

Aboriginal Parent Presentation

David Bouchard - *Order of Canada/Senior Editor for Rubicon and Pearson Publishers/Métis Author/Educator/Renowned conference speaker* - speaks to aboriginal parents.

The dropout rate among aboriginal students in Canada is the highest of any group in North America. These students are being denied an education and all that goes along with it. Opportunities for aboriginal youth in the work force are substantially less than other Canadian youth. They are being denied the pleasures of reading and the freedom of travel that comes along with being a reader. The self-esteem of these students is low. Many end up in jail. Reading is key to success and aboriginal students are weak readers.

It is the right of every parent to know why reading is important. It is the right of every parent to be informed what it takes for a child to become a reader. Parents want to know what they can do to make reading accessible to their children so that they can succeed at school and in life.

Maya Angelou said, “*parents who know better – do better.*”

Aboriginal parents understand the challenges their children face are greater than those of non-aboriginals but they do not always know why. Nor do they know what they can do to help turen that around.

David knows. David has spent the past decade trying to share that valuable piece of knowledge. For his work over this period of time, he was named to the Order of Canada.

David understands and explains the importance of stories, culture and reading. He answers questions. David provides parents with the knowledge and the inspiration that matter.

Here is letter of invitation from one parent who witnessed the powerful impact of his parent workshop:

Dear Parents:

You are encouraged to attend a presentation by renowned Canadian author David Bouchard as he addresses our community.



This is a rare and exciting opportunity for us all. We owe it to our children to be in attendance.

David Bouchard champions reading and tackles illiteracy! His message focuses on books, reading and specific responsibilities in making our children literate! He reminds us that educators and parents alike are responsible for the state of literacy among our youth. He speaks to how, when and why we lost focus of our responsibilities in promoting literacy. He offers a realistic, practical solution to the problem.

Bouchard also offers his audiences a sense of how language, rhythms and fine art can come together to inspire, teach and form ageless beauty.

"David Bouchard is, without a doubt, THE most dynamic & inspirational speaker I have ever heard! His memory lives large! He and his message are unforgettable!!!!!" A teacher's response after hearing David's keynote speech to a British Columbia School District.

Mr. Bouchard's wealth of experience comes from 28 years as a teacher and administrator! He knows how to speak to teachers, administrators and parents.

He has twenty-five award winning books with a unique cross-over flavour. Many are of a multi-cultural nature, done collaboratively with First Nation artists and the master artist, Zhong-Yang Huang who has illustrated his tremendously successful Chinese Trilogy (translated into several languages and is distributed the world over). *Voices From the Wild* won the Lee Bennett Hopkins Poetry award as the best volume of poetry for children published in the U.S. in 1997.

His books are an amalgamation of the arts: poetry, prose, visual art, and music. He appeals to children of all ages as well as to teachers, teacher librarians, administrators and parents.

"Words do not describe the inspiration that David brings throughout his presentation. His manner and his message are captivating. The group sat throughout the evening presentation cherishing each anecdote and the reading of his work was spellbinding." ...In response to a presentation at a joint staff/parent pro-d workshop.

"Mr. Bouchard is a dynamic and inspirational speaker who captured his audience from the beginning with his entertaining mixture of personal anecdotes, practical suggestions and obvious belief in the importance of literacy and literature in every life. His keynote address revitalized our teaching body and sent them back to the classroom fired with enthusiasm and with workable ideas to rekindle the joy of reading in all their students." ...In response to a keynote address to the teachers, administrators and support staff of the Powell River School District.

David Bouchard speaks to his books and to reading. He has a plethora of insights and experiences in the ever so crucial topic of literacy...he speaks to these with a passion second to few.

"Wow! Right between the eyes...right where, we, as lazy parents and smug educators need it. Mr.Bouchard was a terrific reality check."

"What a delightful man. It was a great way to begin our year - better than any I'd seen in 17 years." Responses to a presentation in Eureka, Montana.

You will not be disappointed in his message, his energy or his passion for books, children and literacy.

More information can be accessed at: www.davidbouchard.com.

We hope to see you there!