

### Materials:

- Step-by-Step instructions
- Tipi canvas
- 12 wooden dowels (poles)
- Flameless tea light (fire)
- String (rope)
- Cork base
- Markers
- Glue



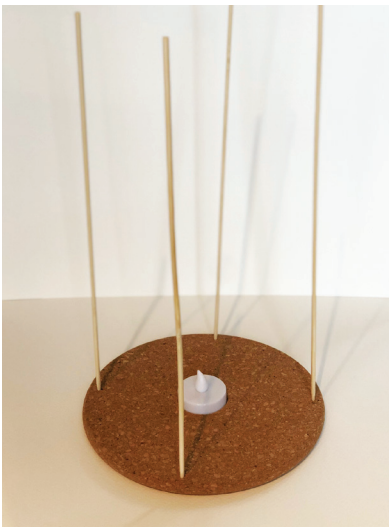
### Step 1:

Take your cork base that will represent **Mother Earth** and insert the tea light into the opening in the centre. This candle represents **fire—our life, warmth, and the fire inside each of us.**



### Step 2:

Place your blank canvas on a table with a protective covering (such as paper or plastic) and paint or draw an **image that reflects what you know about the Indigenous community.** Your painting can also reflect your own culture. When finished, put aside and let dry.



### Step 3:

**The poles of a tipi represent the full cycle of the year, 13 moons and two poles for night and day.** There are 15 in total. For this activity we will be using 12 poles. Place your first four poles in the cork base like the above image.



### Step 4:

Insert your remaining poles at two fingers apart until all 12 poles are standing. **Think about each of the Tipi Teachings** as you assembly your craft (found on the reverse side of this guide).



### Step 5:

Secure your poles together by tying the string approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the way down the sticks shown in the above image. You are now ready to add your canvas!



#### Step 6:

You are almost done! Carefully glue around your tipi base and secure your canvas to the base. You can glue the doors of your tipi closed or you can leave them open, it is your preference. Let the glue set and dry.

## The Four Sacred Colours

In the Indigenous community the four sacred colours are red, black, white, and yellow and represent the following:

#### Directions

North, East, South, and West

#### Seasons

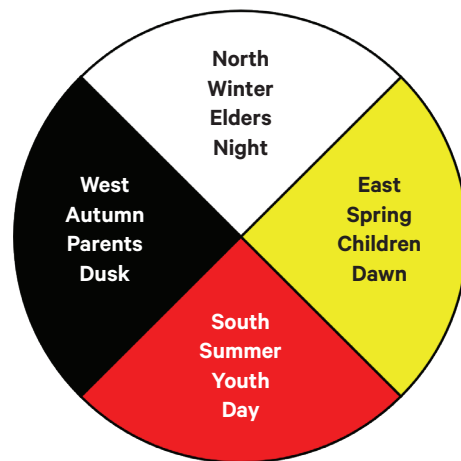
Winter, Spring, Autumn, and Summer

#### Stages of Life

Children, youth, parents, and Elders

#### Times of Day

Dawn, day, dusk, and dark



## TIPI TEACHINGS

The poles of a tipi fortify the structure and lean on each other to form a sturdy foundation. Each pole symbolizes 1 of 15 sacred teachings:

### Obedience

Learn to accept guidance and wisdom from outside ourselves. We listen to traditional stories from our elders, grandparents, and Parents so that we know what is right or wrong.

### Respect

We give honour to our elders, co-workers, and even to strangers that come to visit our community. We must learn to respect and honour the basic rights of one another.

### Humility

We learn that we are not above or below others in the circle of life. We learn to humble ourselves as we understand our relationship with the Creator. We are just a single strand of hair in the braid of life. Be humble and walk beside Mother Earth with simplicity.

### Happiness

This is the fourth pole and completes our doorway. We must work hard to become the best we can be and encourage others to do the same. Our actions here will make our ancestors happy in the Spirit World.

### Love

This pole teaches us that love means unconditional kindness to one another. We must learn to accept others, even those not in our circle.

### Faith

We must learn to believe and trust in others and in a power greater than ourselves.

### Kinship

We must respect our entire family, as they are our roots. These roots give us a sense of belonging so that we can contribute to our communities.

### Cleanliness

We must learn not to inflict harm on others. Clean thoughts form a clean mind. Cleanliness of the body, mind, and spirit is important for good health.

### Thankfulness

We must all learn to be thankful for the kind things others do for us and recognize that we are privileged to share the spirit of love with others.

### Share

We learn to be part of a family and community by helping with provisions of food, responsibilities, and other basic needs.

### Strength

Spiritual strength is being patient in times of trouble without complaint, and to enduring and showing understanding. Accept the hard times and work to give each other strength in times of trouble.

### Good Child Rearing

Children are gifts from the Creator. They represent the continuity of the circle of life. They are our hope that our communities will thrive and survive.

### Hope

We must maintain hope for our families and communities.

### Ultimate Protection (Hide)

Hide protects us and keeps us warm.

### Control Flaps

Teaches us that we are all connected and we depend on each other. They represent our grandfathers embracing us, wrapping arms around us. **The 14 pins on the door** represent the work that we need to do to keep our families intact.

**Share your final creation with us!** Post and tag **@hfxpublib** on Twitter or Instagram, using hashtag **#ReadyToGoArtStudio**, or email to **hplevents@halifax.ca**. Your design will be featured on our website, and you could even win a prize!