pleased to present each participant with their own stick and ball. An elder then led the group in prayers and a smudge. The participants kindly assisted their guests with explanations as to its significance and assisted all of us in participating. I would personally like to thank two of the youngest members who gave me some very special help.

Spirit of the Stick would like to recognize and thank the volunteers who worked with us and then continues the project well into the spring- Frank Ham & John Steele and Benjamin Farnworth, Kate Farnworth, Dylan Ham, Liam Hetherington, Denma Itamunoala and Matthew Spanger. They, by their time and effort, truly reflect our vision.

We would also like to thank our friend, Tom Beckett, for the marvellous water bottles and Gatorade. And Principal Wayne Kodje for his support, guidance and assistance.