



Indigenous Education Newsletter

Vol 3 - Issue 1 - September 2022



Welcome back to the 2022/2023 school year. We hope everyone got to enjoy their summer break. We look forward to this year and can't wait to see and hear success stories from our students and friends.

Student Role Model

We will be continuing our process for recognizing Indigenous Student Role Models. Each month one student from each of our high schools in SD91 will be chosen by the staff. They will be acknowledged in our monthly newsletters and then at the end of year we will hold a celebration in each school.



Who will be our role models for September?

Did you know?

The Survivors' Flag is an expression of remembrance, meant to honour residential school Survivors and all the lives and communities impacted by the residential school system in Canada. Each element depicted on the flag was carefully selected by Survivors from across Canada, who were consulted in the flag's creation.

For more information on the Survivors' Flag go to: <https://nctr.ca/exhibits/survivors-flag/>



2022 - 23 District Calendar

www.sd91.bc.ca

AUGUST • 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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SEPTEMBER • 2022

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OCTOBER • 2022

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NOVEMBER • 2022

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DECEMBER • 2022

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JANUARY • 2023

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FEBRUARY • 2023

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MARCH • 2023

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APRIL • 2023

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MAY • 2023

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JUNE • 2023

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JULY • 2023

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APPROVED HOLIDAYS

Labour Day	September 5
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	September 30
Thanksgiving	October 10
Remembrance Day	November 11
Winter Break	December 19 - January 2
Family Day	February 20
Spring Break	March 20 - 31
Good Friday	April 7
Easter Monday	April 10
Victoria Day	May 22
First Day of Classes (Students AM only)	September 6
Last Day of Classes (Students AM only)	June 29

Legend

- Public Holiday
- Pro-D Day (No Students)
- First/Last Day of Classes (Students AM only)
- Operational Day (No Students)
- District Planning Day (No Students)
- Winter/Spring Break

Professional Development Days & District Planning Day

Sep. 23 - District Planning Day
Oct. 21 - Provincial Pro-D Day
Nov. 25 - Pro-D
Feb. 10 - Pro-D
Apr. 28 - Zone Pro-D Day
May 12 - District Pro-D



School Board Meeting
Monday, September 26, 2022
6:00 pm

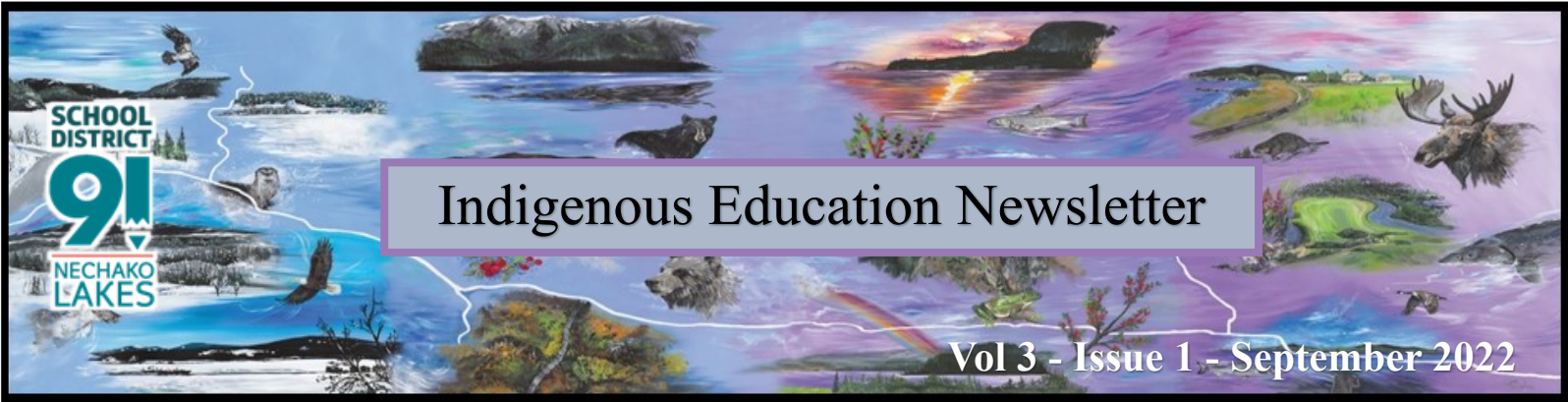
School Board Office
Vanderhoof

Important Public Attendance Notice:

The Board of Education is pleased to announce that Board meetings have returned to the practice of in-person attendance. A virtual option will no longer be offered, and pre-registration is no longer required. Members of the public are invited to attend.



**NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH
AND RECONCILIATION**
September 30



The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation /Orange Shirt Day takes place on Friday, September 30, 2022.

Truth and Reconciliation is a national day to commemorate the history and legacy of the residential school system and honours the resilience, dignity and strength of survivors and intergenerational survivors and remembers the children who never came home. It's a chance to engage and educate people about B.C.'s colonial history and how it has impacted Indigenous communities.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day that honours the children who survived residential schools and remembers those who did not. This day relates to the experience of Phyllis Webstad, a Northern Secwepemc (Shuswap) from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, on her first day of school, where she arrived dressed in a new orange shirt, which was taken from her. It is now a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION WEBSITE

<https://www.sd91indigenouseducation.com/>

Have you seen our SD 91 Indigenous Education Website?

There are resources provided for National Day For Truth and Reconciliation, as well as other information.

A local native artist, Cecilia John, from Saik'uz First Nation has created a hand drawn Every Child Matters Design. Cecilia is the Author of the Dakelh Series Children's Book and she is connecting with locals to get support in buying her designs.

Contact information:

Cecilia John

250-570-2907

calcrmt@gmail.com

T-shirts \$65.00

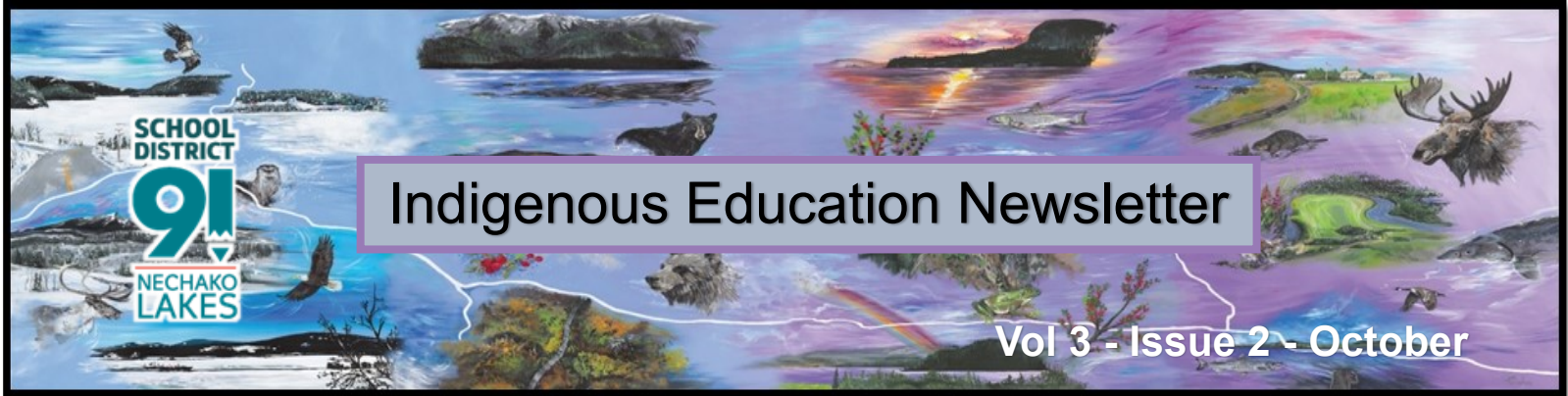
Hoodies \$130.00

(youth size 4 to adult xxl)



Helpful Resources and Links

- <https://nctr.ca/education/trw/>
- <https://nctr.ca/exhibits/survivors-flag/>
- [WELCOME \(orangeshirtday.org\)](https://www.orangeshirtday.org/)
- [Teacher Resources \(orangeshirtday.org\)](https://www.orangeshirtday.org/)
- [What is Orange Shirt Day? | Articles | CBC Kids](https://www.cbc.ca/kids/)
- [Bring reconciliation into the classroom | The Caring Society \(fncaringsociety.com\)](https://www.fncaringsociety.com/)
- [Every Child Matters: Reconciliation through education - Canada's History \(canadashistory.ca\)](https://www.canadashistory.ca/)
- [FREE Orange Shirt Day Mindfulness Colouring Pages \(twinkl.ca\)](https://www.twinkl.ca/)
- <https://culturedays.ca/en/resources>
- <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/british-columbia1.html>



Indigenous Education Newsletter

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Student Role Models for September

Marissa— Grade 12

Lake Babine Nation



Marissa has been welcoming and friendly to all new faces in the school (both staff and students alike). In such a diverse environment, this makes the school a friendlier place to be at, especially for those that are anxious around new people.



Dakota—Grade 12

Lake Babine Nation

Dakota is a great role model for the younger student-kind, caring, respectful at all times. He is a dedicated learner and worker, diligent. He goes out of the way to be a peer tutor, carefully explaining the next steps in tasks that they are doing.



Nevaeh—Grade 11

Saik'uz First Nation

She puts in effort in her work and has great work ethics. Nevaeh is engaged and insightful during class discussions.

Did you know?

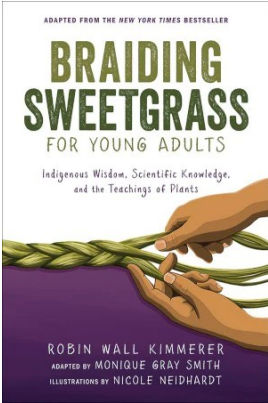
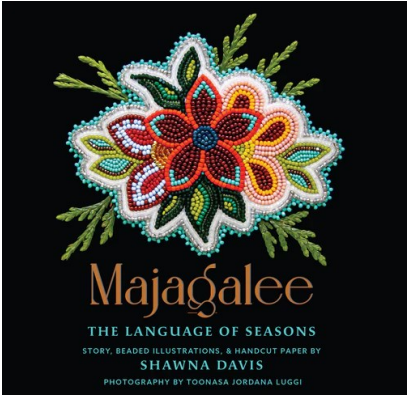
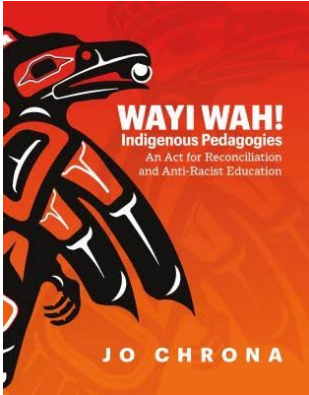
Each October, national Principals Month recognizes the essential role that principals play in making a school great. Principals set the academic tone for their schools, and it is their vision, dedication, and determination that provide the mobilizing force for achieving student success.



Helpful Links:

- [Education - NCTR](#)
- [Education Resources - NCTR](#)
- [Teaching Resources - NCTR](#)
- [12 Ways to Engage in Truth and Reconciliation at Western - 12 Ways to Engage in Truth and Reconciliation at Western - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation - Teaching for Truth and Reconciliation - Research Guides at Queen's University Library \(queensu.ca\)](#)

Notable Books



Wayi Wah! Indigenous Pedagogies—Jo Chrona

Majaḡalee The Language of Seasons—Shawna Davis

Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults—Monique Gray-Smith

Can all be found at

<https://goodminds.com/>

4th Annual Indigenous Education Conference

September 23rd Indigenous Education hosted our 4th annual Indigenous Education Conference. This year our conference focused on 'Reflection and Renewal'. We hoped to inspire ways on how we can decolonize our practices and indigenize our pedagogy.

We invited the Honourable Murray Sinclair, Dr. Sara Davidson, Albert Gerow and Guy Prince to share on how we can use reconciliation, stories, and local knowledge in our schools. All SD91 staff attended virtually within their schools, along with members of our local Indigenous Community and partners.

To watch our conference and view our previous years head on over to our web page.

<https://www.sd91indigenouseducation.com/educators>



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Highlights from our Indigenous Education 4th Annual Conference

The Honourable Murray Sinclair

Dr. Sara Florence Davidson



Albert Gerow

Guy Prince



Thank you for joining us!

4th Annual Indigenous Education Conference

Make sure you check out our Reflections video from previous years!

Notable quotes from previous years:

“Everyone is born with love in their hearts, sometimes life takes that away... so whenever you enter a room, in your imagination fill it with love and make enough room for everyone else to fill it with love too.”

- Monique Gray Smith

“We need to challenge the ways in which we’ve been trained, to be able to recognize the ways we’ve include those ideas...”

-Dr. Dustin Louie

“One of the biggest challenges is understanding... that Indigenous education is not just about memorizing a curriculum, it’s about building relationships, it’s about every aspect of the world your in... It’s about kindness...”

-Niigaan Sinclair

“Who’s knowledge has been valued in our school systems? What have we been taught as teachers that is important to know? To teach?...”

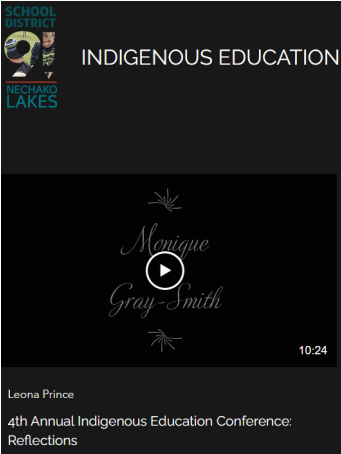
-Jo Chrona

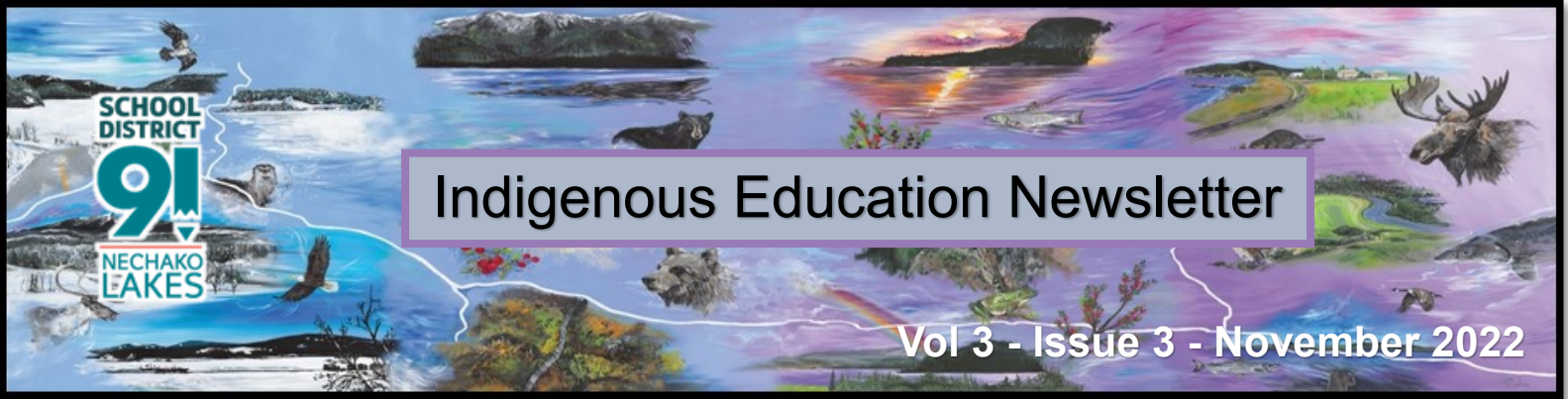
“How did you never learn the language? You’ve lived here for 22 years... The people are watching... One of the best things you can do for yourself, your family, your students and community, learn the language, tradition and values of the people. Don’t slash my tires.”

-Richard Van Camp

“Young people have the incredible capacity to create change. It’s the young people I turn to, to find hope...”

-Kevin Lamoureux





Student Role Models for October



Kian—Grade 8

Stellat'en First Nation

Kian is always keen on learning and asks the right questions before he works and completes tasks/work. Great work Kian!



Conner—Grade 12

Metis

Conner is a great student. He has great attendance and is always willing to help anyone in need. His smile is infectious and contagious



Cameran—Grade 9

Lake Babine Nation

Cameran demonstrates strong leadership skills daily with a quiet presence. He frequently advocates for others, and he thoughtfully supports learning quietly, with kindness and care for other students.

Cameran is a learner, and cares deeply for his communities, Tachet and Old Fort. He participated in the fishing of Lake Babine this summer and this experience further developed his commitment to his community. Cameran is a reader, and is thinking deeply about ways to ensure cultural ways are continued and respected.



Scotia—Grade 10

Okanagan Band

Scotia has worked very hard developing her leatherwork skills and loves the outdoors.



Molly—Grade 11

Binche Whut'en

Molly is taking a lot of academic courses. She has greatly improved her academics and attendance. Molly is a very kind and pleasant person. She is also very artistic. Molly is active in her Binche Whuten culture and proudly wears her regalia to culture events.



Rylan—Grade 8

Lake Babine Nation

Rylan has excellent attendance, attitude and participation – kindness and helpfulness – academic success.

Did you know?

November is Indigenous Disability Awareness Month (IDAM).

IDAM was created by British Columbia Aboriginal Network on Disability Society (BCANDS) in 2015, and 2022 is it's 8th anniversary!

IDAM is now annually declared and recognized by the Provinces of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, the Assembly of First Nations, BC First Nations Summit, Métis Nation of BC, Council of Yukon First Nations, the Town of Inuvik, and hundreds of other organizations and communities across Canada.

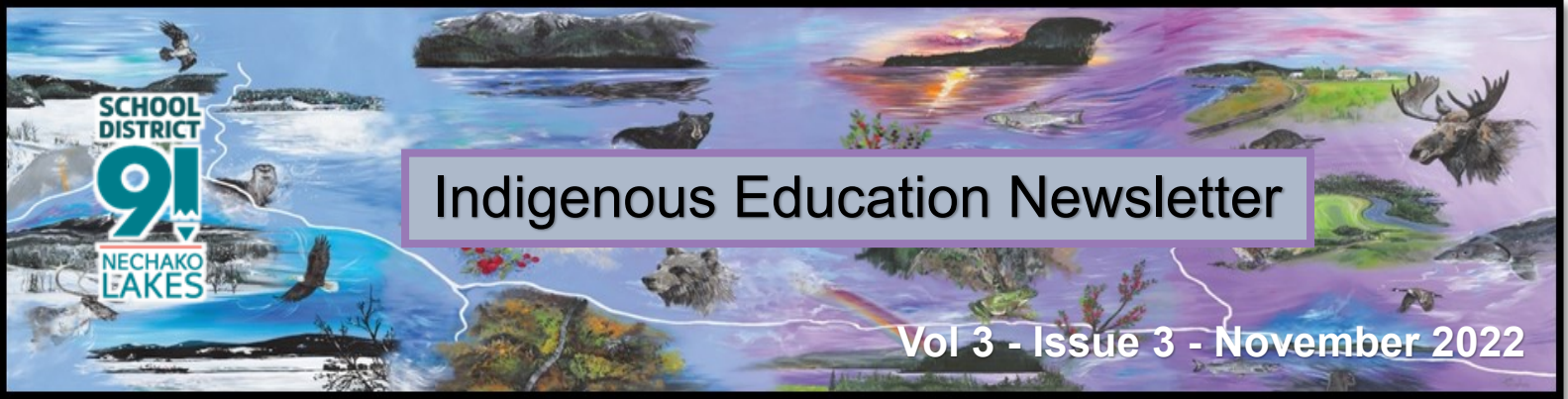
Helpful Links:

- <https://www.bcands.bc.ca/indigenous-disability-awareness-month-idam/>
- <https://www.indigenousdisabilitygathering.com/>
- <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2019SDPR0120-002095>

**November is
Indigenous Disability
Awareness Month**

Learn more at www.bcands.bc.ca





Indigenous Education Newsletter

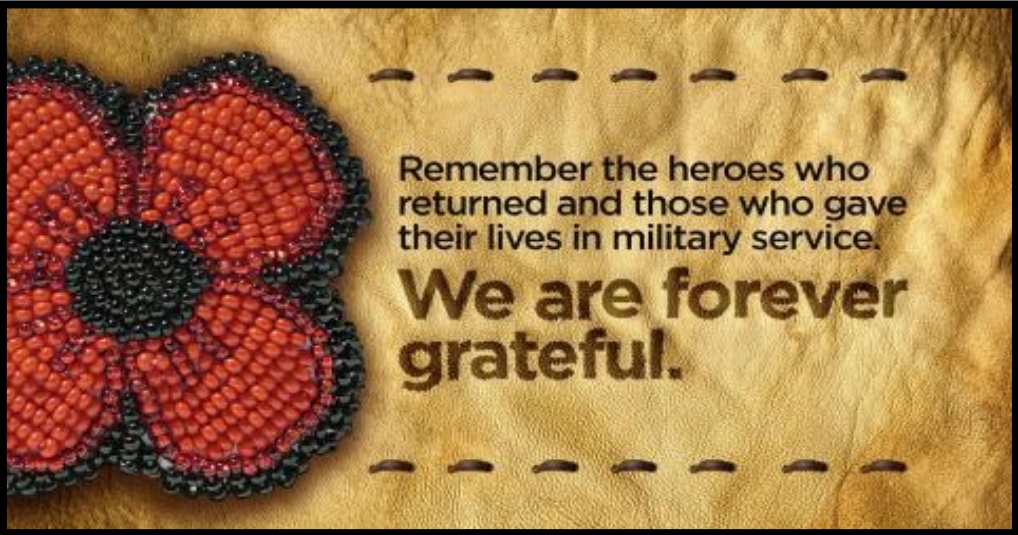
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November 8, 2022—National Indigenous Veterans Day

While exact statistics are difficult to determine, the rate of Indigenous participation in Canada's military efforts over the years has been impressive. These determined volunteers were often forced to overcome many challenges to serve in uniform, from learning a new language and adapting to cultural differences, to having to travel great distances from their remote communities just to enlist.



The story of Indigenous service in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War and later Canadian Armed Forces efforts is a proud one. While exact numbers are elusive, it has been estimated that as many as 12,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit people served in the great conflicts of the 20th century, with at least 500 of them sadly losing their lives.



Tl'o K'ut Whucho

In Flanders Fields
Translated into Dakelh, Nak'azdli dialect,
by Mildred Martin and Yvonne Pierrero

Tl'o k'ut whucho 'indaiyaz nulhts'i
tulalhugus beguz whedilya,
neyehoodat'en; 'ink'ez ndo yat'ah
dutaiyaz hujun 'ink'ez nuhut'o
'ulhti' toh buzdóts'o ait'oh.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

Yaidlane ts'inli. 'Andit whenghoh
ts'ahana', yutilhkai 'et khúlhdusk'an,
nohk'ets' ints'i 'ink'ez nek'ehtsi'
'ink'ez 'andit tl'o k'ut whucho 'azdinla.

We are the Dead. Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Nech'az ditni-ne neba bulhchoot;
nohni nohts'un nela tetsun whe
kwun oolaz dudnih ndó óohtun.
Ts'ootez ait'oh 'etsul 'uhja de mbe la
yaidlane 'et hoonts'i tl'o k'ut whucho
'indaiyaz hunuyeh.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
the torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Helpful Resources and Links: Lesson Plans

- [Lesson Plan Ages 5– 7 National Aboriginal Veterans Monument Coloring Sheet](#)
- [Lesson Plan Ages 8-12—Alex Decoteau Remembrance Run, Walk or Wheel](#)
- [Lesson Plan Ages 8-12 \(can be modified to suit any age\) - Be Active Like Sergeant Tommy Prince](#)
- [Lesson Plan Ages 12-18 Remembrance Dog Tags: Fallen Indigenous Service Members](#)
- [Lesson Plan Ages 12-18– Crossword Puzzle](#)
- [Lesson Plan Secondary– Junior— Historic Canada—Forgotten Soldiers](#)
- [Lesson Plan Grades 11-12: First Nations Catch-22 legal forms of discrimination facing Aboriginal veterans WW2](#)
- [Indigenous Veterans – Veterans Affairs Canada](#)
- [Veterans.gc.ca –Indigenous Veterans](#)
- [The Memory Project: Remembering Indigenous Veterans](#)
- [The Canadian Encyclopedia: Indigenous People and the World Wars](#)
- [Remembering & Honouring Indigenous War Heroes: World War 1 & 2](#)

PART-TIME, FULL-TIME & CASUAL

WE ARE HIRING

SCHOOL DISTRICT 91 NECHAKO LAKES

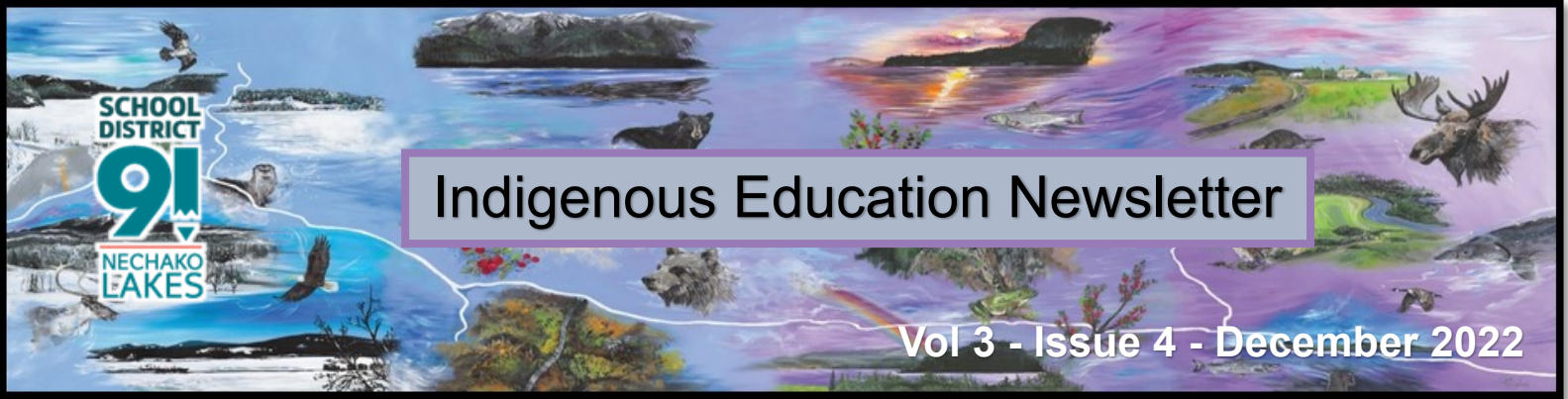
ALL POSITIONS:

- BUS DRIVERS
- LEARNING SUPPORT WORKERS
- PERSONAL ATTENDANTS
- ABORIGINAL ADVOCATES
- CERTIFIED TEACHERS
- CUSTODIANS
- MAINTENANCE/TRADES
- CLERICAL

For more information:
250-567-2284 (Board Office)
Support Staff Hiring
Barb McLean- bmclean@sd91.bc.ca
Teacher Hiring
Mike Skinner- mskinner@sd91.bc.ca

***GREAT WAGES AND BENEFITS**
***NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED FOR MANY POSITIONS**
***TRAINING PROVIDED**

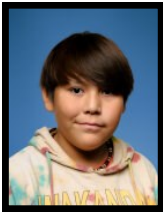
Current Postings
WWW.SD91.BC.CA/APPS/PAGES/EMPLOYMENT



Indigenous Education Newsletter

Vol 3 - Issue 4 - December 2022

Student Role Models for November



Darius—Grade 8

Cheslatta Carrier Nation

Darius is Polite, Hard working and always looking out for others.



Nevaeh—Grade 11

Saik'uz First Nation

Nevaeh has wonderful attendance, is always engaged learner and always on task!



Sloane—Grade 12

Takla Lake First Nation

Sloane is a highly academic, honour role student with good attendance. She is an ambassador of the Carrier culture. Sloane was involved in the script writing and filming of Chief Kw'eh's life and story. She is also on the Student Leadership and Student Voice. Sloane has already been accepted to UNBC. Sloane is a very kind and caring person.



Jordynn—Grade 10

Non-Status

Jordynn works incredibly hard in all areas of her life: helping out at home, caring for her pets, and attending regular tutoring sessions to succeed in her academic goals.



Brianna—Grade 12

Stellat'en First Nation

Brianna brings positive energy and enthusiasm to our school community. She perseveres when faced with difficult challenges and is a strong advocate for herself and others.



Sakura—Grade 8

Saik'uz First Nation

Sakura is an outstanding student! She has outstanding achievement and is very focused. Sakura takes an active role in learning and shows classroom citizenship. She is kind and respectful to everyone and participates in whole class discussions.

Did you Know?

Last week, the Chief Kw'eh program had premiered on the LiVEit.earth website! This program was a collaboration between LiVEit.earth, Chunt'oh Education Society and SD91 Indigenous Education. This program will be the start of an important series exploring local Indigenous culture. There are many more resources available that are connected to this live program and it can also be viewed at a later time. Thank you to the staff at FSJSS and also the students that were involved in making the program a reality. We hope you enjoy the show!

Chief Kw'eh

Community

Join us to learn about Chief Kw'eh's life and story from Indigenous knowledge holders, how he influenced the lives of the Nak'azdli Whut'en people, and why stories like his are important to learn about and share.

Feature Show & Live Q&A
Thursday, November 24th, 10am PST
app.liveit.earth


In partnership with



LiVE IT.earth

LiVE IT.earth

Your Canadian Hybrid Learning Library



BC K-7 Teachers Signup @
app.liveit.earth/focused
Passcode: **FocusedED2023!**

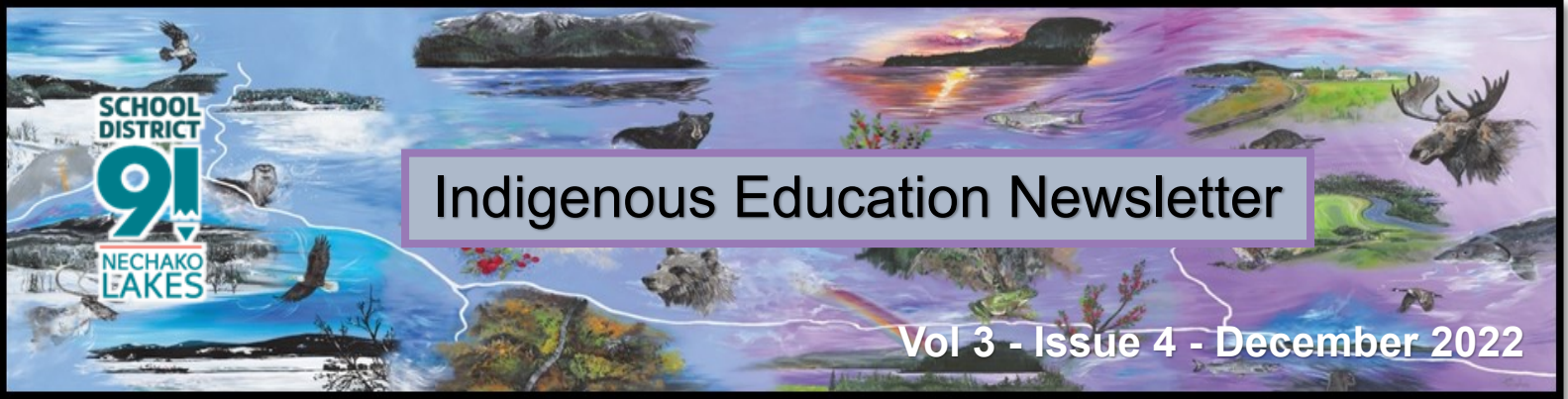


SD 91

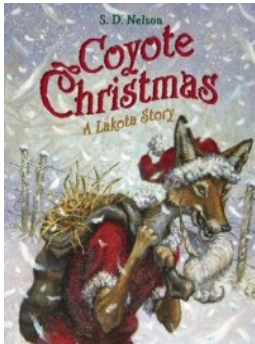
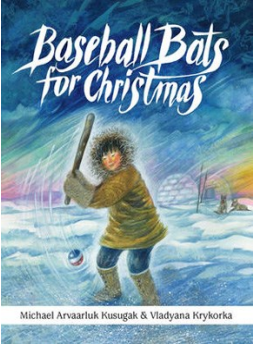
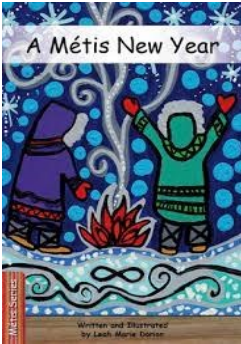
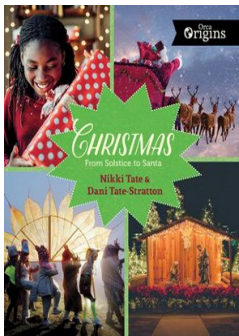
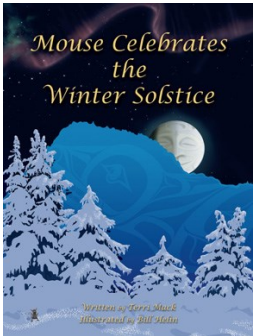
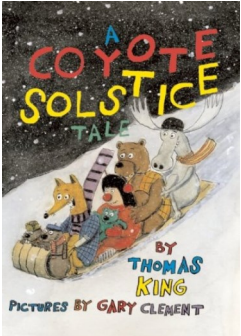
This is the way SD 91 educators use to sign up:

<https://app.liveit.earth/en/focused/register>

- Use passcode: **FocusedED2023!**
- use SD 91 email
- For SD 91 admin: select SD 91 District office as the school



Notable Books:



- ◆ **A Coyote Solstice Tale**—Thomas King
- ◆ **Mouse Celebrates the Winter Solstice**—Terri Mack
- ◆ **Christmas: From Solstice to Santa**—Nikki Tate & Dani Tate-Stratton
- ◆ **A Metis New Year**—Leah Marie Dorion
- ◆ **Baseball Bats for Christmas**—Michael Kusugak
- ◆ **Coyote Christmas**—S.D. Nelson

These books and more can be found at: Strong Nations

<https://www.strongnations.com/search/?s=winter+solstice>

Did you know?

For some, the New Year begins with the Winter Solstice, which marks the official start of winter – this year, it will be on December 21st. The Winter Solstice is traditionally a time to reflect on the past year; a time to listen to the Elders' and each other's stories; a time to rest, recuperate, and renew our strength; a time to connect with our loved ones; and a time to hope, dream, and set goals for the future.

The Winter Solstice also marks the “rebirth of the sun,” because after it passes, the days start to get longer and longer until we reach the Summer Solstice – the official start of summer and the longest day of the year. An article in the [Arrow](#), a First Nations newsletter, sums it up well: “First Nations people celebrated the Winter Solstice as they saw the sun strengthening once more. Many months of cold weather still remained before the spring thaw, but they realized that the return of the warm season was inevitable.”



We wish you
Happy Holidays
and a Wonderful
New Year.

2023



Helpful Links:

- ◆ <https://ndncollective.org/acknowledging-the-winter-solstice-is-a-decolonial-act-for-indigenous-people/>
- ◆ <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/winter-solstice-activities-kids/>
- ◆ <https://www.moothermag.com/how-to-celebrate-the-winter-solstice/>
- ◆ <https://battlefordsnow.com/2021/12/25/indigenous-families-honour-christmas-and-solstice-at-this-time-of-year/>
- ◆ <https://homeschoolsuperfreak.com/what-is-winter-solstice/>
- ◆ <http://muskratmagazine.com/indigenous-activities-you-should-try-this-winter/>
- ◆ <https://www.notesfromthefrontier.com/post/happy-winter-solstice#:~:text=One%20of%20the%20major%20holidays,honoring%20Nature%20and%20Native%20>



Indigenous Education Newsletter

Vol 3 - Issue 5 - January 2023

Student Role Models for December



Bailey— Grade 8
Saik’uz First Nation

Bailey is very giving and incredibly humorous, She has a smile that brings joy around her. She is on task and doing her work. She has no problem asking for help when needed.



Tyrease— Grade 8
Lake Babine First Nation

Tyrease is consistently a role model of empathy for his peers. He is a great listener, very supportive of his classmates, and encouraging of the younger students who look up to him .



Sarah— Grade 11
Metis

Sarah works diligently in English First Peoples 11 on a daily basis. She always follows up with the teacher when she has missed class/work; participates in discussions; and is thoughtful in her work .



Darius— Grade 8
Nadleh Whut’en

Darius is a hard working young man that tries his hardest in all he does. He is an all around athlete and has recently been invited to play in the Super Hockey League in Vancouver BC. He will go far in sports and anything he sets his mind to.



Jayla— Grade 12
Binche Whut’en

Jayla is an honour role student that is highly academic and committed. She is a very hard working and motivated student a pleasure to learn with. She is very polite and can be seen happily in the halls with many friends. Her teacher created a Criminology extension of law so she could engage further in legal studies. A fantastic student and person with a bright future ahead.



Travis— Grade 12
Hagwilget Nation

Travis has a strong work ethic and is organized. This is evidenced by his preparation, completion and performance on assignments, quizzes and tests. Travis has a team-work /Attitude to class activities and is very respectful of others.

National Ribbon Skirt Day

January 4, is National Ribbon Skirt Day, a day where Indigenous women across the country are encouraged to wear their traditional regalia to celebrate their culture, their strength and their connection as women. National Ribbon Skirt Day originates with the story of Isabella Kulak. A member of Cote First Nation, Saskatchewan, Isabella was shamed for wearing her handmade ribbon skirt to a formal wear day at her elementary school. Traditionally worn by First Nations and Métis peoples, ribbon skirts are a centuries-old symbol of identity, adaptation, and survival for Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people, and represents a direct connection to Mother Earth.’

Ribbon skirts have different meanings for each person who wears them, but for many, the skirt is a symbol of resilience. In the 1800s, some Indigenous ceremonies — and the clothing and ceremonial items associated with them — were banned by the Canadian government under the terms of what was known as the Potlatch Law. Ceremonies wouldn’t be legal again until 1951.’ Ribbon Skirts are powerful ceremony and should be respected as such. Skirts can be offered as gifts. If you are a non-Indigenous person wishing to wear a ribbon skirt, it is strongly recommended that you take a moment to think about; why is that and is it the most considered course of action? Is it the best way you can support the resilience of Indigenous peoples and cultures and work towards reconciliation?



Isabella Kulak, sporting a large 'S' on her shirt, poses in a ribbon skirt she made herself. (Submitted by Lana Kulak)



Indigenous Education Newsletter

Vol 3 - Issue 5—January 2023

Did you know?



Jan 29 – Feb 4, 2023

The Arctic Winter Games are being held in Wood Buffalo, Alberta from January 29– February 4, 2023. Every two years, athletes gather from across the world’s northern circumpolar regions to compete and share their cultures. One of the main goals of the Arctic Winter Games (the Olympics of the North) is to involve as many athletes as possible from northern regions and provide them with a venue to compete. The first Arctic Winter Games took place for a week in 1970 in Yellowknife, the capital of the North-west Territories. They were a great success with about 500 athletes, coaches and officials participating from the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Alaska.

Over the years, the games have not only grown in the number of arctic countries participating, but they have also increased in the number of sports, participants, and cultural experiences.

To compete, athletes must qualify through two competitions:

- 1. Regional trials
- 2. Territorial trials

While competing, athletes have an opportunity to learn about the cultures and values of other northern regions in the world. Northern artists and performers provide entertainment through cultural programs that are held each evening. There could be Inuit throat-singing, Dene drumming, fast-paced Metis fiddling and other exciting artistic performances.





















The games include:

- * Athletic competition, Cultural exhibition, and Social interactions

Each of these themes is represented in the three interlocking rings of the Arctic Winter Games International Committee’s logo.

Sports played and what makes the Arctic Winter Games different from other multi-sport games?

There are many sporting events that are unique to northern cultures, such as dog mushing, arctic sports and Dene games.

 Alpine Skiing	 Archery	 Arctic Sports	 Badminton	 Basketball
 Biathlon Ski	 Biathlon Snowshoe	 Cross Country Ski	 Curling	 Dene Games
 Figure Skating	 Futsal	 Gymnastics	 Hockey	 Snowboarding
 Snowshoeing	 Speed Skating	 Table Tennis	 Volleyball	 Wrestling

Arctic sports include:

- * The kneel jump
- * The one-foot high kick
- * The two –foot high kick
- * The airplane
- * The knuckle hop
- * The Alaskan high kick
- * The one hand reach
- * The head pull
- * The arm pull
- * The sledge jump
- * The triple jump

Dene Games Include:

- * The Finger Pull
- * The Snowsnake
- * The Stick pull
- * The hand Games (team)
- * The Pole Push (team)

Ceremonies and medals:

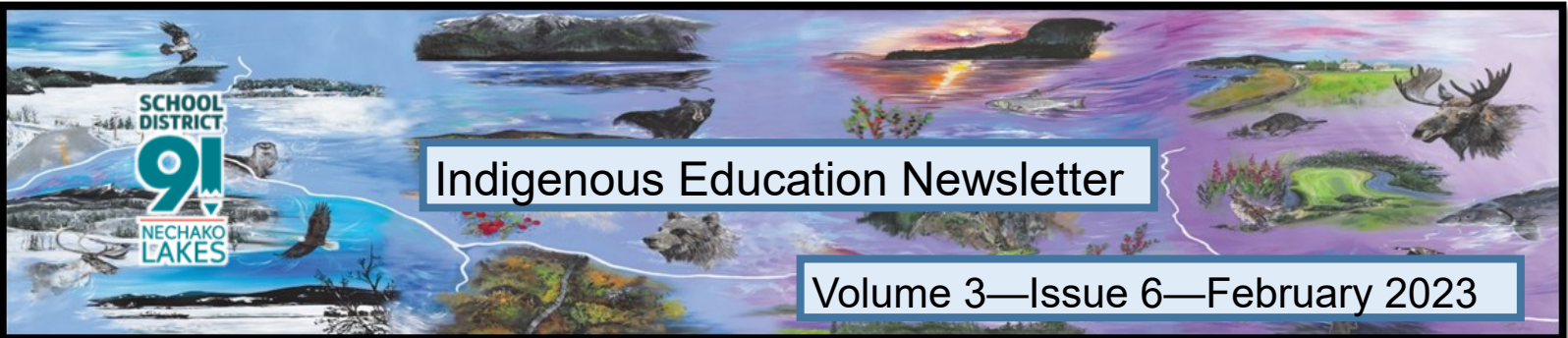


Like any major sporting competition, the Arctic Winter Games start with an opening ceremony where the host city has the chance to showcase itself to the participating athletes and the world. At the end of the games, award ceremonies are held to present athletes with their winning medals. The games have a unique medal called the “Ulu”. It is modeled on the all-purpose knife traditionally used by Inuit women.

Athletes are awarded gold, silver and bronze Ulu medals for winning first, second and third in their sporting events. At the end of the games, a trophy is also awarded to the team that best displays the spirit and values of the games. The games are closed with an official ceremony that celebrates the achievements of athletes, volunteers, sponsors and the host community.

Useful links:

- ◆ [Happy National Ribbon Skirt Day 2023 – Indigenous Perspectives Society \(ipsociety.ca\)](https://ipsociety.ca/)
- ◆ [What the first National Ribbon Skirt Day means for the founder of Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week | CBC News](https://www.cbc.com/news/canada/indigenous-fashion-week-1.6788888)
- ◆ [What is a Ribbon Skirt? — The Ribbon Skirt Project - from Indigenous Nouveau](https://www.tribunetribune.com/story/news/local/2023/01/26/ribbon-skirt-project-1.6788888)
- ◆ [All About Ribbon Skirts - How To Make Ribbon Skirts - PowWows.com](https://www.powwows.com/tribe/all-about-ribbon-skirts-how-to-make-ribbon-skirts)
- ◆ [Arctic Winter Games International Website Home](https://www.awg2023.org/)
- ◆ [Arctic Winter Games 2023 – Wood Buffalo, Alberta \(awg2023.org\)](https://www.awg2023.org/)
- ◆ [Arctic Winter Games 2023 | Sport North Federation](https://www.sportnorth.ca/)
- ◆ [DO Dene Hand Games Now! \(denegames.ca\)](https://www.denegames.ca/)
- ◆ [#Next150 Challenge "Inuit Games" \(indianhorse.ca\)](https://www.indianhorse.ca/)
- ◆ [Inuit games | Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada](https://www.peoplesatlasofcanada.com/en/inuit-games/)



Student Role Models for January



Amari— Grade 7
Saik’uz First Nation

Amari is very kind and helpful. He is very hard working. Always has something to say. He is very liked by most of his peers and Staff. He is a perfect roll model making the difference at NVSS.



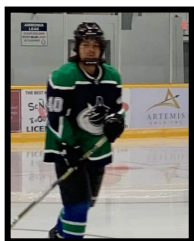
Joseph— Grade 12
Tl’az’ten Nation

Joseph is in his last year at NVSS. He has dedicated himself to learning. He has jumped ahead a whole grade level. We are very proud of him.



Riegan— Grade 9
Non-Status

Riegan is always going out of his way to ask others if they need help around the school (for example setting up and cleaning up for events).



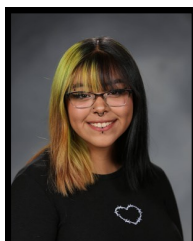
Jonas— Grade 11
Stellat’en First Nation

Jonas is a hard working young man that is into sports and will go far in hockey as one of his skills. He plans on moving to Prince George to keep pursuing his hockey career and eventually go professional.



Ellie— Grade 11
Tl’az’ten Nation

Ellie is an independent learner who is engaged and interested in her courses. Ellie is an honor role student enrolled in highly academic courses. She works hard to achieve her goal as a nurse. She is pleasant and friendly.



Anastasia— Grade 12
Stellat’en First Nation

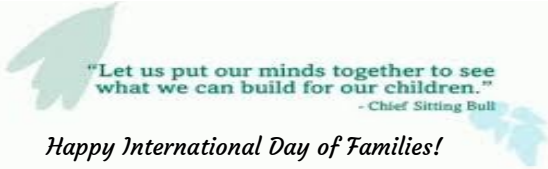
Anastasia is a strong and independent person who advocates for herself and others. She always stands up for what she believes in and never gives up.

Did you know?

The third Monday in February is observed as Family Day, this year it lands on February 20, 2023. Family Day is not a national statutory holiday, and in most provinces of Canada it is observed as a regional statutory holiday. Typically known in general as Family Day — though some provinces use their own names as they celebrate the day for different reasons. In Canada more generally, the third Monday in February has also been celebrated as Heritage Day, though is not as an official holiday. This “Heritage Day” is observed by some in celebration of the country’s collective history, architecture, and cultural heritage. The third Monday of February is observed in different ways in provinces:

- Family Day : British Columbia (BC), Alberta, Ontario, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan
- Louis Riel Day : Manitoba
- Heritage Day : Nova Scotia
- Islander Day : Prince Edward Island

In Quebec, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the three territories, the third Monday in February is a regular working day. In the Yukon, one Friday in February (typically the last/near-last Friday)—rather than a Monday—is deemed Yukon Heritage Day. Family Day was originally created to give people time to spend with their families but it also provides a day off between New Years Day and Good Friday as they are approximately three months apart.



*Family is not just a bunch of people who are related to you.
Family is a group of people you choose,
to be by your side no matter what.
You choose them to be with you for the rest of your life.
This is the most precious gift.*

Pink Shirt Day—February 22, 2023

On February 22nd, 2023, many across Canada and the world will choose to wear pink shirts to take stand against bullying. Pink Shirt Day aims to reduce bullying by celebrating diversity in all its forms and supporting workplaces, communities and schools to be safe, supportive, welcoming and inclusive of all people. Pink shirt Day began in Canada in 2007, when two students took a stand against homophobic bullying after a student was harassed and threatened for wearing pink. These students bought dozens of pink shirts and distributed them to their classmates to wear the next day. The word got out online and hundreds of students showed up in pink, some from head-to-toe, to stand together against bullying.

Wednesday, February 22nd 2023
Pink Shirt Day
Build others up...don't tear them down!
Be Kind!





International Mother Language Day - February 21, 2023

Every year on February 21st, International Mother Language Day draws awareness for linguistic and cultural diversity. It's also a day to promote multilingualism.

A mother language is the first language that someone speaks. A person's mother language helps to define a person's identity. Some think of their mother language as a thing of great beauty. This is especially true if they live in an area where their mother language is not spoken. For them, their mother language is a way to stay connected to their homeland and their culture. Unfortunately, a mother language disappears every two weeks. When this happens, an entire cultural heritage disappears along with it.

Languages become endangered for several reasons. Some languages simply get replaced by ones more widely spoken. Other languages aren't being learned by new generations of children. There are dozens of languages today that have only one native speaker still living. When that person dies, their language will also die.

In North America, there were once hundreds of different languages. Today, only about 194 languages remain. Because so many languages are dying, linguists are trying to learn as much about them as possible. Even if the language disappears, the knowledge of the language won't disappear along with it. Learning about languages before they die is also essential for preserving the history of a culture.

How to observe this day:

Many people throughout the world celebrate their mother language on this day. Many awards, including the Linguapax Prize and the Ekushey Heritage Award, are given to those who have excelled in language preservation and the promotion of multilingualism. UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, also holds a special event each year. Many schools take part in the day. Teachers encourage students to write something in their mother language, or they organize cultural events that celebrate a diverse range of languages.

To participate:

- Research your ancestor's mother language.
- Commit to learning an endangered language.
- Learn to say basic words, such as hello or thank you in different languages.
- Research endangered languages and what is being done to preserve them.

Visit the [National Day Calendar Classroom](#) for even more ways to explore International Mother Language Day.



An easy way to get acquainted with the province's entire breadth of Indigenous languages is to visit the [First Peoples' Cultural Council's First Voices](#) website. The extensive online resource includes input from over 50 community partners from across BC. It includes games, a kids' portal, and spoken-word recordings that let you hear and compare different languages and learn simple phrases.

FirstVoices
Language Archives



Useful links:

- ◆ [BC Family Day – February 21st, 2022 - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)
- ◆ [13 Fun Family Day Activities & Celebration Ideas for School \(teambuilding.com\)](#)
- ◆ <https://www.parents.com/parenting/money/cheap-or-free-winter-activities-to-do-with-kids/>
- ◆ [Pink Shirt Day Canada](#)
- ◆ [Naut'sa mawt Tribal Council and WITS Programs Foundation have partnered for Pink Shirt Day](#)
- ◆ [Support for Parent & Teachers](#)
- ◆ [Pink Shirt day Society](#)
- ◆ [Pink Shirt day - Resources](#)
- ◆ [Ways to Observe Pink Shirt Day](#)
- ◆ [CBC Kids](#)
- ◆ [History of Pink Shirt Day](#)
- ◆ [WITS Program—Facebook](#)
- ◆ [CLASSROOM - Mother Language - National Day Calendar](#)
- ◆ [Celebrate International Mother Language Day - Globe Trottin' Kids \(globetrottinkids.com\)](#)
- ◆ [12 Things You Can Do on International Mother Language Day | Cultural Survival](#)
- ◆ [First Peoples' Map of B.C. \(fpcc.ca\)](#)
- ◆ [Home | FirstVoices](#)
- ◆ [Our Living Languages: First Peoples' Voices in BC | Royal BC Museum and Archives](#)

Student Role Models for February

Dakota — Gr. 12

Non-status

"Dakota is an exemplary Role Model not only for the students in her grade, but in grades below her. She has been a successful peer tutor for junior Physical Education classes, and is often found helping out those in her classes who need assistance. Dakota's leadership skills extend beyond the school building. She is very involved in local sports, both soccer and hockey, and has been captain of both teams. Dakota is looking forward to a career in Heavy Duty Mechanics."

Eirane — Gr. 8

Shuswap Nation

"Eirane is a curious student leader who loves exploring new ideas and possibilities. Eirane enjoys baking, hiking and her friends. She is a fluent writer and reads a wide variety of genres. Eirane is a student leader, a member of BESS's Student Voice team and a strong advocate for all students."

Erika — Gr. 12

Metis

"Erika is a delightful person, she is liked by her peers. Erika is highly academic. She is hard working and very helpful. She loves to do hands on projects."

Karston — Gr. 10

Sto:Lo Nation

"Karston has great work ethic in his classes. He is always willing to help when asked and completes his work on time. He has been doing excellent in Science 10."

Gabriel — Gr. 9

Saik'uz First Nation

"Gabriel does great work and works well with others. He volunteers in school activities and in his community. He shows great enthusiasm and collaboration skills in all areas."

No
Photo
Available

Did you know?

The Spring/March 2023 equinox will arrive on March 20, 2023

The Spring/March equinox – also called the vernal equinox in the Northern Hemisphere – marks the beginning of the spring season in the Northern Hemisphere and the autumn season in the Southern Hemisphere. On Monday, March 20, we will have equal amount of day and night.

In Indigenous culture, spring is thought of as a time of rebirth and renewal. Not only is this true in nature, but it's also true for the cycle of our lives. As winter comes to an end, we find ourselves wanting to refresh or cleanse ourselves and move into a new chapter.

Spring represents a time of rebirth and growth. The warm weather returns, plants bloom, and animals come out of hibernation. Spring marks a time of renewal and reminds us that good things are ahead.

If spring is a time of cleansing and renewal, then it is the perfect time to cleanse your space of negative energy.

In Indigenous culture, smudging is used to purify a room, home, or even your mind of negative energy and invite in new, positive energy. Spring is the perfect time to do this and give yourself a fresh start!

If you're looking to really dive into the meaning of spring, then it's important to understand the medicine wheel.

In Indigenous Culture, the Medicine Wheel is a symbol broken into 4 quadrants and each quadrant has its own meaning. These four sections can represent the four states of being, the four stages of life, the four directions... and the four seasons!

The East represents Spring. This is the place of new beginnings, dawn, and rebirth. This season is often represented by the color yellow, like sunrise. Many of the qualities of Spring are the same as babies or children – curiosity, wonder, excitement, growth, vulnerability. Spring is the time to nurture these qualities.

The Medicine Wheel teaches us the balance of all things and reminds us what to focus on during the new season.

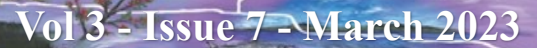
Finally, and maybe most importantly, Spring is a time for reflection – and Indigenous Teachings can help remind us of that fact.

Reflection can mean many things. It can mean focusing on what's really important to us or reminding ourselves that all things are connected to help renew our sense of purpose or value.

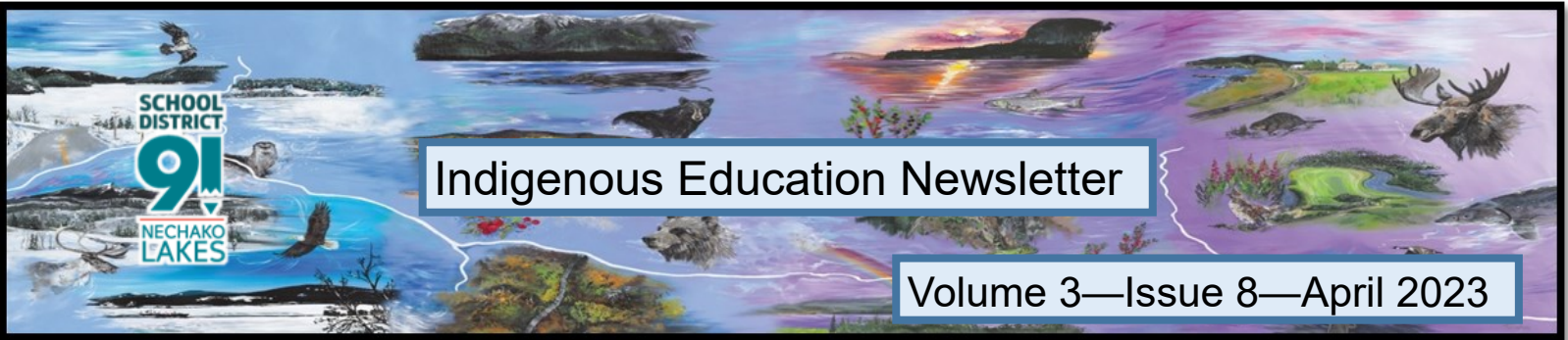
Sometimes in Spring we like to focus on minimalism – purging ourselves of the things we don't need and only keeping what we truly need.

This can be an important part of accepting the gifts spring has to offer by cleansing ourselves of the past and moving into the future feeling lighter, cleansed, or reborn.





- [Equinox and Solstice](#)
- [An indigenous teaching on planting seeds to welcome spring](#)
- [International Women's Day 2023](#)
- [IWDA: International Women's Development Agency](#)
- [International Women's Day](#)
- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Pi Day](#)
- [Genealogy Day](#)
- [First Nations Genealogy archives](#)
- [Royal BC Museum—Genealogy](#)
- [Get to know you, with Ancestry](#)



Student Role Models for March

Noatea — Gr. 11

Fox Creek Cree Nation

"Noatea is very hard working, detail oriented and is always doing his best. He asks questions when he needs further guidance and reviews feedback as a way to improve."



Jordin — Gr. 12

Ts'il Kaz Koh

"He has worked hard to complete his English and is headed over to CNC for the heavy-duty mechanic course for the rest of this semester. He is a great all-around guy easy going and very respectful."



Jaidyn — Gr. 10

Nak'azdli

"Jaidyn is a honour roll student. He plays both soccer and basketball. Jaidyn is a very nice person well liked by his peers."



Dakota — Gr. 12

Lake Babine Nation

"Dakota is a leader. He models ways of being - he is a kind and generous spirit. He is an advocate for others, and offers support to adults and students alike. Dakota is very focused on graduating - working hard and continuously doing his best. Dakota is curious about many topics and interested in social justice."



Isobel — Gr. 11

Non-Status

"Isobel is a very conscientious and diligent student who is motivated by high marks in Science. She hands in her work punctually and it is always done to the highest standard. Isobel is always respectful and well mannered and has positive relationships with her peers and teachers. She has a 4.0 GPA."



Did you know?

April 22nd is Earth Day! This annual celebration is an opportunity to raise awareness and advocate for change around the issues most impacting our planet.

Ever wonder how Earth Day began? The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, when San Francisco activist John McConnell and Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson separately asked Americans to join in a grassroots demonstration. Dealing with dangerously serious issues concerning toxic drinking water, air pollution, and the effects of pesticides, an impressive 20 million Americans—10% of the population—ventured outdoors and protested together. President Richard Nixon led the nation in creating the Environmental Protection Agency, which followed with successful laws including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

McConnell originally had chosen the [spring equinox](#) (March 20, 1970), but Nelson chose April 22, which ended up becoming the official celebration date. (Given that the date of the spring equinox changes over time, it may have made things more complicated to go with the astronomical event rather than just a calendar date.)

Today, not only is Earth Day meant to increase awareness of environmental problems, but it is also becoming a popular time for many communities to gather together to clean up litter, plant trees, or simply reflect on the beauty of nature.

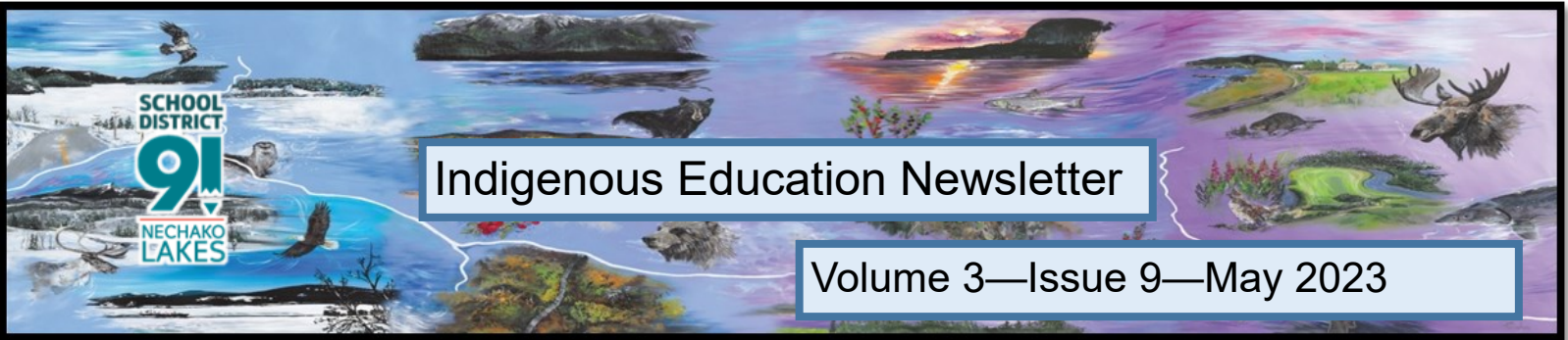
Honoring Earth

Indigenous peoples are caretakers of Mother Earth and realize and respect her gifts of water, air and fire. First Nations peoples' have a special relationship with the earth and all living things in it. This relationship is based on a profound spiritual connection to Mother Earth that guided indigenous peoples to practice reverence, humility and reciprocity. It is also based on the subsistence needs and values extending back thousands of years. Hunting, gathering, and fishing to secure food includes harvesting food for self, family, the elderly, widows, the community, and for ceremonial purposes. Everything is taken and used with the understanding that we take only what we need, and we must use great care and be aware of how we take and how much of it so that future generations will not be put in peril.

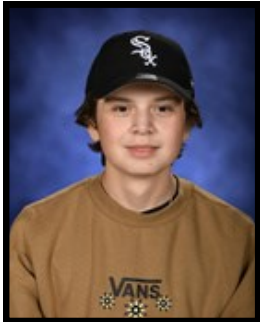
Helpful resources and Links:

- ◇ [Assembly of First Nations—honoring Earth](#)
- ◇ [How to do Earth Day 2023](#)
- ◇ [31 ideas to Celebrate Earth Day](#)
- ◇ [Almanac—Earth Day 2023](#)
- ◇ [Farmers' Almanac—Earth Day 2023](#)
- ◇ [National Geographic Kids](#)





Student Role Models for April



Brennan— Grade 10
Nak'azdli Whut'en First Nation

Brennan is quiet, polite and a genuine individual who is willing to help. He has a good disposition and is respectful amongst his peers. Brennan has a job at the Petro. He played on the Trees basketball team for Nak'azdli. Brennan is an honour role student; he comes prepared and works hard.



Symara— Grade 8
Nadleh Whut'en First Nation

Symara is an excellent athlete and she is a great student and friend. She sets an example for other students by showing them you can accomplish what you desire.



Leam— Grade 10
Metis

Leam is kind and respectful and is always willing to offer help. He is a hard worker and an Honor Roll student.



Nyah— Grade 10
Ts'il Kaz Koh

Nyah is a great role model for her peers, she works hard in class, helps her table mates with guitar concepts and has been instrumental in helping one student in particular with learning various guitar songs and concepts.

Did you know?

Red Dress Day, also known as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People, is observed on May 5th. The day honours and brings awareness to the thousands of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people who have been subject to disproportionate violence in Canada. Red Dress Day was inspired by Métis artist Jaime Black's *REDress Project* installation, in which she hung empty, red dresses to represent the missing and murdered women. Red dresses have become symbolic of the crisis as a result of her installation. The day is used to pay respect to the victims, raise awareness of the crisis and call on governments to take action to address the racialized and gendered violence inflicted on Indigenous peoples in Canada.

How to support MMIWG

- Wear Red on May 5th to show your support and raise awareness;
- Attend a MMIWG2S Awareness Event to learn more;
- Hang a red dress in your window to support women who are on the frontlines fighting for all of us everyday;
- Read the final report from the National Inquiry on MMIWG2S;
- Donate to initiatives that support Indigenous women in our community.





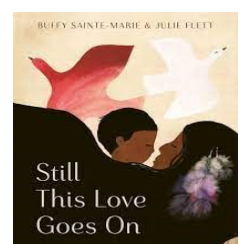
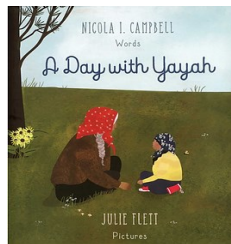
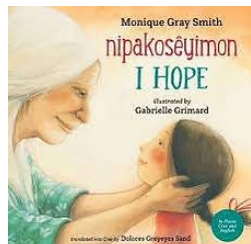
Moosehide Campaign Day is May 11th, 2023

The Moose Hide Campaign began as a BC-born Indigenous-led grassroots movement to engage men and boys in ending violence towards women and children. It has since grown into a nationwide movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians from local communities, First Nations, governments, schools, colleges/universities, police forces and many other organizations – all committed to taking action to end this violence.

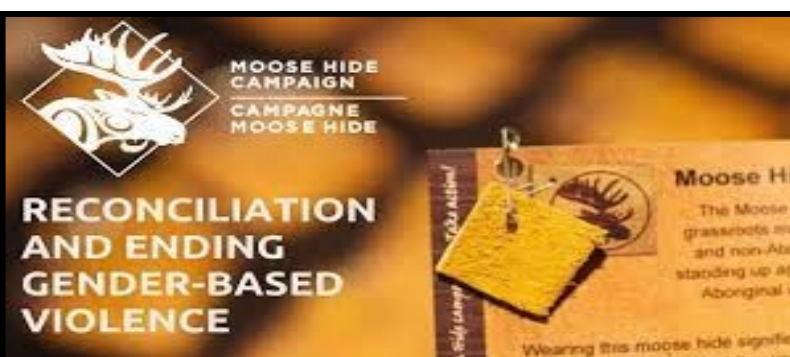
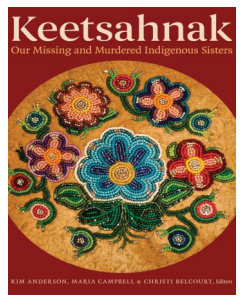
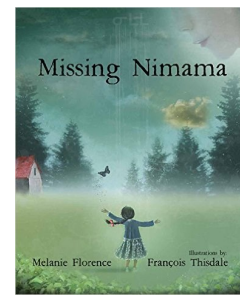
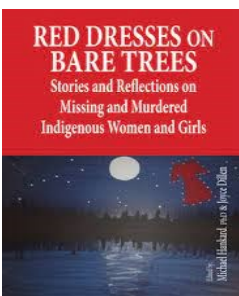
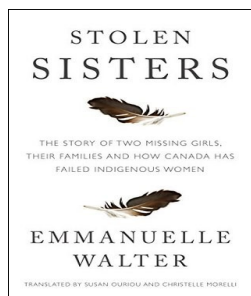
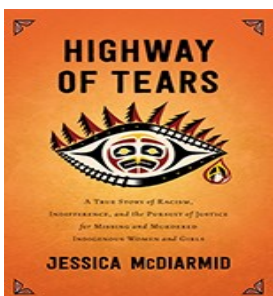
Since the Campaign began over 10 years ago along the Highway of Tears, thousands of communities and organizations across Canada have held Moose Hide Campaign events and joined the annual Moose Hide Campaign Day ceremony and fast. People of all ages, genders and backgrounds are invited to take part in Moose Hide Campaign activities.

The campaign is grounded in Indigenous ceremony and traditional ways of learning and healing. A cornerstone of the Moose Hide Campaign is the moose hide pin. Wearing the pin signifies your commitment to honour, respect, and protect the women and children in your life and speak out against gender-based and domestic violence. To date, over three million moose hide pins have been distributed free of charge to communities, schools, and workplaces across Canada.

Why are Indigenous women in our culture are so important? Here are some books to help understand the connection.

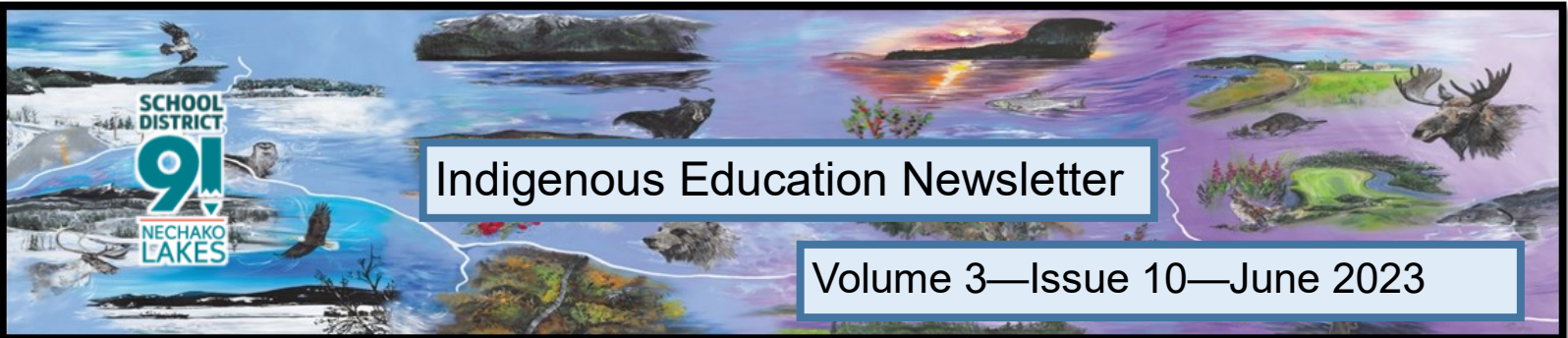


Here are some resources from the MMIWG reading list.



Useful links:

- ♦ [Thinking about Red Dress day for elementary students?](#)
- ♦ [MMIWG and 2SLGBTQQIA & People National Action Plan](#)
- ♦ [MMIWG](#)
- ♦ [UBC—MMIWG2S](#)
- ♦ [Native Women's Association of Canada](#)
- ♦ [Government of Canada](#)
- ♦ [CBC radio](#)
- ♦ [Moosehide Campaign 2023](#)
- ♦ [Highway of Tears](#)
- ♦ [Taking Care of Each Other's Spirit](#)
- ♦ [Canadian Museum for Human Rights](#)
- ♦ [Pacific Association of First Nations Women](#)



Indigenous Education Newsletter

Volume 3—Issue 10—June 2023

Student Role Models for May



Miley— Grade 9
Nak'azdli First Nation
Miley is a honour roll student. She is a wonderful student, very engaged and smart. She's kind to adults and her peers, displays a great sense of humour. Miley has an avid interest in history and is an excellent carpentry student, very creative. She has volunteered many hours for school fundraisers. Miley received MVP during volleyball season.



Jamal— Grade 12
Lake Babine First Nation
Jamal has excellent attendance. He demonstrates every day that he values education and supports his peers. He leads a healthy lifestyle. He has made incredible progress in his 5 years of high school and has recently made the term 3 honor roll.



Darien— Grade 12
Stellat'en First Nation
Darien is a hard working young man who can complete anything he sets his mind to! So proud of you for completing your grade 12 school year Darien! Darien's future plans are to work in fisheries.



Robyn— Grade 8
Non Status
Meet Robyn, an EBUS Academy student that helped organize and run a day of making ribbon skirts for students in Vanderhoof as well as online EBUS students, showing incredible leadership.

What led to the creation of National Indigenous Peoples Day?

National Aboriginal Day (now National Indigenous Peoples Day) was announced in 1996 by then Governor General of Canada, Roméo LeBlanc, through the Proclamation Declaring June 21 of Each Year as National Aboriginal Day. This was the result of consultations and statements of support for such a day made by various Indigenous groups:

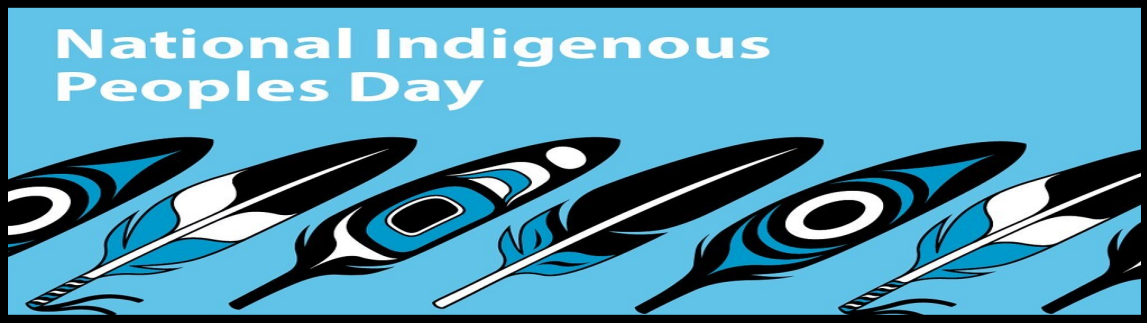
- in 1982, the National Indian Brotherhood (now the Assembly of First Nations) called for the creation of National Aboriginal Solidarity Day
- in 1995, the Sacred Assembly, a national conference of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people chaired by Elijah Harper, called for a national holiday to celebrate the contributions of Indigenous Peoples
- also in 1995, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended the designation of a National First Peoples Day

On June 21, 2017, the Prime Minister issued a statement announcing the intention to rename this day National Indigenous Peoples Day.

This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples.

Although these groups share many similarities, they each have their own distinct heritage, languages, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. In cooperation with Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Indigenous Peoples Day.

For generations, many Indigenous peoples and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.



National Indigenous History Month

In 2009, June was declared National Indigenous History Month, following the passing of a unanimous motion in the Canadian House of Commons. This provides an opportunity to recognize not only the historic contributions of Indigenous Peoples to the development of Canada, but also the strength of present-day Indigenous communities and their promise for the future. The name was changed to National Indigenous History Month in 2017.

This is an opportunity to learn about the unique cultures, traditions and experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. It's a time to honour the stories, achievements and resilience of Indigenous Peoples, who have lived on this land since time immemorial and whose presence continues to impact the evolving Canada.

We celebrate First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples and their unique cultures, languages, art, dance, food, histories, and contributions. During this month, we take time to listen and learn about stories that connect to Indigenous heritage, recognize the resilience and strength of Indigenous communities, support the preservation of Indigenous languages and cultures, and focus on reconciliation and repairing Canada's relationships with Indigenous peoples.

2023 weekly themes:

Each week will be dedicated to a different theme to highlight specific aspects of Indigenous history, cultures and perspectives. Explore learning resources on each theme:

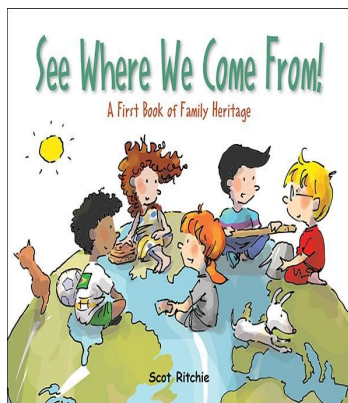
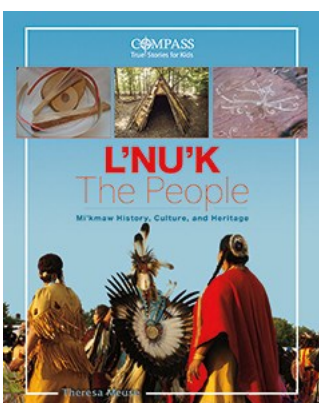
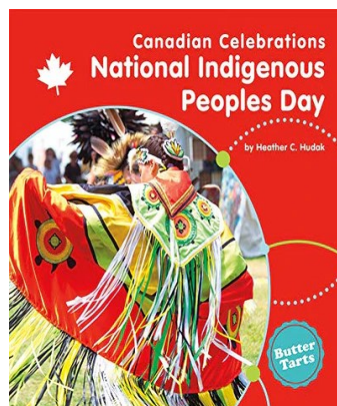
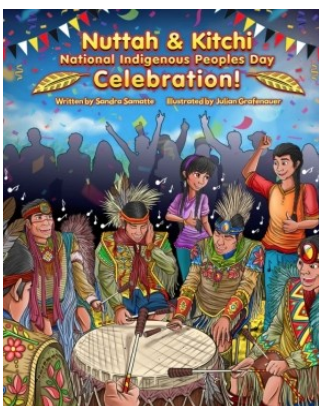
- June 1 to 6: [Women, girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people](#)
- June 5 to 11: [Environment, traditional knowledge and territory](#)
- June 10 to 18: [Children and youth](#)
- June 19 to 25: [Languages, cultures and arts](#)
- June 26 to 30: [Reconciliation](#)

How to get involved:

- Discover stories, traditions and cultures
- Explore the past and honour the truth
- Learn more about present-day communities
- Show your support in your community



Books to read:



Helpful Links:

- [Government of Canada](#)
- [NIPD—Activity Guide](#)
- [Twinkl—School Resources—National Indigenous Peoples Day](#)
- [ALIGN—20 Great Ways for Children, Youth and Families to Honour & Celebrate National Indigenous History Month](#)
- [Indigenous Peoples Activities for Kids](#)
- [Indigenous: activities, stories, games, and cooking](#)
- [16 Indigenous Peoples Day Ideas, games and activities](#)
- [The Continuing Legal Education Society of British Columbia](#)
- [Weebly - resources for teachers](#)
- [Twinkl—Free National History Month Activity Pack](#)