



Aboriginal Perspectives

Secondary

The Teacher's Toolkit

Aboriginal perspectives bring the curriculum to life!



Business Studies

Business Leadership: Management Fundamentals
Grade 12, University/College Preparation (BOH4M)

Aboriginal Teaching Strategy

Cultural Influences on Leadership Style

Students examine cultural influences and background as determinants of leadership styles in business organizations.

Related Curriculum Policy

- *The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 11 and 12: Business Studies, 2006*

Strand

Leading

Specific Expectations

Leadership Techniques

- compare different leadership styles (e.g., democratic, autocratic, laissez-faire, collaborative) and describe how these styles are exemplified by a variety of business leaders (e.g., men and women from diverse ethnocultural groups, including Aboriginal peoples)

Aboriginal Context

In the business world, a leader is recognized for her or his ability to influence and motivate others to contribute to the effectiveness and success of an organization. Leaders are typically identified by their leadership style (e.g., democratic, autocratic, laissez-faire, or collaborative). They are not limited, however, to possessing just one style; they are often skilled in many.

In the Aboriginal community, leadership includes the Elders who gain initiation as leaders through the community's reverence for their age and wisdom. The Elders' leadership position rests on respect for their wisdom and teachings.

Teaching Strategies

- Present the Leadership Styles PowerPoint presentation, engaging students in further discussion on the styles, if necessary.
- Have students access and complete the online leadership survey and quiz to determine the leadership style that their own style most closely resembles.
- Have students create a computer-generated, four-column comparison chart to record the similarities and differences in the four leadership styles.
- Have students research a variety of prominent Aboriginal business leaders (e.g., David G. Tuccaro, Brenda Chambers, Billy Diamond, Dorothy Grant) on the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society website, and identify and describe their individual style(s) of leadership on a chart, indicating how they best represent the particular style(s).
- Have students research non-Aboriginal business leaders (e.g., Bill Gates, Kenneth Thomson, Ted Rogers, Jim Balsillie, Michael Lee-Chin, Heather Reisman) and write a comparative essay, comparing the leadership styles of one of the Aboriginal business leaders with those of a non-Aboriginal leader.
- Have students discuss those aspects of leadership style that may differ due to cultural background, and those that may differ for other reasons (e.g., type of organization or industry, geographical area, size of organization, training or education background).

Resources

The following recommended resources and web links were accurate at the time of publication. Teachers are encouraged to check that these reference listings remain current.

Aboriginal Multi-Media Society. "Chief Albert 'Billy' Diamond: Grand Chief an Inspiration to the Young." *Windspeaker*. <http://ammsa.com/achieve/AA97-A.Diamond.html>. Profiles Billy Diamond, chief of the Waskaganish First Nation.

Aboriginal Multi-Media Society. People of Honour. <http://www.ammsa.com/achieve/index.htm>
A list of 2006 Aboriginal Achievement Award recipients.

Black, Joan. "David Tuccaro: Creating Opportunities for Others Motivates Businessman." *Windspeaker*. <http://www.ammsa.com/achieve/AA99-D.Tuccaro.html#anchor31971902>
Profiles David G. Tuccaro, prominent Mikisew Cree First Nation business leader and 2007 recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Business and Commerce. Includes his business philosophy and advice, business projects, investments, and so on.

Dorothy Grant website. <http://www.dorothygrant.com/site/>

Leadership Style Survey. <http://www.nwlink.com/~donclark/leader/survstyl.html>
Includes autocratic, democratic, delegative, and free-style (laissez-faire) leadership styles.

Leadership Styles.

<http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/unssc/unpan024704.pdf>

A PowerPoint presentation defining the various types of leadership styles: autocratic, laissez-faire, democratic, bureaucratic, and more.

Microsoft PressPass – Information for Journalists. "Bill Gates."

<http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/exec/billg/default.msp>

An archive of selected speeches and writings by Microsoft's chairman, Bill Gates. Includes links to Gates's biography, photos, speeches, published writings, and books.

Olijnyk, Zena. "Kenneth Thomson: 1923–2006." *Canadian Business Online*.

http://www.canadianbusiness.com/managing/ceo_interviews/article.jsp?content=20060620_79007_79007#adSkip An article from the June 19–July 16, 2006, issue of *Canadian Business*,

describing the life and business endeavours of Kenneth Thomson.

Rogers. <http://www.tedrogerstribute.com/> A profile of Edward S. “Ted” Rogers Sr.

Tedesco, Theresa. “Dossier: Jim Balsillie.” *National Post*.

<http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=520df920-e66c-4317-9720-e408efd80a71>

An article from the October 7, 2006, issue of the *Financial Post*, profiling Jim Balsillie, chief executive officer of Research in Motion Ltd.

Tombs, Deidre. “Perspective, Persistence, and Passion.” *Windspeaker*.

<http://www.ammsa.com/achieve/AA05-B.Chambers.html>

Profiles Brenda Chambers, the executive producer and host of *Venturing Forth*, an Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) television documentary series that features stories about entrepreneurs and Aboriginal economic development across Canada.

What’s Your Leadership Style?

<http://psychology.about.com/library/quiz/blleadershipquiz.htm?questnum=17&aa=1426&bb=3810&cc=3331&dd=2850> A quiz to determine leadership style: autocratic, participative, or delegative.

Wikipedia. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/> A free encyclopedia that provides detailed biographies of people such as David G. Tuccaro, Brenda Chambers, Billy Diamond, Bill Gates, Kenneth Thomson, Ted Rogers, and Jim Balsillie, with links to related topics.

Making Community Connections

- Have students attend an Aboriginal leader’s speech or presentation and identify the styles of leadership that are portrayed through the leader’s talk. Alternatively, students may read the text of a similar presentation or view a presentation on video.

ABOUT THE TEACHER’S TOOLKIT

This teaching strategy is one component of *Aboriginal Perspectives: The Teacher’s Toolkit*, a collection of resources designed to help Ontario educators bring Aboriginal perspectives into the classroom. Based on the revised Ontario curriculum, the collection includes resources for educators at both the elementary and secondary levels. Other resources in this series can be found on the ministry website, at www.edu.gov.on.ca.

