

# Indigenous Education

North Vancouver School District



Courtney Kessel shares knowledge at Upper Lynn Elementary.



Assembling a blend of medicines in leather pouches: Cedar, lavender, sweetgrass and sage.



## What's happening

Upper Lynn Elementary students participate in cultural learning.

- Grade 7 class making headbands using table top looms.
- Grade 3 class making medicine pouch necklaces



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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.

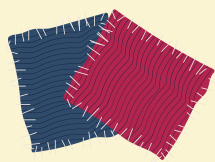
# Red Dress Initiatives Con't.



The beautiful memorial quilt hanging in the Windsor library window display is the work of Alison Lum, Toni Lazarova and their Textiles students from May 2023. It is a significant piece that honours Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people on May 5th, and every day, in an effort to bring awareness to this ongoing national tragedy.

-Lisa Ottenbreit

Textiles student, Malakai Dick, beside the memorial quilt that he collaboratively made in class.



## Queen Mary Elementary outings: **Grade 7 Transition to Carson Secondary**



On Tuesday, May 14th, grade 7 students from Queen Mary took a short walk to Carson for a lunch meet and greet with Indigenous staff, their grade 8 school counsellor and the Vice Principal. They took a short tour around the school and some were briefly connecting with their high school peers.

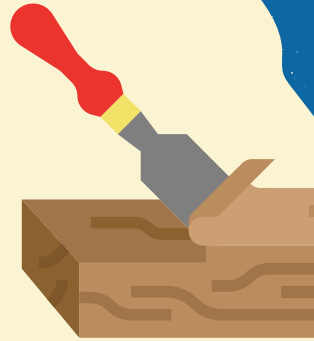


# Pole Carving - Refurbishing at Sutherland



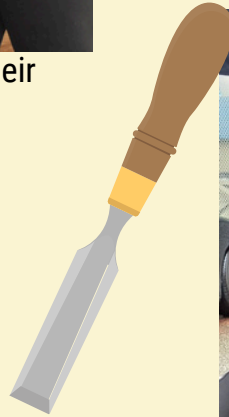
London Paulger and Thalia Newfield show off their carving skills, and answer some questions.

Led by Victor Harry and Josh Watts, students and staff at Sutherland had the opportunity to refurbish a pole, by adding their own hand prints.



## What does refurbishing this pole mean to you?

- It's respectful of culture
- It's really important for everyone to continue talking about culture, especially considering where we live



## Let's talk culture

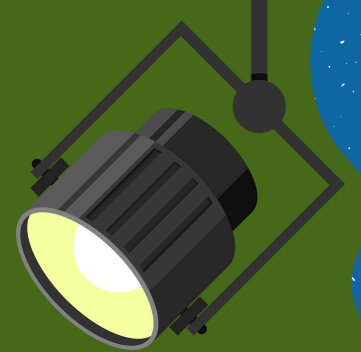
The front of the pole shows two figures. The figures on this pole represent the connection between parents and children, and teachers and students.



The Sea Wolf, a figure local to this area, represents the strong connections between a family. Learning is rooted in relationships.

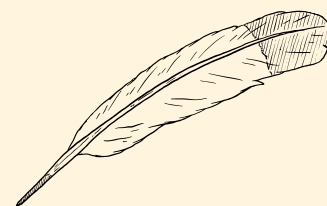
The frog represents the changing of the seasons. Time moves in a circular motion, and we all grow from learners to educators, and learners again.

# Indigenous Education Staff Spotlight



## Staff at Windsor Secondary

My great great great grandfather was Chief Ongpatonga (“Big Elk”) of the Omaha Nation from approximately 1810-1850. His daughter Meumbane (“Bright Sun”) was my great great grandmother. Meumbane’s granddaughter was my Grandma Grace who attended Haskell Institute, a residential school which is now Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Her daughter and my mother, Joyce, a professor emeritus, was the Director of American Indian projects at the University of Minnesota, Duluth where I did my Masters Degree. My Masters thesis focused on interviewing Omaha Elders about their ideas for representing Omaha history at an Omaha cultural centre. I currently have the privilege of teaching English First Peoples 11 and Indigenous Support at Windsor Secondary. It was a true honour to be blanketed with other NVSD teachers when the First Peoples requirement was introduced in our Province. I am committed to environmental sustainability and social justice. I live and play in Deep Cove with my husband Ryan, our son Kai, our daughter Sierra, and our dog Tanner. I value the opportunity to live and teach on the unceded traditional territory of the *səlilwətał Nation and the Skwxwú7mesh Nation*.



## Staff at Windsor Secondary

My name is Nancy Deminger and I have been an Indigenous Support Teacher (enrolling) at Windsor Secondary since 2000. I am now teaching 2nd generation students! It has been a highlight of my career having this class. I have learned so much from all my students. I am grateful for the trust and support that I have received from both the Tsleil-Waututh and Squamish Nations.

# Announcements

## Upcoming Days of Significance of 2024

- May 16th - Moose Hide Campaign Day
- May 21st- UNESCO World Day for Cultural Diversity
- May 25 (1993) - Nunavut Land Claims Agreement signed
- June 1-30th- Indigenous People's Month
- June 21st - National Indigenous Peoples Day



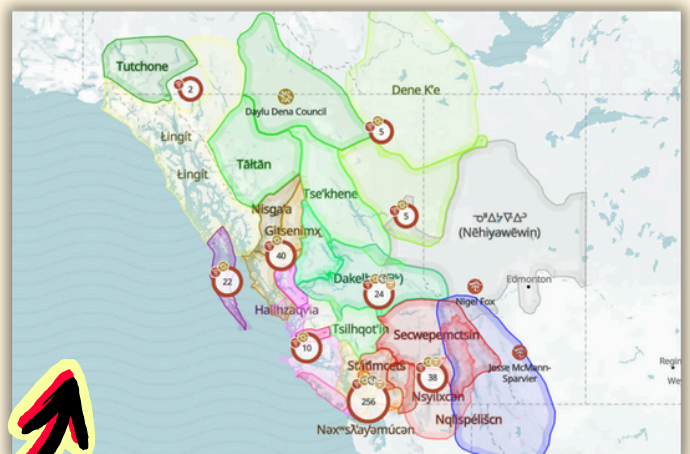
## UNESCO-World Day for Cultural Diversity May 21st, 2024



Since 2002, UNESCO leads the celebration of world's diverse cultures with the aim to enhance the cooperation among people who come from different cultural realities.



Did you know that there are over 70 Indigenous languages across Canada, with a majority of them in British Columbia. Click the map to explore more of the 204 distinct, culturally rich & linguistic diversity First Nation cultures in BC



# Announcements: Nunavut Land Claims Agreement

May 25th, 2024 marks the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.



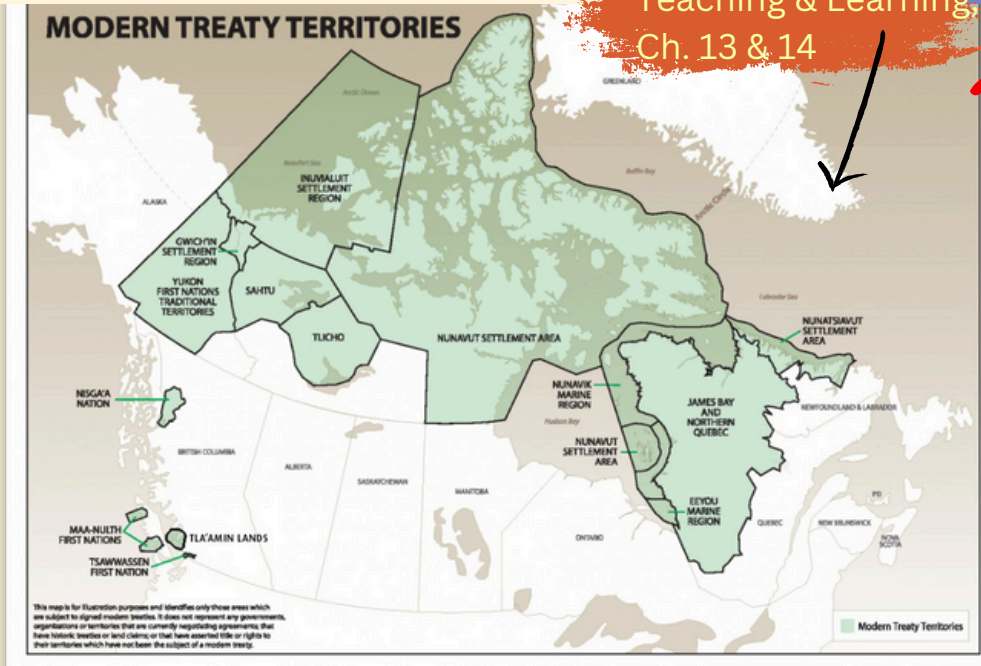
Teaching & Learning  
Ch. 13 & 14



CBC



**'It's high time': Nunavut officially takes over land, resource responsibilities from feds" Article**



*"The significance of the NCLA is this is the first time that a majority of Indigenous populations have been granted considerable self-government within a modern state".*



**The Creation of Nunavut - Welcome To Canadian Politics!**  
Nunavut is the largest and newest territory of Canada, located in the northernmost part of the country. Nunavut was officially created on April 1, 1999, when the Northwest Territories were divided into two territories...



Watch on YouTube **NEWS**

# Announcements: Hope and Health Community Camp



July 18th, 2024 -- 10:00 am to 3:00 pm



BC Place  
777 Pacific Blvd, Vancouver  
V6B 4Y8



**REGISTER  
NOW**



**EVERYONE AND ALL AGES WELCOME!**

**ALL participants will receive a jersey and soccer ball. Lunch and hydration provided.**

**The Hope and Health cleat table will be set up to pick out a new pair of cleats- on a first come, first select basis. We have a limited supply and a variety of sizes- so get there early to make the most of this opportunity!**

Held in partnership with BC Place and BC Soccer, Hope and Health is very excited to announce our 11th Annual Community Camp at BC Place.

Come join us for a day of incredible family and community fun and kicking it with UBC Thunderbirds, Hope and Health community coaches and other special friends such as the Vancouver Whitecaps FC, All My Relations Basketball, Golf Canada's First Tee, EA SPORTS and MORE!

The day will include: a traditional opening, cultural activities, crafts, bouncy castle, face painting and LOTS of opportunity to be active, build our soccer and sports skills - along with a champion's mindset!

Come as one, with your family or as a community!

**CLICK HERE**



Inquiries/Program Info:  
If you would like more information or require support through the registration process, please connect with:

Sabrina Anderson  
Coach, Provincial Coordinator  
e: [sabrina@hopeandhealth.org](mailto:sabrina@hopeandhealth.org)

# Resources: Moose Hide Campaign-May 16th



CLICK HERE 

MOOSE HIDE CAMPAIGN  
CAMPAGNE MOOSE HIDE

*Wear a moose hide pin on any day of the year to show your commitment to end violence against Indigenous women and children*



**Join the virtual keynote speaker:**

 REGISTER NOW

Raven  
Lacerte



## What Can You Do?

- Learn about the issue: Domestic violence against Indigenous women & girls
- In class discussion about the moose hide campaign
- Host a school neighbourhood walk
- Explore the free & accessible lesson plans



**ORDER NOW**

**Moose Hide Campaign®**  
The Moose Hide Campaign is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men and boys who are standing up against violence towards women and children.

Wearing this moose hide signifies your commitment to honour, respect, and protect the women and children in your life and to work together with other men and boys to end violence against women and children. Help spread the Moose Hide Campaign by sharing with your family, communities and organizations.

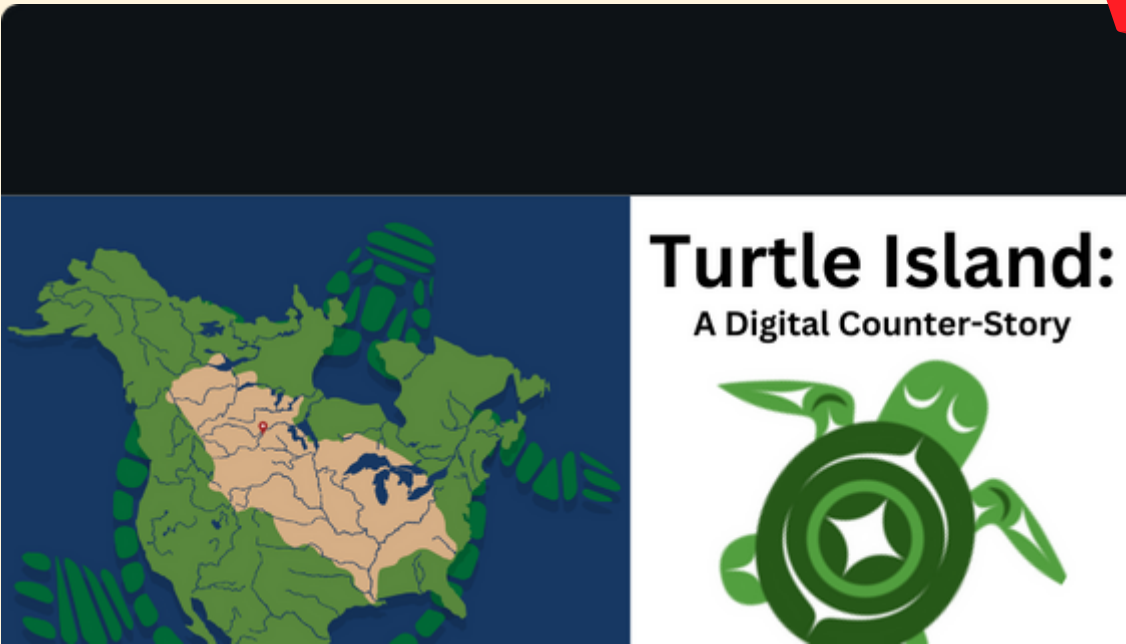
To order pins, pledge your support, register to fast or to donate visit us at: <https://moosehidecampaign.ca> or follow us on:

 @moosehidecampaign.ca  @moosehidecampaign.ca  @moose\_hide\_campaign

Moose Hide Campaign acknowledges the financial support of the Government of Canada



# Educational Resource: Turtle Island: A digital Counter Story



STORY  
SCAN ME 



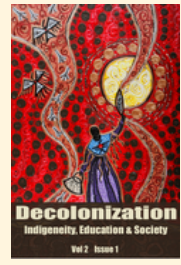
**“Stories in Indigenous epistemologies are disruptive, sustaining, knowledge producing, and theory-in-action” (Sium & Ritskes, p. II)**

**About Turtle Island digital story**

## Indigenous Counter Stories in Truth & Reconciliation Article

This article delves into the significance of Indigenous storytelling as a powerful tool for decolonization and resistance against Western norms. It emphasizes the transformative nature of storytelling, highlighting its role in reclaiming Indigenous identities and challenging colonial narratives. The authors stress the importance of engaging with these stories with honesty and openness, allowing them to inspire action and promote dialogue. Indigenous storytelling is portrayed as a form of ceremony that seeks to undo colonial influences and reimagine Indigenous experiences. The article underscores the complexity and richness of Indigenous storytelling, positioning it as a vital component of decolonization theory and Indigenous resurgence.

*Click Here*



Eric Ritskes, University of Toronto.

Aman Sium, University of Toronto.

**References:**  
Sium and Ritskes. (2013). Speaking truth to power: Indigenous storytelling as an act of living resistance. *Decolonization: Indigeneity, education & society*, 2(1) X-II.

# Educational Resource: Indigenous Earth Day



CLICK HERE

Francois Paulette talks climate change @ the 2015 Parliament



Innu writer Melissa Mollen Dupuis

Inuk author, Ashley Qilavaq-Savard



Click Here

## Everyday is Earth Day for Indigenous People Article

This two page article discusses the vital role of Indigenous Peoples and their knowledge in promoting planetary health. It emphasizes the historical and ongoing challenges faced by Indigenous communities, such as colonialism, racism, and marginalization, and how they are disproportionately affected by poverty and reduced life expectancy. Despite these challenges, Indigenous Peoples continue to protect and steward about 80% of Earth's remaining biodiversity. The article calls for the recognition and incorporation of Indigenous knowledge systems in climate change and health-related initiatives to ensure a holistic approach to planetary health. It also highlights the need for Indigenous leadership in shaping research, policy, and practice to address environmental issues effectively



### References:

Redvers, N., Warbrick, I., Kokunda, S. Porokwa, A., Taylor, J., Bingham. B. & Roth, G. (2024). Every day is Earth Day: Indigenous peoples and their knowledges for planetary health. In *The Lancet*. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(24\)00704-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(24)00704-9)

# Educational Resource: Reel Canada Recorded Event

## Rctv: Honouring Truth and Reconciliation

CLICK HERE

Couldn't make the livestream date? You can still watch an interactive recording any time afterwards.

## 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 recorded event will showcase the powerful short documentary, Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair, by legendary Abenaki filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin.



After watching the film, students engaged in a live, virtual Q&A discussion with our moderator and special guests, and students across the country. While watching the broadcast, youth used 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 recorded 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



# 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)

## WHAT YVIP IS

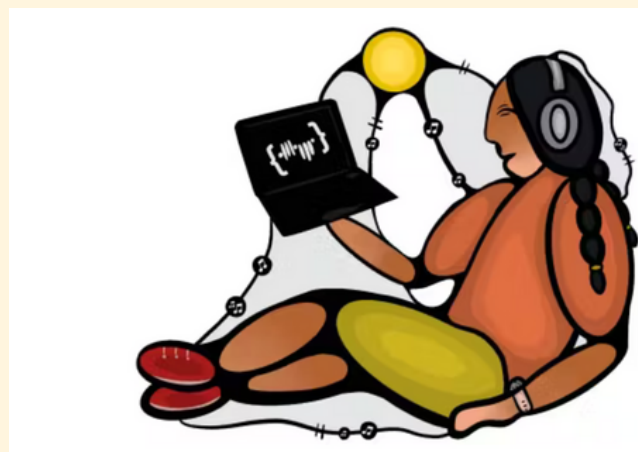
Your Voice is Power is a national competition for middle and high school students designed to teach the fundamentals of computer science, entrepreneurship, and social justice. Using the EarSketch platform, students get creative to remix songs from Indigenous artists and use what they have learned from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



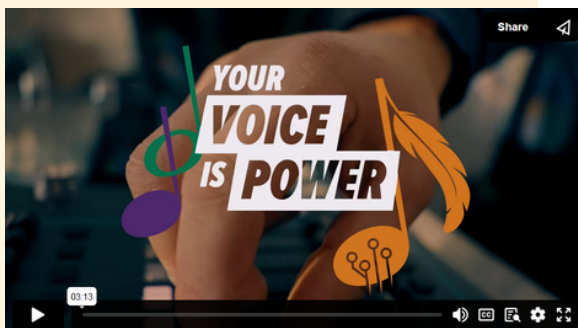
### Runners up

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. [Connecting to the Land, the Métis Way Summer Course](#) - Early Bird Registration Open until May 31st.

Métis Resources for Learners:

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



OUTDOOR LEARNING SCHOOL

SUMMER 2024 OUTDOOR LEARNING COURSE  
CONNECTING TO THE LAND, THE METIS WAY  
COURSE FACILITATOR  
LEAH MARIE DORION

Relatives With Roots

Early Bird Ends May 31st!

4 Part Learning Series

REGISTER OUTDOORLEARNINGSTORE.COM

Métis Courses & Resources

Relatives With Roots

MEDICINES TO HELP US  
TRADITIONAL METIS PLANT USE  
Christi Belcourt

OUTDOOR LEARNING  
CHARITABLE NON-PROFIT  
OUTDOOR LEARNING STORE

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.