

Indigenous Education

North Vancouver School District

December 2-6th, 2019



[reference](#)

B.C. First Province to Pass Legislation to Implement United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

On Thursday November 26, 2019, B.C. passed Bill 41 which is now an Act “which establishes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as the foundational framework for reconciliation in BC, as called for by the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission” [reference](#). You can

read about the four main parts of Bill 41 [here](#). Find out more about Bill 41 in the following articles [article 1](#) or [article 2](#).

Indspire: The National Gathering 2019



Indspire: The National Gathering 2019, an education conference focused on improving the educational outcomes of Indigenous students was held in Toronto from November 20-22, 2019. The theme of the conference this year was *Transforming and Healing through Education*.

Participants had the opportunity to register for a Pre gathering workshop facilitated by Dr. Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair prior to attending workshops. The focus of the workshop was “[utilizing] the final report of the TRC and its final 94 recommendations as the framework. The workshop and accompanying educator’s guide provides educators with competency on how to incorporate the final report of the TRC into classrooms, schools, and other educational settings.” [reference](#). Following the Pre gathering workshop, participants could choose from many different sessions that focused on Indigenous education K-12. Find out more [National Gathering](#). There was also an evening showing of the film, *The Grizzlies*. Dr. Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair also provided a key note address on the Friday morning. Want to learn more about Indspire and programs for educators? Check out the many programs and resources [Indspire Programs](#). Watch for more information on the National Gathering 2020 in the following months and you can watch the Indspire Awards 2020 (March 6, 2020) to be broadcast later this year.

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NVSD Indigenous Education Team Request Form

[Check out our new request forms!](#)

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, whose unceded traditional territory the North Vancouver School District resides on. We value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.

Reflections from Dorothy Lynas Professional Day:

November 1st, 2019

The Dorothy Lynas Professional Development Committee organized our November 1st Professional Day to ensure we spent **TIME** together. We reflected on the words of *Dr. Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair*, from the October 4th, Curriculum Implementation Day and acknowledged that we we owed it to each other to take care of, share and go forward with the messaging, but first we needed an opportunity to share locally and agree upon our direction. We slowed down our Friday November 1st to re-visit the ideas shared. The team agreed that the presentation was powerful, but had not had the opportunity to come together and share since the presentation. To prepare for the day, *Indigenous Support Workers*, Margi Spooner and Rudy Forgie braved the early morning preparing fresh bannock for the staff.

We then spent time with *Indigenous Success Teacher: Kiskinohumakew' iskwew* - Heather Myhre, who shared her teachings regarding medicines. This link to the gift of sage (and lesson) again connected us the words from *Dr. Niigaanwewidam James Sinclair*. Heather also shared process and protocol for the circle and smudging with our staff.

We then carried this energy into sessions around inclusion and how curriculum, instruction and assessment can support student and parents sense of belonging and ownership or learning. A powerful day for our learning community!



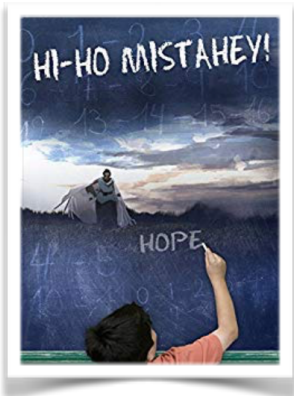
Ns7e'yxnitm la Tel:'wet Westview

On Friday November 1, 2019 the staff at Ns7e'yxnitm la Tel:'wet Westview were joined by NVSD Cultural worker, Swalklanexw, Dallas Guss to share the teachings and Skwxwú7mesh connections to place through story of Xwáyxway. Ns7e'yxnitm la Tel:'wet Westview continued their learning about how they connect as a community by focusing on literature in the afternoon that is inclusive of the student population and their understandings of place.



In the News:

Alanis Obomsawin, Abenaki was named to the Order of Canada as a *Companion of the Order of Canada*, the highest rank of the Order, this November. Obomsawin is known for her films, specifically her documentaries including *Hi Ho Mistahey!*, *Trick or Treaty*, *We Can't Make the Same Mistake Twice* and her most recent, *Jordan River Anderson, the Messenger*. Her films are available through the National Film Board.



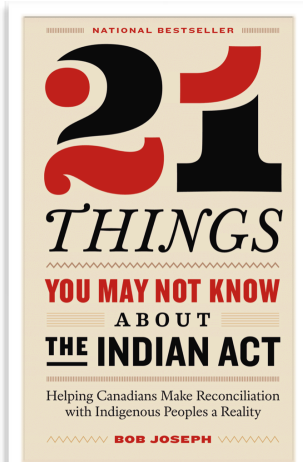
Hi Ho Mistahey!, is a documentary that illustrates the inequities in education for Indigenous students in Canada. The focus of this film is also known as Shannen's Dream. *Trick or Treaty* examines the treaty process in Canada, specifically Treaty 9. You can also find teaching materials from the NFB for *Hi Ho Mistahey* and *Trick or Treaty* [here](#).

Read more about Obomsawin receiving the Companion of Canada [here](#).

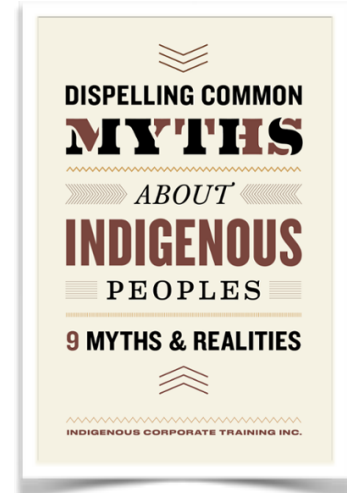
Stereotypes in the Media

Did you read/hear the CBC Unreserved Article, "New York Times article on Inuit draws backlash for reliance on stereotypes" [reference](#). Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) suggest that the New York Times [article](#) needs an audit of their use of stereotypes and created a unique way, to help reporters address their own bias in reporting and "check their privilege" [reference](#). Read more [here](#).

"That [Times' article] really bothered me as an Indigenous person in Canada because of their global audience and how the article portrayed Indigenous life in Canada as, well, poverty porn,"
Francine Compton, Director



Bob Joseph provides more information on stereotypes of Indigenous Peoples [here](#). To learn more you can also read *Dispelling Common Myths About Indigenous Peoples* and *21 Things You Didn't Know About the Indian Act*. It is available in ebook form or online at [Dispelling Common Myths About Indigenous Peoples](#) and [21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act](#).



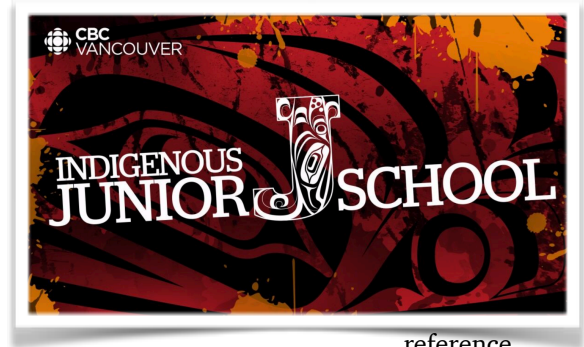
Lheidli T'enneh Holds First Potlatch in 73 Years

"Today is the day that the Lheidli T'enneh Nation regained the Balhats, regained our history and turned the corner toward a vibrant, sustainable future," Pountney, Lheidli T'enneh Chief [reference](#)

On November 29, 2019, the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation held the first potlatch in 73 years "that celebrated the partnership between School District 57 and the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation at Uda Dune Baiyoh, House of Ancestors" [reference](#)

CBC 4th Annual Indigenous Junior Journalism School

Check out the following video on CBC's 4th Annual Indigenous Junior Journalism School. Seycove student Isabel DeRoy took part in this years workshops. Find out more in the [video](#)



[reference](#)



Inuit Throat Singing Christmas Album

PIQSIQ, sisters Kayley Inuksuk Mackay and Tiffany Ayalik, Inuit throat singers, have recently released a Christmas album called *Quviasugvik: In Search of Harmony*. Find out more [here](#).

NVSD Indigenous Education Bookclub 2019-2020

The focus this year will be on the podcast *Missing & Murdered: Finding Cleo* hosted by Connie Walker. To listen to the podcast and find out more about this award winning series click [here](#). Are you interested in participating in the NVSD Indigenous Education Bookclub this year? If you are interested in joining please email Stephanie Maki at smaki@sd44.ca. Please note that the first meeting will take place in early January.

