# Indigenous Education &

North Vancouver School District





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.

## What's happening

## In Honour of Truth & Reconciliation Day



Windsor students
had an opportunity to
paint rocks to honour
Truth &
Reconciliation







### **Table of Contents**

#### What's happening

• TRC Day

#### Announcements

- Upcoming Days of Significance:
  - -Mi'kmaq Hisorty Month
  - -Treaty Day
  - -Sisters in Spirit
- -Indigenous Veterans Day
- -VIFW

#### **Entertainment**

-Films

#### **Editorial Reflection**

 Indigenous Sense of Time: part 4

#### **Youth Column**

-Jackie & Shadow

#### **Resources**

• Books/Film

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

Indigenous Education: October 2025

# What's happening: Orange Shirt Messages



Orange Shirt Project pieces by North Vancouver students on display at the MONOVA







Queen Mary Elementary Orange Shirt project









Indigenous Education: October 2025

# What's happening: Sutherland Secondary's Decolonization Challenge

Teachers in all subject areas were encouraged to privilege Indigenous voices in their content areas. The English classes repurposed old out of date textbooks with colonial/ outdated language.

Their task was decolonize the textbook pages. The classes that won as the strongest allies were chosen by the Indigenous "Hands on the Land" club.

It was Veis Dolkhani's senior art classes.

They created an amazing textile piece of art.



"In Unity We Gather, Mending the Threads of Reconciliation: This multimedia installation features a stark black backdrop with a prominent grid in the foreground, composed of numerous artistically crafted components employing traditional Indigenous crafts such as beading, textile dying, knitting, crocheting and quilling, alongside contemporary techniques like painting and image transfer. Within the installation, there are 94 individual items—either integrated into the grid, hanging, or positioned in the foreground—that symbolize the 94 Calls to Action. The empty fragments—black holes—serve as compelling metaphors for the loss of language, culture, and identity experienced by Indigenous communities as a consequence of systemic colonial violence and residential schooling. Objects hang loosely within the space, functioning as evocative memorials to children who perished while attending residential schools, their memory resonating throughout the work.

This project is a collective and collaborative endeavour involving over 70 senior students, art club members, and art service students, exemplifying the principles of collectivism intrinsic to Indigenous cultural philosophies. The process of acknowledging Indigenous histories, conducting research, and engaging in creative practice constitutes a deliberate act of recuperation—a step toward truth and reconciliation. Through reflection and cultural expression, students demonstrate a shared commitment to understanding, respect, and restorative justice.

The fusion of Indigenous traditional art forms—such as textile dying, knitting, crocheting, beading, and quilling—with contemporary visual practices reflects Indigenous resilience, storytelling, and ongoing innovation, emphasizing a continuity of cultural expression. The installation fosters a dialogue between past and present, highlighting the enduring strength of Indigenous identity and the urgency of truth and reconciliation.

The gaps between the components are powerful visual symbols of the profound loss of cultural knowledge, language, and collective identity endured by Indigenous peoples. These fractures embody the lasting trauma inflicted by colonial policies and residential schools, confronting viewers with tangible evidence of systemic injustices. Recognizing these voids invites a critical engagement with painful truths, fostering somber acknowledgment of the ongoing impacts of marginalization. In this way, the installation advocates for a healing process rooted in honest dialogue, respect, and sustained effort toward collective reconciliation.



# Announcements

### Upcoming Days of Significance of 2025

- Oct 1st -30th- Mi'kmaq History Month
- · Oct 1 st Treaty Day
- Oct 4<sup>th</sup> Sister in Spirit Day National Day of Action for MMIWG2S
- Nov 8<sup>th</sup>- Indigenous Veterans Day
- Nov 19th -22nd- Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week





## Mi'kmaq History Month

**Mi'kmaq History Month** is an annual celebration held every October in Nova Scotia (and recognized in parts of Atlantic Canada) to promote public awareness, education, and appreciation of Mi'kmaq culture, history, and heritage.



- When: Every October (since 1993)
- Where: Primarily in Nova Scotia, but also acknowledged in other parts of Mi'kma'ki (the traditional Mi'kmaq territory)
- Why: To honour the Mi'kmaq Nation and promote understanding of their contributions, traditions, and treaty rights.
- Launched by: Nova
   Scotia Premier John
   Savage and Mi'kmaq
   Grand Chief Ben Sylliboy
   in 1993

## October 1<sup>st</sup>: Treaty Day

Treaty Day, observed on **October 1st** in Nova Scotia, marks the beginning of Mi'kmaq History Month and celebrates the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed between the Mi'kmaq and the British Crown in the 1700s. These treaties, which did not involve land surrender, are meant to ensure ongoing peace, cooperation, and mutual respect. Treaty Day recognizes the Mi'kmaq as rights holders and helps promote awareness of their



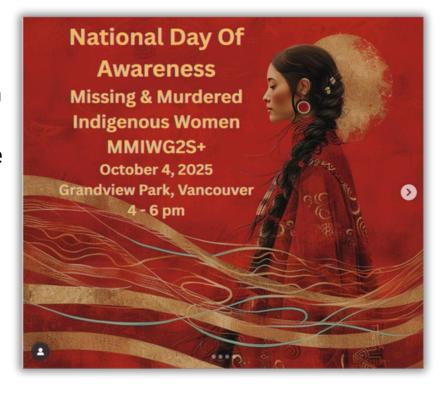
## October 4th: Sisters in Spirit Day

## National Day of Action for MMIWG2S, Sisters in Spirit Vigils

Association of Canada (NWAC)
through their Sisters in Spirit research
and advocacy initiative in the early
2000s. Aimed to bring attention to the
violence, gather data, and support
families.

Created by the **Native Women's** 



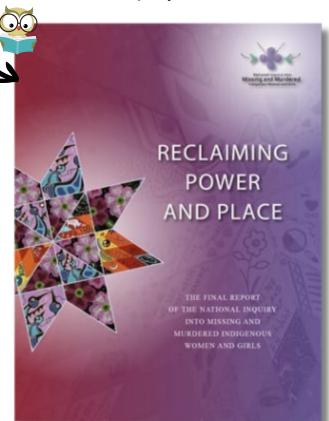


## October 4th: Sisters in Spirit Day

National Day of Action for MMIWG2S, Sisters in Spirit Vigils

**Optional Activities:** 

- Attend local vigil
- Moment of Silence
- Heart Messages Display
- Reading & Discussion Circles
- Research & Inquiry Projects
- Art/Expression Projects
- Guest Speaker from NWAC
- Digital Media/Film
- Action/Advocacy
- Library/Resource Display
- Read the Final Report of the National Inquiry MMIW



#SistersInSpiritDay #SISVigils #NotForgotten #MMIWG2S #MMIWG #MMIW

- Ensure learners understand why-offer brief context before silence
- Provide scaffolding
- Collaborate with local Indigenous community/Educators
- Be sensistive to trauma
- Provide grief councellors if necessary
- screen shorst clips
- Encourage connection to **Calls for Justice** from National Inquiry



#### **Important Pedagogical Considerations & Safety**

- Emotional/Trauma Sensitivity: Recognize that some students or staff may have personal or familial experiences connected to the topics. Provide space for reflection, debriefing, quiet zones, or counselling support.
- Use Indigenous-led Voices: Prioritize materials and voices from Indigenous women, families, scholars, and communities. Avoid using solely outsider perspectives.
- Consent & Respect: If students choose to research a specific individual, ensure their material is respectful, factual, and consider whether families have publicly shared about their loss.
- Pre-teach Difficult Concepts: Terms like "gender-based violence," "systemic racism," "colonization," "genocide," "Two-Spirit / 2SLGBTQIA+" may need careful introduction depending on age.
- Time for Processing: Build in time for students to reflect, journal, or talk in small groups about their emotional responses or questions.
- Community/Indigenous Partnership: Where possible, collaborate with local Indigenous organizations, Elders, or knowledge keepers for guidance, participation, or guest facilitation.
- Trigger Warnings / Safe Exit: Give students the option to step out or opt out of discussions or media exposure if they find content distressing.

# Announcements: Community Events



# Announcements: Community Events



When: Nov. 19th-22nd, 2025

Where: Queen Elizabeth Theatre

**Tickets**: \$35-80

# Annual VIFW

Vancouver Indigenous Fashion Week

Visit **vifw.ca** for more information and tickets



Not-Your-Average Tours:
Nuxalk Strong

When: 7:00pm Oct. 30th, 2025

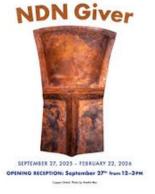
Where: UBC Museum of

**Anthropology** 

**Tickets:** Tour is free with

admission







# Entertainment



Justice in representation: Indigenous Peoples having power and control over how we are represented in media and our stories.

Things to look for: Indigenous cast, production crew, directors, script writers and authors, and the level of consultation and involvement with Nations.



Nothing about us without us















# **Editorial Reflection: Indigenous Sense of Time**



**Upcoming Topics:** 

Patience and Time



### First Peoples Principles of Learning

Assembled by the BC Ministry of Education and the First Nations Education Steering Committee in consultation with Indigenous elders, scholars, and knowledge keepers.

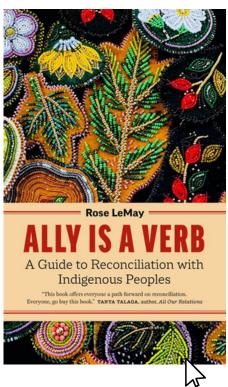
We're living in a fast-paced, high-production/ consumption society where failure is a fault, not a lesson.

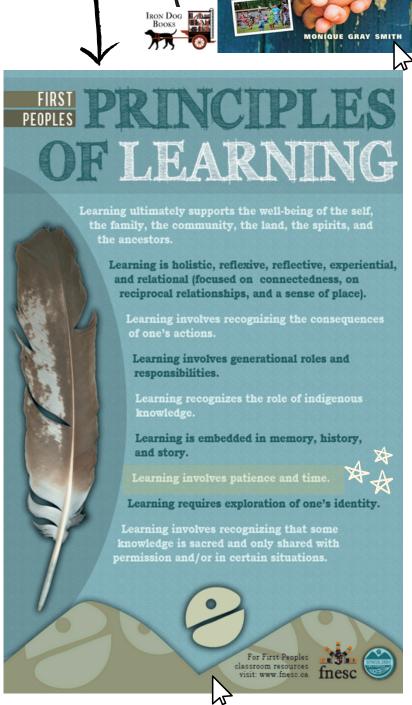
- SLOW DOWN.
- We tend to put value on how quickly we can accomplish things, yet learning with an Indigenous lens involves giving yourself time to pause and reflect.
- Everyone makes mistakes, have patience to see how these mistakes can be our guides.
- · Feeling overwhelmed and uncomfortable? Take the time to sit with those feelings. Work with them, these feelings can help guide you, if you let them.

#### It takes time

- The journey for Reconciliation isn't going to happen overnight. It will take the collective energy of everyone.
- Don't give up, keep going.
- We need you.







Researched & Assembled by Indigenous students @ Westview Skwxwú?mesh, bald eagle

# YOUTH COLUMN

**Students** 

<u> Shadow & Jackie Milestones</u>

Began observing live feeds mid-January. Is being prepared for Jackie & Shadow tag teaming for 3 years since last pip caring for the eggs həńgəmińəm bald eagle

JAN

Began laying eggs 1 eaglet passed away

due to snow storm

The eaglets have names. Gizmo self-feeds O Sunny & Gizmo

Incubation window

• Eaglet pipped Rule 101: Jackie **MAR** always incubates in bad weather

Hopping on branches Learning to fledge

**Plains Eagle Feather** Teachings

How Eagle got its sharp eyes pp.114-15

Fledging Window

Sunny fledged, June 2nd Gizmo fledged, June 7th FOBBY speculate the eaglets are both female Family is still together

June

STREAMING

THANK YOU! Friends of Big Bear Valley is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Friends of Big Bear Valley's goal is to maintain the unspoiled beauty and unique environment of this very special place. We protect and preserve our amazing natural surroundings through environmental education and advocacy about its value and community benefit. The 15-mile long Big Bear Valley, with its beautiful lake, sits inside the San Bernardino National Forest in Southern California, specifically in the traditional homelands of the Yuhaaviatam of San Manuel Nation.

