

Indigenous Education

North Vancouver School District

December 3-7, 2018

Tem t'ikw: The Cold Time

Did you know.... that the winter season was a time for winter celebrations and feasting? Locally these celebrations included Spirit Dances and the Potlatch. (language and teachings from Norman Guererrero, Jr.)

The Potlatch

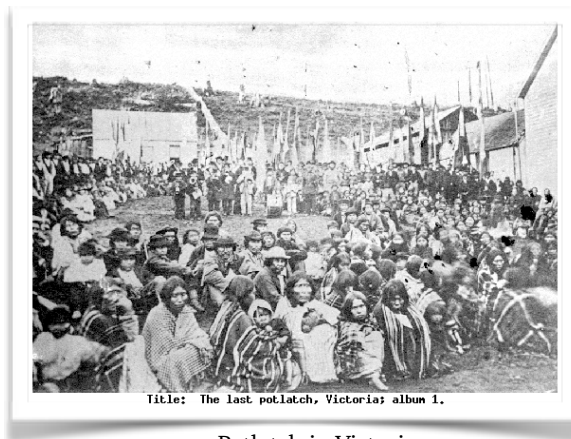
Did you knowthe word potlatch is Chinook and means to give? Potlatches were (are) significant ceremonial occasions that were held in the winter months when food and resources were abundant having been gathered and preserved during the rest of the year. Potlatches were significant social, political, economic and ceremonial foundations of a community and culture. Potlatches included a feast and distribution of gifts.

Did you know.....

The Federal Government of Canada outlawed the Potlatch in 1885. The Potlatch Ban was a government policy designed to force assimilation by preventing Indigenous Communities from participating in the Potlatch. The Indian Act was later amended to include the Sundance and other ceremonies across Canada. The Potlatch ban remained in effect until 1951. Find out more about the Potlatch and the Potlatch ban at the following sites: [Bill Reid SFU](#), [Nuxalk](#), [Potlatch Ban](#)



Squamish Potlatch 1954



Potlatch in Victoria

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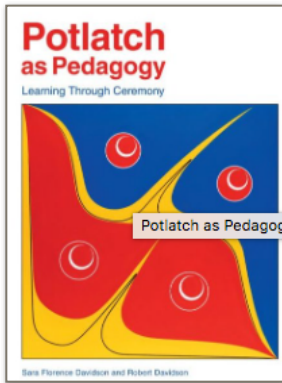
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Core Competencies

Core Competencies with Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Métis connections can be found [here](#).

“Every Indian or other person who engages in or assists in celebrating the Indian festival known as the "Potlatch" or in the Indian dance known as the "Tamanawas" is guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall be liable to imprisonment ... and any Indian or other person who encourages ... an Indian or Indians to get up such a festival or dance, or to celebrate the same, ... is guilty of a like offense ...” The Indian Act



Potlatch as Pedagogy

NVSD staff had the opportunity to attend the book launch of *Potlatch as Pedagogy: Learning Through Ceremony*, at UBC on November 20, 2018. Sarah Davidson and her father, artist Robert Davidson shared how the Haida culture and specifically that of the Potlatch, can be part of educational practices through nine principles. The nine principles “form a foundation of learning and teaching: strong relationships, authentic experiences; curiosity; observation, contribution; recognizing and encouraging strengths; honouring the power of the mind; Indigenous history and stories remembered; as well as spirituality and protocol” Joanne Archibald, forward to *Potlatch as Pedagogy: Learning Through Ceremony*.

Student Profile of the Week

Name: Raven Caron

Nation: Ojibwe Nation

School: Seycove Secondary

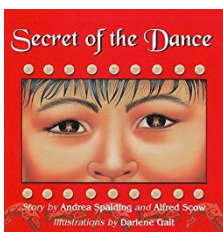
Raven is such a bright light for Seycove Secondary School with his enthusiastic willingness to be a leader for our school. We can always count on Raven to whip up a meaningful speech or thought provoking poem to read out at our assemblies. He did an exceptional job during the Orange Shirt Day assembly when he told of the impact of the Residential School experience on his own ancestors.

In Raven's spare time, he loves 3D modeling and printing and from that, he loves tweaking and modifying his custom built 3D printer! Raven loves listening to music; specifically, high fidelity audio. It is a true highlight to see (and hear) Raven singing with the Seycove choir! Raven loves learning and researching about everything, every chance he can get. He loves coffee and gets to enjoy it often at his job at a local Café where he has worked for the past three years. He plays soccer on both the Seycove school team as well as on his club team. Raven epitomizes the Seycove C.L.A.S.S. acronym (Consideration, Leadership, Achievement, Sportsmanship and Scholarship). Well done Raven!



Resources

Here are some resources about the Potlatch to share with your students



Secret of the Dance

Alfred Scow Andrea Spalding



A Kwakwaka'wakw Potlatch

by Sally Williams

FNESC Upcoming workshops

Check out some upcoming workshops from the First Nations Education Steering Committee. Sign up fast as they usually sell out! To register and for more information click [FNESC WORKSHOPS](#)

January 18, 2019: Integrating First Peoples Content and Principles of Learning into Schools and Classrooms:

January 28, 2019: English First Peoples Teacher Resource Guide

Upcoming Events

December 6, 2018. Dinner and Dialogue: The Pass System: 5:30-7:00pm. The Indigenous Education team will be showing the film, *The Pass System*. This documentary by Alex Williams investigates the use of the Pass System to prevent Indigenous Peoples from leaving reserves to maintain social and economic inequalities. *Email confirmation of attendance to abed@sd44.ca. Film viewing will be in the Carson Theatre*

If your school has a success story to share please email Brad Baker at bbaker@sd44.ca

References

Victoria: The Last Potlatch <https://meetmythamerica.wordpress.com/2014/01/13/lifestyles-of-the-potlatched-and-famous/>

Squamish Potlatch 1954 <http://collections.musee-mccord.qc.ca/fr/collection/artefacts/950?Lang=2&accessnumber=950>

Indian Act quote <https://www.ictinc.ca/the-potlatch-ban-abolishment-of-first-nations-ceremonies>