

Indigenous Education

North Vancouver School District

December 15-20, 2019

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NVSD Indigenous

Education Team Request
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[Check out our new
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Did you know.....

BC is the first Province to require lawyers to study Indigenous issues, law and history. The Law Society of British Columbia announced on December 6, 2019 that it “has moved to require Indigenous cultural competency training for all practising lawyers in the province, in response to gaps in legal education that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission identified” [reference](#). Read more about this [here](#). Did you know....that the University of Victoria was the first university in the world to offer an Indigenous Law Program. The program began in September 2019 with 26 students.

"It is not just the relationship between one lawyer and one client," she explained. "It is the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the legal profession. When we are talking about the legal profession, we are talking about people who had had power over Indigenous peoples for much of history. Having historical knowledge and understanding of Indigenous laws will change the nature of that relationship and make it better."

Patricia Barkaskas, academic director of UBC's Indigenous Community Legal Clinic, [reference](#).

Read more about the Indigenous Law Program [here](#).

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.

Process and Protocol

The Indigenous Education team's offerings of Educating the Educator need to follow protocol for certain activities. In some instances, the traditional offering might include separation of events, or roles, by gender. For example, the "Shukwem" (spiritual cleansing bath) does not allow males and females to be together for the ceremony. Another example: when ceremony occurs that involve speakers, it is only males that are allowed to be the speakers according to protocol, and females are the floor managers. There are many other instances where there is a clear distinction. The Indigenous Education team works closely with knowledge keepers from the Squamish Nation and Tseil Waututh Nation to ensure that we are following protocol. If you have any questions regarding protocols in general or the specifics of any events, please do not hesitate to reach out to a team member.



This December, the NVSD Indigenous Education Team has been sharing teachings about "Shukwem" (spiritual cleansing bath). Watch the flyer or your email for opportunities to learn and participate



Shukwem is a tens of thousands of years process of cleansing oneself of any & all negative energy. Shukwem roughly translates to spiritual cleansing bath. The Coast Salish ancestors discovered that issues & problems arose in the community from individual & self negativity. So the Squamish created a community culture of removing negative thoughts, feelings & energy through multiple different facets. Brushing of with a cedar bough. Smudging with sacred plants, ho'oponopono cleaning thoughts and bathing in any fresh water. They learned that Shukwem at sunrise symbolizes spirits returning from their earth sleep back to the spirit world is a powerful cleansing moment. And at this time the spirits can give an extra hand in carrying away the harmful

energies. A bath can be done anytime. And depending on the purpose different waters represent different energies. Rapid waters for energy, ocean for power and still waters for calm feelings. And the reason we do this is because we would not dare ever to bring in any negative feeling into our communities because the ancestors realized that 1oz. of negative energy was always going to affect the entire circle. (words and teachings from Swalklanexw, Dallas Guss)



Carson FOS Bookclub

On December 3, 2019 the Carson FOS Bookclub came together for a session of Circle in the Box facilitated by Swalklanexw, Dallas Guss. Those in attendance participated in an experiential exercise which is based in oral tradition in order to illustrate the family systems and relationship that form community. Dallas will share how this is different from Western systems. If you would like to learn more about “Circle in Box” or to request this at your location please fill out the NVSD Indigenous Education request form.



Tragically Hip in Cree

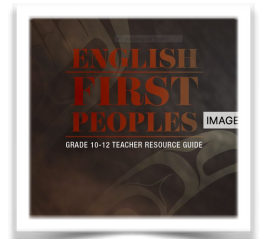
A Tragically Hip Tribute Band, the Poets, from the Moose Cree First Nation has been translating Tragically Hip Songs into Cree.

Read more and listen to an interview with the Poets [here](#).

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) Workshops

Are you interested in a workshop on English First Peoples 10-12 or Science First Peoples (5-9 and Secondary)?

English First Peoples 10, 11 and 12 (EFP 10-12) Teacher Resource Guide. Click [here](#) to register for a **January 17, 2020 workshop**. **Science First Peoples** (Gr. 5-9 and Secondary) Please click [here](#) to register for Science First Peoples (Gr 5-9) on **January 31, 2020**. The cost is \$30 for either workshop. There will be other workshops offered in 2020 as well. Click [here](#) to see the dates/locations. Scroll to bottom of the page.



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.

UBC Indigenous Math K-12 Symposium

Save the Date:

The UBC Indigenous Math K-12 Symposium will be Tuesday May 12, 2020. Registration will open mid March. Watch the flyer for registration links.

