

# Indigenous Education

North Vancouver School District



## Turtle Island



By NVSD Indigenous Literacy students



## What's happening

### Indigenous Students Writing Counter Stories.

With the help of Brandi Price, Indigenous Literacy Teacher, students at Queen Mary, Westview & Sherwood Park Elementary are working to decolonize their understanding of Canadian history by assembling a digital picture book showcasing an Indigenous perspective on this land we call Canada.

In their digital stories, students explain that the land we call Canada was known by some Indigenous people as Turtle Island. By telling the story of Turtle Island, students are centering Indigenous perspectives and highlighting how Indigenous people have lived on this land since time immemorial. A link of the completed digital book will be shared at a later date.



**COMING SOON**



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We would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nation and səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-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

## Skwxwú7mesh Sníchim Festival

**April 9th** at Queen Mary Elementary:

Elizabeth Nahanee, District Indigenous Support Worker, organized a session on April 9th for students to gain exposure to and learn Squamish language through games and activities led by some of our Skwxwú7mesh Indigenous students.



Ha7lh Skwayel

Huy Chexw a



# Announcements: Reel Canada Livestream Event

Wednesday April 17th, 2024

## Rctv: Honouring Truth and Reconciliation

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Rctv livestream: Honouring Truth and Reconciliation

Join us for a nationwide conversation reflecting on Canada's legacy of Indian Residential Schools and pathways towards reconciliation. This FREE livestream event will showcase the powerful short documentary, Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair, by legendary Abenaki filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin.



After watching the film, students will engage in a live, virtual Q&A discussion with our moderator and special guests, and students across the country. While watching the broadcast, youth will use our online platform to submit their questions for our special guests and participate in discussion boards, polls, chat, and more. As always, teachers will receive lesson plans and support resources geared specifically toward this event to enrich student learning.

This livestream is suitable for Grades 9-12, for both in-class or virtual learning. It's presented as part of our annual National Canadian Film Day on April 17th, at 9am. But even if the live date doesn't work for teachers' schedules, they can still watch an interactive recording afterwards. We will also be providing a French-subtitled recording of the livestream in the weeks following the event.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[CLICK HERE](#)

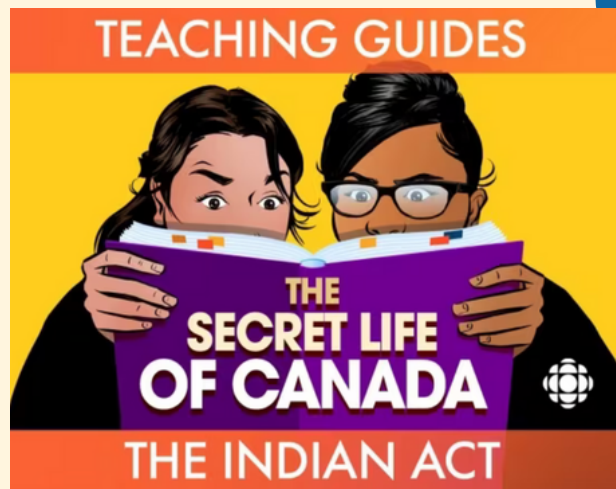
For any questions, more information, or want to preview the film, here's how to connect:

- email: [contactus@reelcanada.ca](mailto:contactus@reelcanada.ca)
- call at: 1-888-508-0881, ext. 229

# Announcements

## Upcoming Days of Significance of 2024

- April 1 - Residential Schools became mandatory (1920)
- April 2 - Frog Lake Incident (1885)
- April 12th - Indian Act Introduced (1876)
- April 19th - Potlatch and Tamanawas Banned (1884)
- April 19th - Creation of Residential Schools (1884)
- April 30th - T̓silhqot'in Incident (1864)

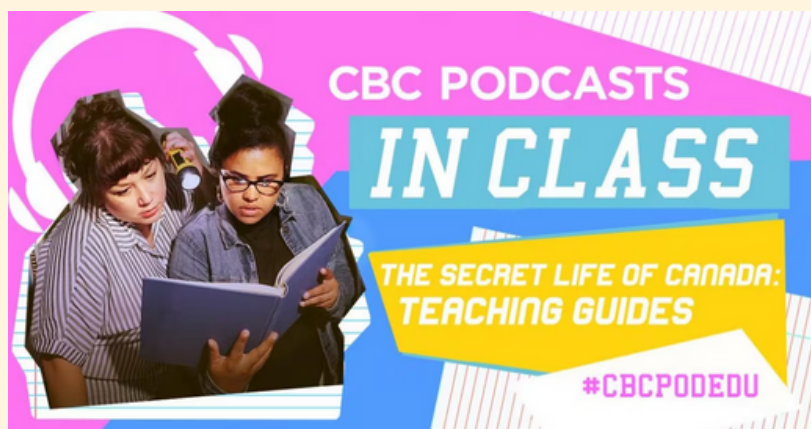


CLICK HERE

## Reviewing Historical Events in April - Introduction of the Indian Act

**CBC Podcasts -- TEACHING GUIDE: The Indian Act ([link](#))**  
Consider teaching about the Indian Act using podcasts

- [Lesson Plan](#)
- [Slideshow](#)
- [Ad-free audio for download](#)
- [Activity Sheets](#)
- [Episode transcript](#)
- Download: [Master Folder](#)

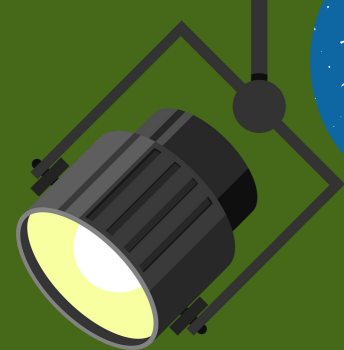


**It's about Hope: Ahtolimiye (She keeps praying) ([link](#))**

Emma Hassencahl-Perley, a Wolastoqew artist has made a jingle dress adorned with shreds of the Indian Act to honour the women from her community who fought to preserve their culture.



# Indigenous Education Staff Spotlight

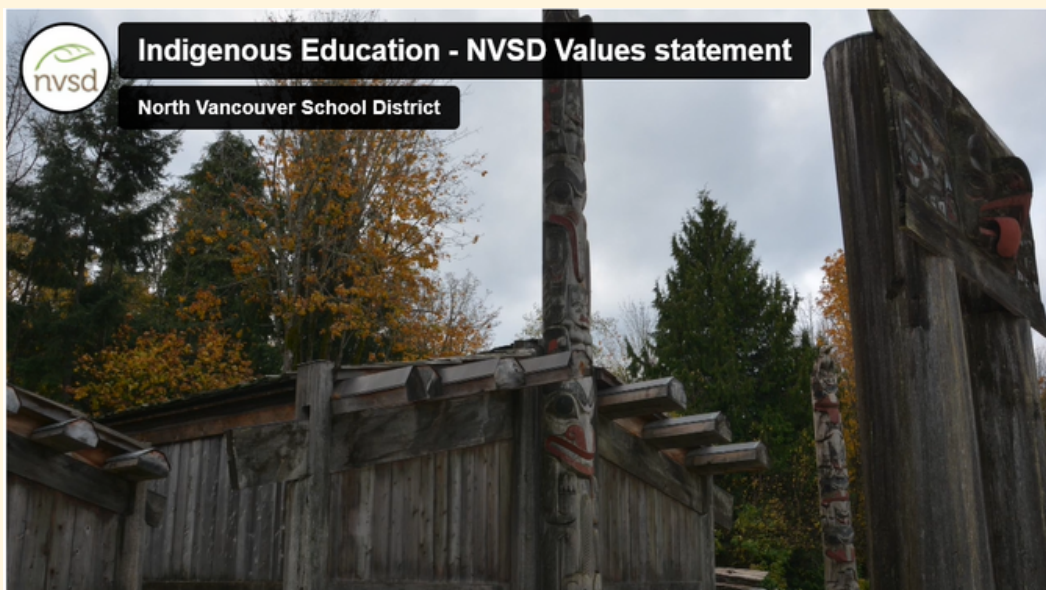
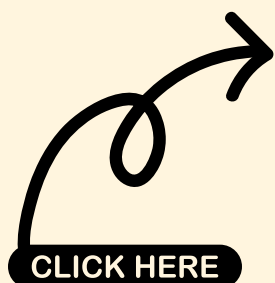
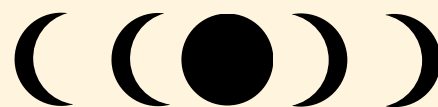


**Dallas Guss'** ancestral name is Swalklanexw, and he is a member of the Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh and Tseil-Waututh First Nations.

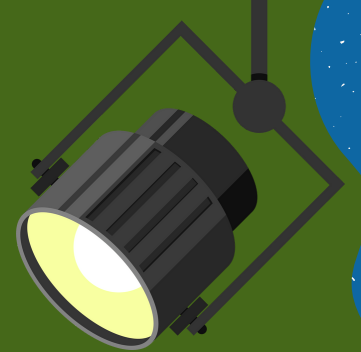
Dallas has worked in schools since 2016, supporting students and staff (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) create a path of truth and reconciliation in B.C.'s education system.

Through storytelling and activities, Dallas helps build awareness and understanding on how to create a safe, inclusive and comfortable path for Indigenous culture, outreach and support.

*Usiyem*



# Indigenous Education Staff Spotlight



Ha7lh Skwayel (good day),

I am Elizabeth Nahanee, your new Indigenous Support Worker here at Queen Mary! February 20th was my first official day and I will be at Queen Mary Monday through Friday going forward. I would like to take a few moments to introduce myself both professionally and personally as I feel it is important you all know who I am as an Indigenous person and what this role means to me.

I have had the privilege of working as an Indigenous Support Worker for the last six years. I started my career in the Abbotsford School District, and slowly made my way West, most recently with the Langley School District. It feels like a full-circle moment, now that I have made it back to the same district that I completed my high-school education.

I am honoured to be sitting among some of the staff that helped me throughout my educational journey, and it is in part, because of their support that I am in this position today.

I have not always known about the atrocities that my ancestors and grandparents had to endure, but I have always felt them. From there, grew the passion that I have towards Indigenous rights and education.

Growing up, my grandparents instilled it in all of us that our education was the most important thing. Little about culture was mentioned, and I often wondered why I was very seldom allowed to attend the cultural gatherings that I loved so dearly. Later on, I realized that my grandparents were only trying to protect me, they wanted me to be prepared for the hardships they knew I would come to face, and the only way they knew how to do that was through education.

Now a days, we understand that culture and education are equally as important. It is safe for me to be who I am, and still receive a good education. That is the same message I can only hope to share with the students that I get the pleasure of knowing for the remainder of the school year. A sense of belonging, a safe connection, and reflection of themselves.

Thank you all for taking the time to read my introduction, and for welcoming me with open arms,

*Huy Chexw a (thank you)*



**Elizabeth Nahanee**



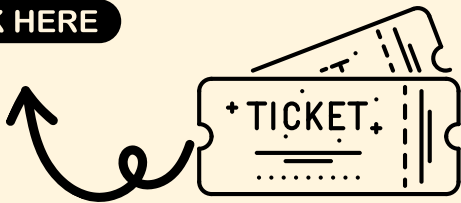
The Clutch

# Educational Resource: You used to call me Marie...

April 18-28th



CLICK HERE



## Indigenous Pricing

There are complimentary tickets available for self-identifying Indigenous patrons who wish to see *You used to call me Marie...* Contact [outreach@thecultch.com](mailto:outreach@thecultch.com) for more details and to book your seats

**"It articulated my family story and the story of so many of our families. It was perfect."**

- Christi Belcourt (Métis Visual Artist)

**By Tai Amy Grauman**

**A Savage Society (Vancouver) and NAC Indigenous Theatre production, 2024.**

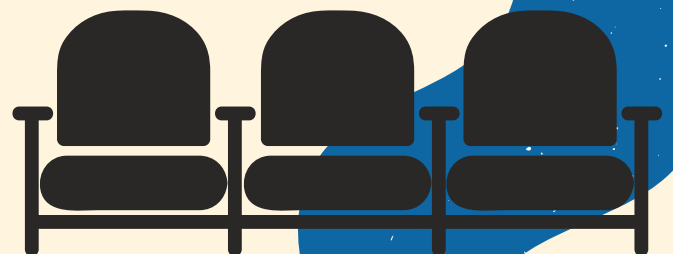
### An epic Métis love story.

A love story, a historical epic, and a celebration of Métis song and dance, *You used to call me Marie...* paints the stories of the Callihoo women in Alberta. Music plays, and ponies dance as the story of Marie Callihoo unfurls through generations and time. We follow Iskwewo, Napew, and Mistatim ('horse' in Michif) in eight intertwined stories of love and resilience as the Métis nation emerges across the plains. As we experience the love stories of Alberta's Métis women—through stories of the fur trade, governance, and organizing in the 1930s and into the present day—we witness generations of Callihoo women unfold.

Don't miss this beautiful new play, featuring era-spanning dance and live music, from French fiddle to contemporary country!

Links:

- The Clutch: [Website](#)
- Savage Society: [Website](#)
- Location: [York Theatre](#), Vancouver





# Educational Resource: Your Voice is Power



Contest submissions are **now** open for the 2023-24 contest, through **May 31, 2024**.

**YOUR VOICE IS POWER**

**REMIX BEATS. LEARN CODE.**

Ready to compete for awesome prizes while learning new skills and inspiring action towards social justice? Time to get creative, code, and put your entrepreneurial spirit to the test.

[WWW.YOURVOICEISPOWER.CA](http://WWW.YOURVOICEISPOWER.CA)

EarSketch

## WHAT YVIP IS

Your Voice is Power is a national competition for middle and high school students designed to teach the fundamentals of computer science, entrepreneurship, and social justice. Using the EarSketch platform, students get creative to remix songs from Indigenous artists and use what they have learned from the provided course outline.

## HOW IT WORKS

The Your Voice Is Power competition is an opportunity to remix beats while learning to code. Yes, code! Your students will use EarSketch, a free online code editor, to compose a unique song while learning computer science. No experience is necessary to participate. Students can also participate in the curriculum experience to develop an understanding of social justice themes to include in their song.

Links:

- [Website](#)
- [Teacher Checklist](#)
- [Teacher Training](#)
- [Course Module Overview](#)
- [Competition Requirements](#)



## BRING THIS TO MY CLASSROOM

Encourage your students' creativity by bringing together music, computer science, entrepreneurship, and social justice. Engage them with an immersive experience on a national scale.

## WIN PRIZES



### First Place

Two students will win \$5,000 to go towards college or to start a business.



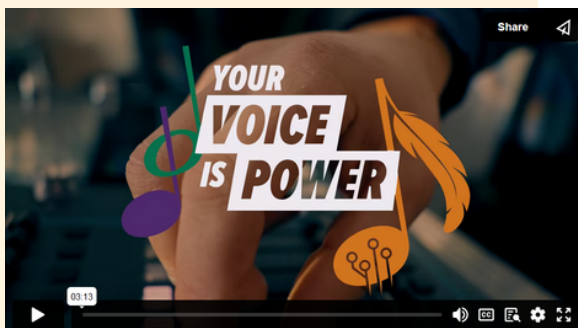
### Runners up

Runners up will win \$200 Amazon gift cards and \$25 for honourable mentions!



### Teachers

One excellent teacher will receive \$1,000 for their remarkable instruction.



[CLICK HERE](#)



# Métis Courses & Resources: including a Michif language course!

Métis Courses for Educators:  
(Click the links to learn more)

1. [Michif Language Introductory Course](#) - Early Bird Registration Open until **April 15th**
2. [Connecting to the Land, the Métis Way Summer Course](#) - Early Bird Registration Open



Métis Resources for Learners:

1. [Medicines to Help Us: Traditional Métis Plant Use](#)
2. [Metis 'Connecting to the Land' Children's Book Bundle](#)



With 100% of proceeds going back into outdoor learning non-profit initiatives, [The Outdoor Learning Store](#) is a charitable social enterprise grown in the homelands of the Secwepemc and Ktunaxa, and flourishing across Turtle Island (North America). We understand that Indigenous Knowledge and Perspectives are foundational to Outdoor Learning.