

## Celebrate National Aboriginal Day and welcome the summer solstice at PAMA

Kick off the summer with two special events at the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives (PAMA).

Welcome the summer solstice June 21 from 6 to 10 p.m. with free performances by Fire Juggler Terrence Drake and an outdoor summer solstice mural. The festivities continue June 23 from 1 to 5 p.m. for a National Aboriginal Day celebration, featuring traditional First Nations storytellers, beading demonstrations and hands-on activities. National Aboriginal Day activities are free with admission.

"We hope that visitors enjoy the National Aboriginal Day celebration, which complements our We Are Here exhibition," said PAMA Manager Claire Loughheed. "We're pleased to be able to participate in this important day and give visitors an opportunity to learn about the rich heritage of Aboriginal peoples in our community."

PAMA's We Are Here: The Story of Aboriginal People in Peel Region museum exhibition opened in February. Through personal stories, music and art, Aboriginal people tell their own stories in their own words. Visitors to We Are Here June 23 are invited to choose a spirit guide card to help guide them through the exhibition as they explore and discover the rich culture of Canada's First Nations and Métis communities.

The Governor General of Canada first proclaimed June 21 as National Aboriginal Day in 1996. The date was chosen because many Aboriginal peoples in Canada celebrate their culture and heritage around the summer solstice. National Aboriginal Day gives Canadians an opportunity to participate in Aboriginal cultural events and learn about the heritage of Aboriginal peoples in their community and across the country.

PAMA is a place to explore and learn about Peel's culture and heritage, as well as use conversation, questions and stories to help make new and fascinating connections to the surrounding community. Throughout the year, PAMA offers family-friendly activities and a variety of workshops and programs for all ages.

Operated by the Region of Peel, PAMA is at 9 Wellington St. E. in Brampton. Visit [pama.peelregion.ca](http://pama.peelregion.ca) for more information.