

# Indigenous Education

North Vancouver School District



**UBC SAUDER**  
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

IF THERE ARE ANY  
INDIGENOUS STUDENTS,  
TEACHING, ACTIVITIES, OR  
HIGHLIGHTS FROM YOUR  
RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS  
THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO  
BE INCLUDED, PLEASE  
FORWARD TO BRANDI OR  
JOHANNE.



District Indigenous Secondary students visit UBC Campus

## What's happening

### Collaboration with Dennis Thomas - Whonoak

- Dennis Thomas "Whonoak" is a member and an [elected Councillor](#) of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation.
- Dennis worked as a Coordinator for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.
- He pursued business with his Nation and managed several band owned businesses including [Takaya Tours](#)
- He is now is a cultural ambassador in his community.
- He is currently an Executive Director of Indigenous Business Initiatives and Engagement at UBC's [Sauder School of Business](#)
- He strives to embed his Nation's culture in all areas so that the ancestral knowledge is awake and alive.



### Field Trip to UBC

- The NVSD joins other MetroVan districts with UBC Sauder School of Business's initiatives for youth learning programs → [Link](#)

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We would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation and səliłwətaʔ (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.

# What's Happening: Indigenous Math Culture

## Windsor Secondary Celebrates Indigenous Math Culture

Congratulations Windsor Secondary School for hosting their first ***Celebration of Indigenous Math Culture***. This vibrant and educational event that embraced the mathematical knowledge rooted in Indigenous cultures across the world. This unique gathering brought together Indigenous knowledge holders, Indigenous educators, teacher collaborators and students to explore how traditional knowledge systems have long incorporated sophisticated mathematical concepts. Through hands-on activities, participants discover how Indigenous communities continue use and share mathematics within their societies. The event aims to highlight the deep connections between math, culture, and the natural world, promoting a more inclusive understanding of the subject.

## Official Celebration Annual Date

### WHY?

Recognizing Indigenous contributions to math enriches the discipline, diversifies perspectives, and helps decolonize education. It also honors the intellectual traditions of Indigenous peoples and supports cultural revitalization.

### WHEN?

Johanne Nielsen and I would like to propose the **first Wednesday of June** commencing in **2026**. This would be an excellent time to help kick off National Indigenous Peoples Month.

### WHO?

K-12, Post Secondary, Indigenous & non-Indigenous communities.  
This day is for all.

### HOW?

- Challenge yourself to learn at something new, no matter how big or small.
- Collaborate with Indigenous educators, mentors, elders, support workers

Come & Celebrate Indigenous Math Culture & Salish Canoe-Making traditions with Mike Billy Jr., Squamish Nation @ Windsor Secondary



**JOIN US**

**Date:** May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 12:50pm-1:50pm

**Where:** RM-205





# What's Happening: Indigenous Math Culture



canoeecultures



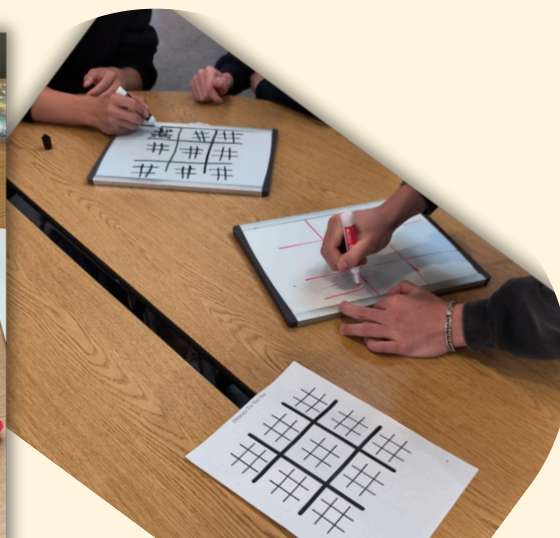
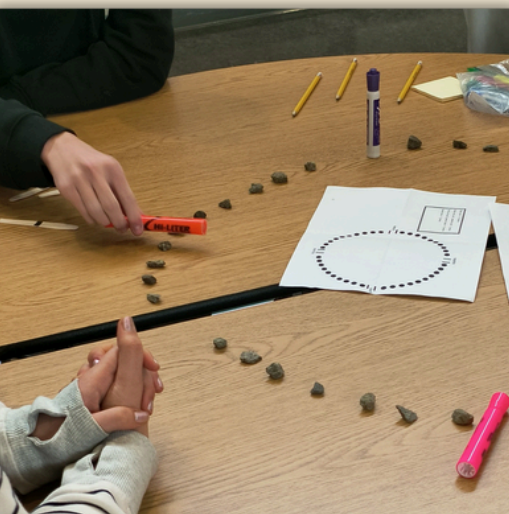
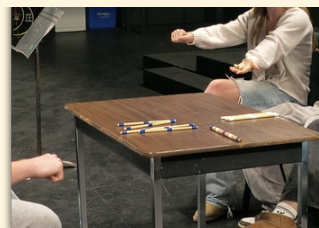
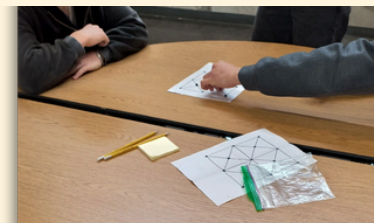
Canoeing serves as a revered cultural tradition and offers profound solace for the spirit. It serves as a poignant reminder for our People to embrace our heritage and pay homage to our forebears. Moreover, it serves as a unifying force, bringing communities together and imparting invaluable, and at times life-saving, teachings. The lessons acquired on the water foster resilient minds and compassionate hearts, translating seamlessly into life on solid ground.

## Logic Games

- Probability
- Predictions
- Generalizations
- Inductive and Deductive Reasoning
- Applying Strategy
- Positive Persistence in problem solving
- Concrete representation of math concepts
- 

## BC Curriculum:

- Develop thinking strategies to solve puzzles and play games
- Incorporate First Peoples worldviews, perspectives, knowledge, and practices to make connections with mathematical concepts





## Office of the Mayor

CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER

BRITISH COLUMBIA

# Proclamation

## NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

Whereas

the City of North Vancouver recognizes that it is located on the traditional lands of the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations;

Whereas

the City of North Vancouver is grateful to have the opportunity to live, work and play on these lands and is committed to learning about the unique heritage, diverse cultures and immeasurable contributions of Indigenous peoples;

Whereas

First Nations, Inuit and Metis people across Canada continue to demonstrate remarkable leadership and resilience;

Whereas

every year the Government of Canada commemorates National Indigenous History Month and National Indigenous Peoples Day in June;

And Whereas

the City of North Vancouver, on its path towards Truth and Reconciliation, is committed to building reflexive, equitable and reciprocal relationships and partnerships with Indigenous peoples;

Now Therefore

I, Linda Buchanan, Mayor of the City of North Vancouver, do hereby proclaim **June 21, 2025** as **National Indigenous Peoples Day** in the City of North Vancouver, the traditional territories of the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

So proclaimed on Monday, June 16, 2025

Mayor Linda Buchanan

# Announcements

## Upcoming Days of Significance of 2025

- June 1<sup>st</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> - Indigenous Peoples Month
- June 8<sup>th</sup> - World Ocean Day
- June 21<sup>st</sup> - National Indigenous Peoples' Day
- June to September - Pride Season - Honouring Two-Spirit Identity
- July 9<sup>th</sup> - Nunavut Day
- July 10<sup>th</sup> - Huron Treaty of 1827 Anniversary
- August 9<sup>th</sup> - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples



## National Indigenous Peoples Month - June 2025

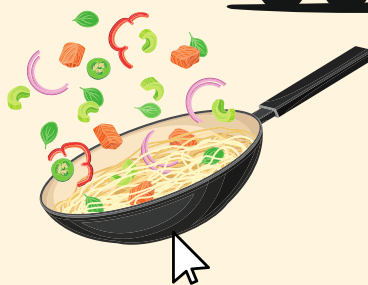
Find opportunities to engage with Indigenous People, Culture, and Knowledge.

While National Indigenous Peoples Day is set on June 21<sup>st</sup> annually, everyone is encouraged to explore and learn for the whole duration of the month of June (then extend their learning to the whole year and beyond).

### Seek out learning resources



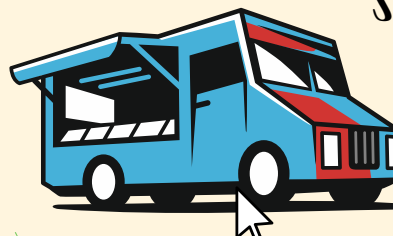
### Explore Workshops and Activities



### Join a Local Event



### Support Indigenous Businesses






# Announcements: Community Events

## Indigenous JUNE is People's Month

It is with gratitude and honour that we are on the Unceded Territories of the  
x'məŋk'əyəm | Musqueam, Sḵwəgwú7mesh | Squamish & səliłwətaʔ | Tsleil-Waututh Nations

### NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY CELEBRATION

HOSTED BY JOSIAH AMAYA  
WELCOME BY CHIEF BILL WILLIAMS  
LIVE ART BY JESSE GOUCHEY



**21 JUNE**

**THE ELECTRIC WARRIOR BAND**  
LOCYHONTVS - GILLIAN THOMSON - SAGE SMOKE + DEADLY KID  
JAY GENAILLE - TAGWAN XAAXDAA - TWIRLING WIND - MISKA CREATIVE SOCIETY

CULTURAL PERFORMANCES + INDIGENOUS MARKET  
GRANDVIEW PARK  
1657 CHARLES ST, VANCOUVER BC

**12-4PM**

**11:00AM CELEBRATION WALK** STARTING FROM VANCOUVER ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY POLICING CENTRE SOCIETY  
1710 FRANKLIN STREET - REFRESHMENTS - WEAR YOUR REGALIA, BRING YOUR DRUM

VACPC Vancouver Aboriginal Community Policing Centre Society  
Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society  
Britannia Community Services Centre

### 2025 3rd Annual Memorial SQUAMISH NATION YOUTH POW WOW

Capilano Reserve Park "WELCOME TO KWMEŁCH'STŊ"  
HA7LH EN SKWALWEN KWIS TL'IKNUMUT YAP (All are welcome)

**JULY 11, 12, 13**



**HOST DRUM:** CREE CONFEDERATION  
**SPECIAL GUEST:** FAWN WOOD (2022 JUNO AWARD WINNER)  
SADDLE LAKE, AB  
**HEAD DRUM AND SINGING JUDGE:** DALLAS WASKAHAT  
PROO LAKE, CREE NATION  
**MASTER OF CEREMONIES:** DOUG BONAISE  
LITTLE PINE FIRST NATION, SK  
**ARENA DIRECTOR:** KATYALANEWE - VICTOR HARRY  
SQUAMISH NATION  
**WHIPMAN:** EVERETT WHITE  
DENTON NAVAJO NATION, AZ

**PRIZE PAYOUTS**

	1st	2nd	3rd
JUNIORS	\$200	\$100	\$50
TEENS	\$400	\$300	\$200
ADULT	\$800	\$400	\$300
GOLDEN AGE	\$500	\$300	\$200

**DRUM CONTEST \$20,000.00 SPLIT**

**Specials throughout the weekend**  
Registration opens Friday 1pm, closes Saturday 1pm

**ADMISSION**  
\$15/DAY or \$30 weekend pass  
Elders 65+ and 12 & under FREE

Anyone wishing to volunteer, please contact Elaine and Caroline at  
squamishyouthpowwow@gmail.com

Limited spots available for vendors and food trucks.  
Please contact Bob at squamishyouthpowwow@gmail.com

**ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE EVENT!**  
NO GANG COLOURS OR ATTITUDE TOLERANCE  
No smoking/tobacco on reserve grounds,  
smoking/trapping in designated areas only.  
Please be mindful of Elders and children.  
No animals allowed, unless service animals.  
Documentation required as proof of service.

www.squamishnationyouthpowwow.com

 Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society

## SAVE THE DATE: 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL FATHERS DAY POW WOW



Honouring Our  
Fathers, Grandfathers  
& Sons - Through  
Drum, Dance, and  
Culture

**BRITANNIA COMMUNITY  
CENTRE FIELD -  
1100 MCLEAN DRIVE**

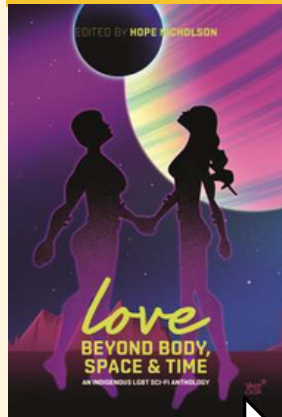
**JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> AND 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2025**

For updates and more information, please visit [facebook.com/vanaboriginal](https://facebook.com/vanaboriginal)



# Announcements

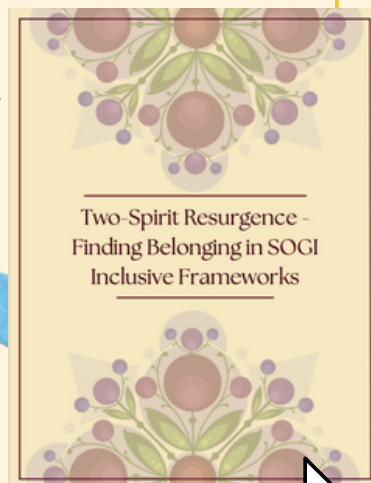
## HAPPY PRIDE!!



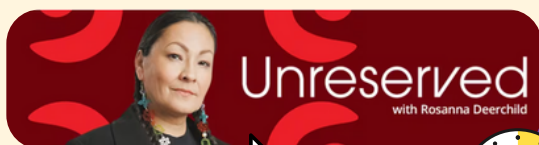
LESSON PLAN: Exploring Cultural and Gender-Diverse Sports Through  
*47,000 Beads*  
Grades K-5



SOGI 123 Resource Document



UNIT PLAN: Two-Spirit Excellence  
& Peoples Across Turtle Island  
Grade 8-12



CBC Article and Radio interview with Two-Spirit Drag Performers



*Starwalker*: 2025 Film by Corey Payette.



APTN Interview with Corey Payette



Coast Salish 2Spirit Pride  
By Mack Paul

Interview with Mack Paul on Two-Spirit Identity and Pride Month



Two-Spirit Journal: "Your go to site for all Two-Spirit News"



UBC Xwi7xwa Library - Two-Spirit & Indigiqueer Studies: Research Guide

PODCAST  
Two-Spirit Talks





# Announcements



## UBC SUMMER SCIENCE PROGRAM

**IS BACK FOR SUMMER 2025!**

### What is UBC Summer Science Program?

The UBC Summer Science Program is a one-week camp for Indigenous students in grades 8-11, held on the beautiful traditional Musqueam territory in Vancouver. Taking place primarily at the First Nations House of Learning at UBC, this exciting, Indigenous-led program offers students the chance to explore post-secondary pathways and land-based learning while participating in cultural workshops like drum-making, medicine bag crafting, and more. Join us this summer for an unforgettable experience where you'll have the opportunity to connect with Elders, explore the UBC campus, make lifelong friends, learn about university, and meet inspiring Indigenous role models!

**Where:** UBC Vancouver (Musqueam Territory)

**Who/When:** **Week 1: August 3rd - August 9th**  
(For students going into Grades 11 & 12 in the fall)

**Week 2: August 10th - August 16th**  
(For students going into Grades 9 & 10 in the fall)

SCAN ME



**Application deadline June 15th, 2025**

For more information: <https://bit.ly/UBCSP>

Got Questions? Email: [summer.science@ubc.ca](mailto:summer.science@ubc.ca)

Special thanks to our sponsors and supporters who have made the Summer Science Program possible:



Stem Cell Network  
Réseau de Cellules Souches



NSERC  
CRSNG



First Nations Health Authority  
Health through wellness





THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Centre for Excellence in  
Indigenous Health



# Editorial Reflection: Indigenous Sense of Time



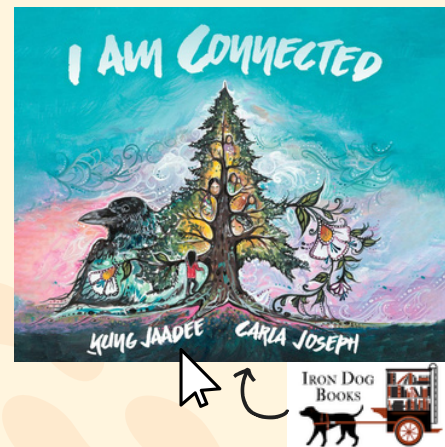
## Upcoming Topics:

- Time Immemorial 
- Canada's 157 years 
- Patience and Time



## Time Immemorial [\[Link\]](#)

*Definition:* a time before and beyond memory. You may have heard an Indigenous person use this phrase in reference to some of the following: referencing Oral Traditions, Land Title, Rights and Claims, and Cultural Identity. Indigenous peoples have ties to all these for as long as before memory and records existed.

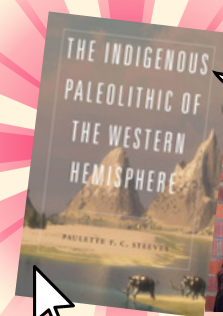


## 14,000 (+?) years of History

- Heiltsuk Territory is home to one of the oldest settlements in North America.
- Heiltsuk Oral Stories describe the history and origin of the Nation on the land. Found archaeological evidence of population and settlement date back 14,000 years ago. This evidence supports information from Heiltsuk Oral Traditional stories.
- This evidence is three times as old as the Great Pyramid in Giza.
- It affirms that Indigenous people lived in the area prior to the dates provided from the Bering Land-Bridge Theory.
- It opens discussion for alternate theories regarding time



CBC Radio episode - 54 min  
Decolonize racism in Archaeology



Canada's "emerging" history

Two pitfalls  
of Canadian  
time



Canada's "long" history

**157 years of settler-colonial national history**  
(Canadian Confederacy 1867)

**528 years of European settler-colonial history**  
(J. Cabot's 1497 sailing)

Canada's "new/emerging history" or "a country without history" is an erasure of Indigenous History and their deep ties to this land. Value Indigenous history by learning more about the land we occupy. [\[Link\]](#)



- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
- Elevators
- Aerosol dispensers 
- 4-wheeled roller skates 

We freely explore the rich history of time through a Western European lens, but we can and should value the rich and LONG history of the people of the land we're on today.

Sincerely,  
J. Nielsen  
Indigenous Education

Researched &  
Assembled by  
Indigenous students  
@ Westview

# YOUTH COLUMN



## Chum Salmon



A.W. (gr. 7) shared a BC Wild Life video post about the chum salmon returning to Mosquito Creek in great numbers last fall. This is the first run in over 40 years. A small group of grade 6/7 students from Westview went to Mosquito Creek trail to explore the land and teachings. Here are a few things we learned:

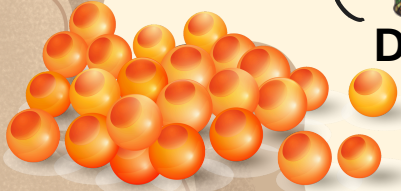
**Squamish nation bylaw  
16 for preservation,  
protection and  
mangement of fish**



"Take only what  
you need"  
"I go fishing with  
family every  
spring."

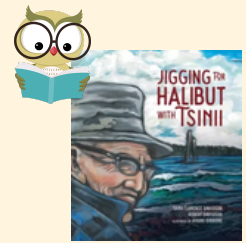


**DFO INFO**



## Fun Facts

- Chum salmon earned the nickname **dog fish** because the males have canine teeth & hooked jaw
- The best for making smoked fish
- Last salmon to come up the river/stream



## Indigenous Fishing Rights





# YOUTH COLUMN



## Student Reflections:

We need to make sure salmon doesn't die off because of over fishing and climate change. We can protect the salmon spawning area by clearing the trail and stream from trash and debris. A friendly reminder is to use the trash can on the near the trail and not just throw away on the ground because eventually, everything will led into the creek and ocean. It will cause tons of sea life to lose life.

Its important to give gratitude before you harvest anything.  
I am learning to take care of the land for the next seven generations.

We need to make sure we don't over fish and learn to keep the salmon population steady. No part of the salmon is to be wasted. The **first salmon ceremony** is when the community harvest the first salmon of the season and return the bones back to the salmon people in the ocean/river as an offering gratitude and respect. It is my responsibility to learn how to respect the land, learn our Squamish stories and traditional laws and governance as well as Canadian fishing laws



The **MORE**  
you **REFLECT**  
the **MORE**  
you **LEARN**

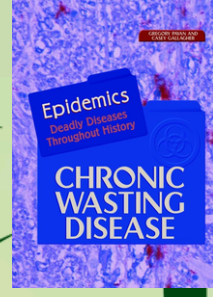
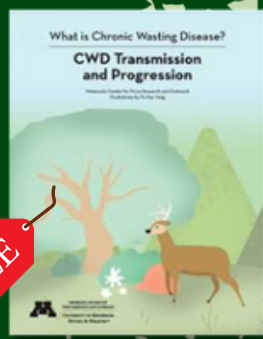




Researched &  
Assembled by  
Indigenous students  
@ Sherwood Park

# YOUTH COLUMN

## THE UNDEAD DEER



### Q & A

**Q:** What is CWD?

**A:** Chronic Wasting Disease

**Q:** Can humans catch CWD?

**A:** *The hasn't been any reported cases... yet!*

**Q:** Can we still eat the meat from animals that test positive with CWD?

**A:** *No, it's not recommended.*

- Thinness
- Stumbling
- lethargic
- eating less
- lacking the fear of people
- Isolated from herd
- always fatal



**Drooling,  
Droopy head  
& ears**



- [BC Conservation officer](#)
- [CWD-Province of BC](#)
- [BC Centre for disease control](#)
- [BC Wildlife Federation](#)



# ZOMBIE

Deer in British Columbia



# YOUTH COLUMN

Assembled by Queen  
Mary Indigenous  
Literacy Students

## Oral Stories



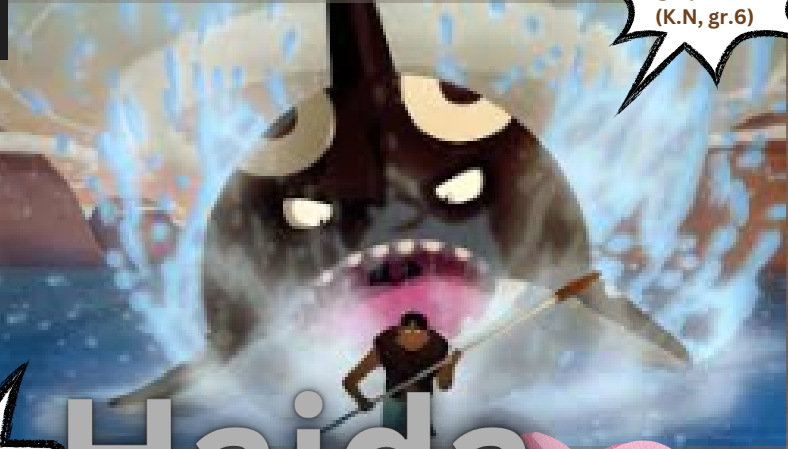
### The Mountain of Sganna

"I liked the  
graphics"  
(K.N, gr.6)

Does Raven  
have siblings?  
Has Raven met  
his Mother?

I learned that  
when you die,  
you go  
somewhere.

"I was surprised  
and curious about  
raven's mother,  
Mouse woman?"



I learned that its  
not ok to harm  
killers whales.

**Dr. Joanne Archibald**  
reminds us that stories  
are there to help teach  
us become the best  
human being.

## Reciprocity

The act of giving back or paying it forward

Mouse woman is a  
helper or advisor In  
a Haida spiritual  
world. She  
embodies **holism**  
through the heart,  
body, mind & spirit.

## Respect

The action of being kind and nice to all living  
and non living



kalkalilh

The kids had to  
become  
**responsible** for  
themselves and the  
other kids

The two sister are a  
reminder of the  
importance of  
peace and **respect**

## Responsibility

The action of doing what is right & expected  
of you. Its about making good choices &  
taking accountability.



Two Sisters

# Skwxwú7mesh





# YOUTH COLUMN

## Oral Stories

## Reverence

The Act of showing deep respect



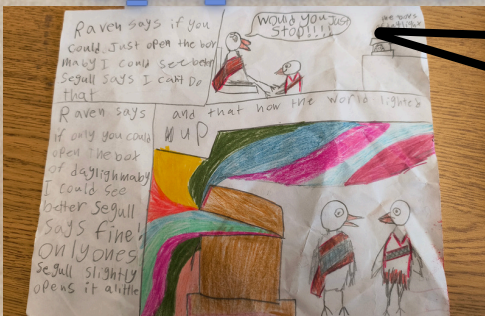
Raven reminds us that transformation is important to growing.

It's important to learn about creation stories because it teaches us about where our families come from.

Talhtan: Raven's creation story



MOA museum of Vancouver Skwxwú7mesh



Comic by S.C. (Grade 4)

Raven was creative in trying new ideas to open the box of light. He showed us that the Squamish & Talhtan story are **connected** and have similar teachings. All living and non-living are relational and interdependent, not separate beings.

So we are practicing **reciprocity** for sharing the stories for the next 7 generations.

## Holism

Thinking about all things as a whole

## Inter-relatedness

Things that are connected and influence each other


In Raven tales, the **synergy** between Coyote, Frog and Todd work together to trick Raven into helping Coyote transform his physical appearance.



## Synergy

When two or more things or ideas work together and create something better than they could alone.

We learned not to be selfish like Raven. We can show **reverence** by listening to our elders.

Available on 





# Resource: Minecraft Education



Educational guide and Technical guide are provided

Explore the rich histories and vibrant cultures of Indigenous peoples through three immersive Minecraft Education experiences, created by Logics Academy.

These unique learning adventures invite students to step into the worlds of the Bloodvein River First Nation, the kwikwəłəm (Kwkwetlem) First Nation, and Michif Minecraft, a Métis inspired world developed in partnership with Rupertsland Institute.

Each journey offers an authentic, interactive exploration of Indigenous landscapes, traditions, and heritage, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of these diverse cultures through the power of play and creativity in Minecraft Education.



# Resource: Their Voices Will Guide Us

The National Inquiry's Final Report includes [231 calls to action](#).

Answer the call: Calls for Educators: 11.1

We call upon all elementary, secondary, and post-secondary institutions and education authorities to educate and provide awareness to the public about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people, and about the issues and root causes of violence they experience.

All curriculum development and programming should be done in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, especially Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

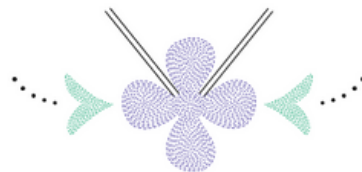
Such education and awareness must include historical and current truths about the genocide against Indigenous Peoples through state laws, policies, and colonial practices.

It should include, but not be limited to, teaching Indigenous history, law, and practices from Indigenous perspectives and the use of [Their Voices Will Guide Us](#) (Resource for K-12) with children and youth.

*Their Voices*  
**Will Guide Us**

STUDENT AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT GUIDE

National Inquiry into  
Missing and Murdered  
Indigenous Women and Girls



Enquête nationale sur  
les femmes et les filles autochtones  
disparues et assassinées

The Resource [Their Voices Will Guide Us](#) includes books lists, lesson ideas and themes to explore - such as these examples for younger years

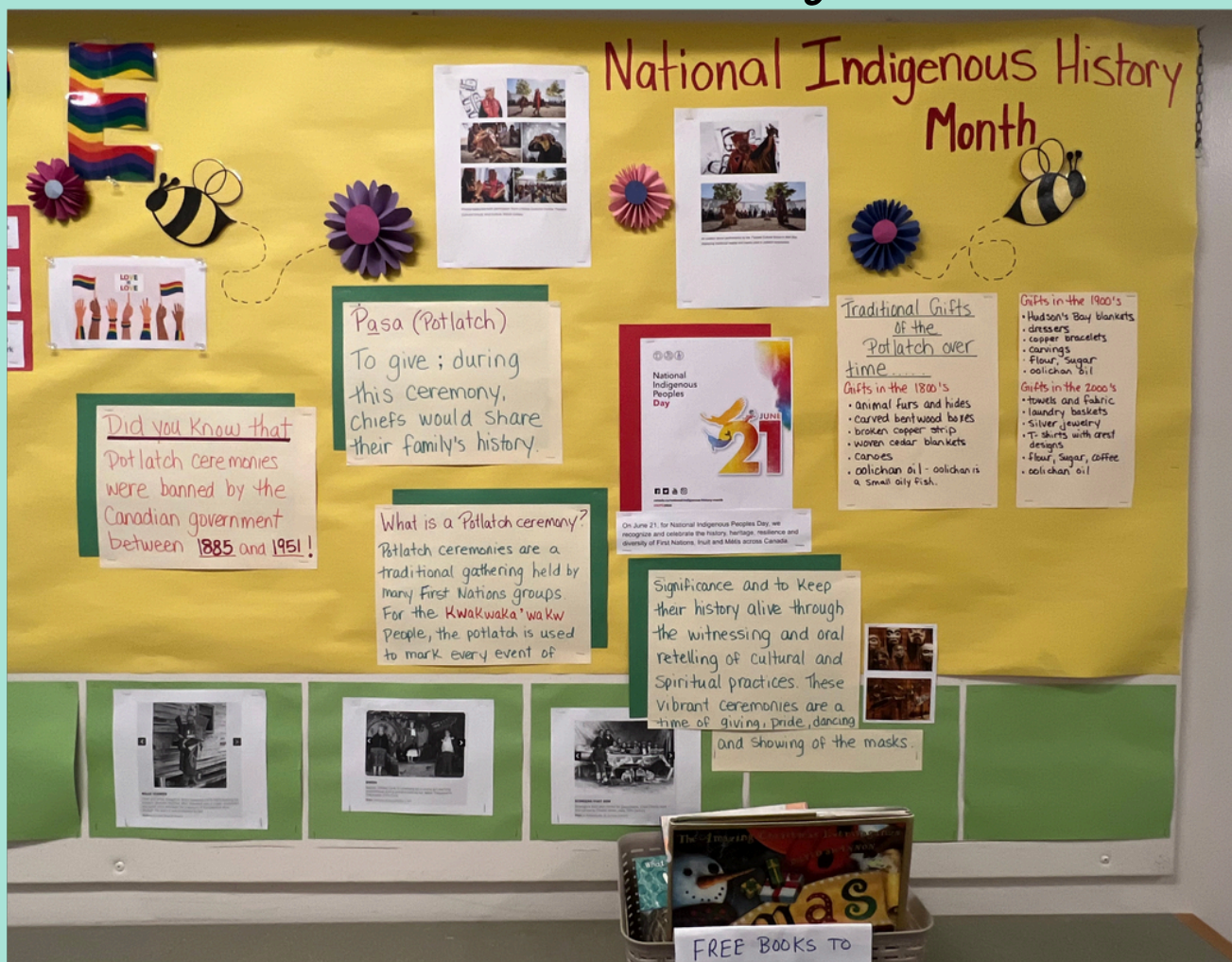
- importance of family and community
- kinship names in Indigenous languages especially for women and girls
- interconnectedness
- identity
- respect for self and others
- role of women and girls in family and in the community
- role of men and boys in family and in the community
- role of two-spirit people in family and in the community
- impacts of devaluation of women, girls and children
- safety of girls
- seven generation teaching
- seven sacred teachings



# Resources: Kwakwaka'wakw/Ligwilda'xw

Did you know that there are **203** Indigenous communities in British Columbia. It is impossible to know each one of these communities, even from an Indigenous perspective. I can see how it can be challenging for many trying to find credible sources to support personal and classroom learning. I have compiled a short list of books, films, links and generic information on one of BC coastal nation. For access to *authentic Kwakwaka'wakw & Ligwilda'xw K-12+ Resources* please follow this [link](#).

*Sincerely, B. Price*



*Sherwood Park Elementary Library Bulletin Board, June 2024*



# Resource: Indigenous Representation



Sonja Nahanee creates Coast Salish woven regalia for Barbie Dolls

## Dolls and Indigenous Regalia

### Sharing Knowledge

Sonja Nahanee, North Van District ISW and amazing weaver shows her work, "Here is something I have been working on for the last month. I wanted a physical representation of the regalia we would use pre-contact. The woven full dress is more contemporary and modern. This will be a great teaching tool for the children."



### Reflection

How is it different, engaging with regalia on a doll versus regalia at a museum?



### Join the conversation

Indigenous perspective on Indigenous representation with Barbie, the dolls, the franchise and the movie.



# Resource: Can Core Film Collection

Canada's largest collection of Indigenous Studies videos plus over 21,000 titles correlated to all areas of the K-12 curriculum!



Fully bilingual streaming platform  
Create and save playlists for teaching and student use  
NEW content added weekly



Can-Core can be accessed on the school internet simply by going to [can-core.ca](http://can-core.ca).

Can-Core can be accessed from home by logging in with the following shared account:

User Name: **sd44guest** Password: **LionsGate**

Additional help resources are available here:

Help - Canadian Core Curriculum On-Demand - [www.can-core.ca](http://www.can-core.ca)



## Helpful Protocols: Song Sharing

### Protocols for Song Sharing

When it comes to sharing songs that belong to Indigenous peoples, they must follow sharing protocol. It's our responsibility to say the following information very clearly before sharing Indigenous songs:

- Who composed the song?
- Who/which family does the song belong to, including their Nation?
- Do you have permissions for sharing in their song? Who gave you permission?
- Context for singing this song - the song's history or story is explained
- Are the circumstances for bringing out the specific song met? (ex. family and/or elders present, honorariums, etc)



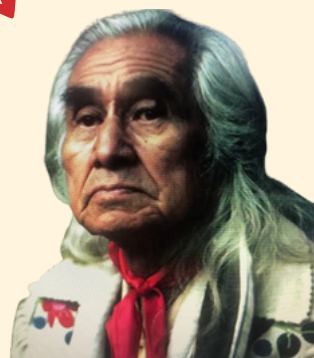
Prayer Song

### Terminology matters: Gifted vs. Shared

The word 'gifted' implies an exchange of ownership. To be gifted a song implies that you are now the rights holders to the song and are in charge of its use and protection. Typically, this honour is reserved for family members of the composer.

The word 'shared' is more appropriate in the case of Chief Dan George's *Prayer Song*. This song's use and protection does and will continue to reside with the George Family.

We are grateful to the George Family, as they share *The Prayer Song* with us.



### Changing/Altering the song

Making changes or altering an Indigenous song without consent is a form of cultural appropriation. Songs reflect a part of Indigenous oral history. We know who we are because our history and culture is passed down exactly as it always has for generations.