

Indigenous Education

North Vancouver School District

April 8-12th, 2019

Indigenous Literature Book Clubs



Several different locations are hosting book clubs that feature Indigenous Literature. Boundary and Ridgeway are currently reading *Seven Fallen Feathers* by Tanya Talaga. Are you thinking of hosting a book club at your location that features Indigenous Literature? The NVSD Indigenous Education team is available to support you with this and ensure that an Indigenous voice is at the table.

Reflections on *Seven Fallen Feathers* by Chris Atkinson

Seven Fallen Feathers by Tanya Talaga is a powerful account of seven Indigenous youth from the Nishnawbe Aski Nation who move to Thunder Bay, Ontario to attend school and are subsequently found dead under suspicious circumstances. With profound empathy, Talaga humanizes each youth and their tragic stories of leaving their families in remote areas of Northern Ontario and eventually dying alone in Thunder Bay. The stories are so moving that it would be difficult for anyone who reads this book not to be concerned about the past and present treatment of Indigenous people in Canada.

Talaga also shines an unsettling light on the racism in the Thunder Bay community and specifically, the Thunder Bay Police Department. She illustrates the incomprehensible actions of the TBPD in concluding the cases without sufficient investigation and stating that there was no foul play in each of these deaths. Many people in all levels of the TBPD appear to have accepted a pattern of indifference at best, and active racism at worst toward Indigenous people. Unbelievably, this story is still going on.

Tragic and unjust events are only tolerable when the victims can be depersonalized or distanced either physically or emotionally. For too long, it has been too easy for settler Canadians to dismiss the horrible outcomes for Indigenous people as somehow a product of their own creation. This book has begun to change that narrative. *Seven Fallen Feathers* is an important book that every Canadian should read.

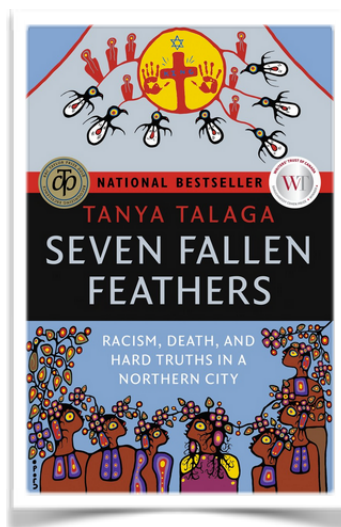


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[NVSD Indigenous Education Team Request Form](#)
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Core Competencies

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

Student Profile

Name: Isabel DeRoy (Windigokan)

Nation: Tr’ondek Hwech’in, Lake Manitoba and Ebb & Flow First Nation

School: Seycove Secondary

As a grade 8 at Seycove, Isabel’s leadership and public speaking skills have really shone. Most grade 8s are a bit timid to deliver whole school assemblies, but not Isabel. At the Orange Shirt Day assembly, Isabel stood in front of 600 of her peers and shared her grandparents experiences on how they needed to enfranchise in order to avoid the residential school experience. This confident student is proud of her Annishnabe and Tr’ondek Hwech’in roots and shares her ancestral heritage with great honour. Her Indigenous name, “Windigokan” means “backwards spirit” or “the one to do things in a manner that is not the average.” Isabel is anything but average. She excels in all her academics and stands out in all that she gets involved in. She spends A LOT of time as a dancer at Driftwood Academy and loves to draw. Every year she helps with a Sundance at Lake Manitoba First Nation. She loves to travel and does it all the time with her family. Every year she takes family trips to Mexico or Europe! Seycove is certainly that much richer to have Isabel DeRoy as a student leader!



Student Opportunities

Design our New Logo!



The NVSD Indigenous Education team is looking for a new logo. Do you know a student artist who may be interested in designing the new logo? The new logo must represent Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Urban First Nations and Métis communities. The contest is open to students K-12 and the deadline for submissions is **April 15, 2019.**

Please have students submit their submission and a short paragraph about their designs to abed@sd44.ca.

2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL2019)

In honour and recognition that 2019 is *International Year of Indigenous Languages* we will feature an Indigenous Language resource each week. You can check out the IYIL2019 [website](#) to learn about events in your community and the goals of the UN International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Feature Resources of the Week: Nuu-chah-nulth (Nuučaan̓uł)

Did you know that Nuučaan̓uł means "all along the mountains and the sea"([reference](#)) and that there are fourteen nations that form the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations? The Nuu-chah-nulth Nations are located on Vancouver Island. The Nuu-chah-nulth language has different dialects and three of them are known as the Northern Nuučaan̓uł, Barkley and Central Nuučaan̓uł. To learn more about each of the fourteen nations check out this interactive [Nuu-chah-nulth Map](#)



Resources to Learn Nuu-chah-nulth

[Nuu-chah-nulth Lesson on the Natural World](#)

[Nuu-chah-nulth Lesson on Feelings](#)

[Ehattlesaht FirstVoices App](#)

[First Voices Nuu-chah-nulth](#)

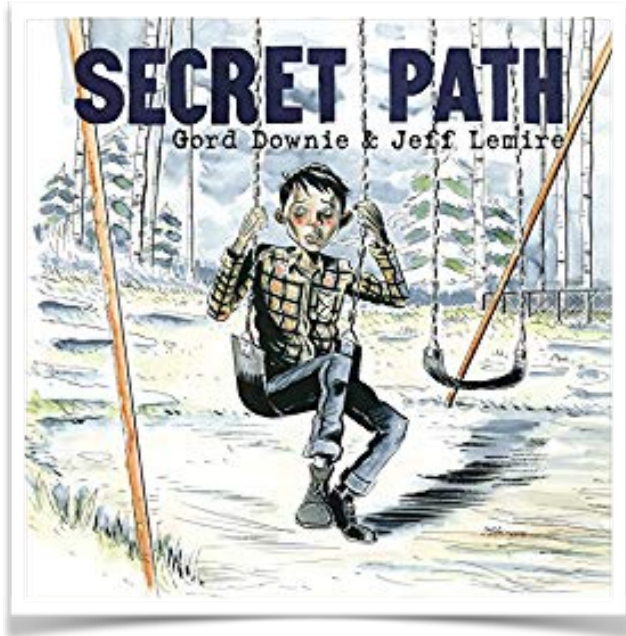
Read about Wawmeesh Hamilton's experience in reclaiming his language [here](#) and how Jane Jones is creating children's ebooks in Nuu-chah-nulth [Jones Ebooks](#)

Learning my language is an act of defiance. As a Hupačasath First Nation member I feel a duty to try to learn my language, any way I can. My language is important to me... because it's part of who I am, it's part of where I'm from. It's linked to my ancestors.
WAWMEESH HAMILTON

Nuu-chah-nulth carver Tim Paul and other Indigenous carvers will be carving a Language Revitalization Pole. You can read about the log that was chosen and watch Tim Paul talk about the process [here](#)

Upcoming Events and Workshops

Secret Path Screening




The North Vancouver School District Indigenous Education Team will be hosting a screening of *The Secret Path* at Centennial Theatre on April 29, 2019. Mike Downie and Pearl Wenjack will also be in attendance for the discussion following the film. ***Tickets are limited and they are free.*** Donations to the Downie Wenjack Foundation will be accepted at the the theatre.

Click [here](#) to obtain your tickets.

Indigenous Math K-12 Symposium.

UBC will be hosting the the 9th Annual Indigenous Math K-12 Symposium on May 14th, 2019. Click [here](#) for more information or to register for the symposium. Registration is open now.



9th Indigenous Math K-12 Symposium

M in STEM: Exploring Mathematics in All Kinds of Places

Tuesday May 14, 2019 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sty-Wet-Tan First Nations Longhouse, 1985 West Mall, UBC

Registration by May 10 | Registration fees: \$30 | tinyurl.com/9thIndigenousMathSymposium

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