

*For: SC-CC e-newsletter February 2017*

## **Feed the Fires**

### **Warm up to the idea of Canadian Storytelling Night in 2017**

Held at the turn of the year, when it's time to gather inside, keep warm, and start telling stories, the sixth year of Canadian Storytelling Night-Soirée du conte (CSN-SNC) will bring us together for stories of light and warmth.

The theme for 2017 is Feed the Fires: Stories to Warm Us, and the date for this celebration is November 4, 2017.

CSN-SNC themes are currently following a journey around the medicine wheel as explained by Ojibwe Elder Mark Douglas's traditional teaching.

The four sections of the wheel each have a colour, direction, and element. In 2016, the journey began in the east with the element of earth, according to Ojibwe tradition. This year, we move to the southern quarter of the wheel.

The element associated with the south is "light, the sun, the warmth that we need to sustain us and for all things to grow," says Douglas, a member of Chippewas of Rama First Nation (Mnjikaning), and a member of Storytelling Orillia (SO...), the group that began the event in 2012 and still suggests the theme.

So heat up your smoking hot stories, blazing tales and pot boilers, or stories to set the heart aglow, and join in!

This national storytelling event was held in more than a dozen communities across the country in 2016, including gatherings in Toronto, Cambridge, London, Saskatoon, Orillia and Victoria that were supported by SC-CC grants, thanks to the Canada Council for the Arts.

Use this year's theme, or create your own event to warm you and yours. Enjoy a get-together that suits you and is useful to your community, so that it helps promote storytelling in your area.

An event can be any time in the weeks before or after November 4 and still be warmly received as a CSN-SNC celebration.

Information and logos can be found at [storytellingnight-soireeduconte.ca](http://storytellingnight-soireeduconte.ca) and on the SC-CC site.

Members of SC-CC can apply for funding through Storytellers of Canada– Conteurs du Canada, thanks to the assistance of the Canada Council. Please find an application in the Member's Area at [storytellers-conteurs.ca](http://storytellers-conteurs.ca).

Barry Gray is the grant administrator, and can be reached at [canadianstorytellingnight@storytellers-conteurs.ca](mailto:canadianstorytellingnight@storytellers-conteurs.ca). He's happy to answer questions.

You can post your event on the CSN-SNC Facebook page, [facebook.com/csn.snc](https://facebook.com/csn.snc). Contact Barry at the address above, or Susan Charters, at [suecharters@gmail.com](mailto:suecharters@gmail.com), to have your gathering added to the growing list of CSN-SNC communities.

*Canadian Storytelling Night–Soirée nationale du conte in late fall gives storytelling groups a reason to gather at the turn of the year when the nights grow longer and colder, a traditional time to meet around a fire or move indoors and start a winter's storytelling season. It can be held as a companion event to World Storytelling Day in March, another event supported across the country by Storytellers of Canada-Conteurs du Canada.*