

INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS

Indigenous Pathways Newsletter



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Indigenous Pathways 2021-2022 Areas of Focus:

- Encourage school staff and students to demonstrate knowledge and respect for diverse cultures.
- Build awareness/understanding around traditional territories and how they can be learned about and acknowledged appropriately.

Indigenous Veterans Day, November 8

- **Indigenous Veterans Day** is observed in Canada in recognition of the contribution of Indigenous Canadians to military service, particularly in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. The date for the memorial was inaugurated in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1994.
- **The Veterans Affairs Canada** website includes lesson plans with printables, videos, and detailed history for all grade levels. Link: [Indigenous Veterans](#)
- **The Royal Canadian Legion** has chosen to recognize Canada's Indigenous Veterans with a lapel pin. A red poppy is centred on a dream catcher encircled by a Métis sash, with feather and inukshuk charms rounding out the design. Link: [Lapel Pin](#)
- **The history of the beaded poppy**: the Anishinaabemowin word for beads means *small spirit berries*. Dan McCue, a CBC radio host, shares his grandfather's story. Link: [Beaded Poppies](#)



Still I Rise - ᓴᐱᐱᓯᓄᓄ^o - Resiliency Summit

- **FREE** Conference, November 24 & May 26 Link: [Summit Tickets](#)
- Teachers can register classes or school groups from grades 6 - 12.
- "Presentations will focus on the areas of Elders, Arts & Culture, Physical Activity and Land-based Learning, with positive mental health and well-being, emphasized across all content."
- Click to listen to a short clip of **Still I Rise, Keynote Speaker, Dallas Soonias**, an Indigenous, international volleyball player from Red Deer, Alberta. Link to [Dallas' Video](#)



Jasper Dark Sky Festival

- Visit the **Jasper Dark Sky** website to catch the recap of the October 2021 festival and learn more about why and how Jasper is designated as a *Dark Sky Preserve* by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada.
- **Warrior Women**, Matricia Brown & Mack Brown, drummed and narrated a Cree origin story for a *sky illustration* created by 300 synchronized drones! To enjoy some of the images and drumming from this event, you can visit the Warrior Women on Facebook, and the Jasper Dark Sky website. Links: [Warrior Women](#) & [Dark Sky Festival](#)

Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards, 2022

- "The Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards are intended to recognize First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education path and embrace their own gifts, strengths and potential while celebrating the ways of their people" - The Alberta School Boards Association
- There are three regions considered for awards: North, Central and South
- Awards in each region (12 awards total): K-3, Grade 4-6, Grade 7-9, & Grade 10-12
- Nomination forms will be available in mid-November, 2021. Link: [ASBA Awards Page](#)



Student Activity Bank

- **Edmonton Oilers Indigenous Celebration Night** is November 1. Link: [Press Release](#)
- **Indigenous Art Installation on the Tawatinâ Bridge** (the North Saskatchewan Bridge in Edmonton) in November. Follow the Alberta Ministry of Indigenous Relations on Facebook and learn more about the art installation on the CTV webpage - Links: [Facebook](#), [CTV](#)
- **Blackfoot Digital Library** - access a vast archive of artifacts to inform Indigenous ways of knowing in image, audio, video, and document formats. The *Explore* tab contains a map showing the origin of each artifact and where they are currently archived. The website is a University of Lethbridge, open-source resource. Link: [Blackfoot Digital Library](#)
- **A Is For Aboriginal** is an indigenous book recommendation by the Werklund School of Education at the University of Calgary. A lesson plan link is available to engage grades 6-8 students with history and current events surrounding Indigenous peoples and culture. Link: [Lesson Plan](#)
- **Virtual Poppy Beading Lesson** on November 4 with the Metis Association of Alberta. This event is open to Metis Nation of Alberta citizens between the ages of 12-29. Facebook and Google Form Registration links: [Facebook](#) & [Google Form](#)

Professional Development Opportunities

- **Collaborative Community**: Beyond Orange Shirt Day Link: [CRC Offering](#)
- **Empowering The Spirit** - classroom resources: [Fall Playlists](#)
- **Guiding Voices**: A curriculum development tool for inclusion of Indigenous perspectives throughout curriculum. Link: [Guiding Voices](#)
- **Books to Build On, Indigenous Literatures for Learning** is a University of Calgary, Werklund School of Education interactive web resource designed to assist educators with weaving Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing into teaching and learning, starting with story. Link: [Books to Build On](#)
- **Weaving Ways Course - How to Weave Indigenous Knowledge Systems into Your Everyday Practice** by Donna Ross. This free, interactive e-course runs from November 8 to December 8, 2021. Teachers, administrators, indigenous coaches, and educational leaders are welcome to register. Link: [Weaving Ways](#)



Links to Guide Professional Practice

ALBERTA & CANADIAN RESOURCE LINKS

- [Teaching Quality Standard](#)
- [Leadership Quality Standard](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action - English](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action - French](#)
- [Teacher Guide - Beyond 94 Truth and Reconciliation in Canada](#)
- [Acknowledging Land & People](#)
- [Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium \(ERLC\) November Professional Development Opportunities with an Indigenous Focus](#)

GYPSD RESOURCE LINKS

- [GYPSD Board Approved Land Acknowledgement, Administrative Procedure 204](#)
- [Orange Shirt Day Celebration Good News Story & Picture Gallery](#)
- [Indigenous Family & Student Resources](#)



We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing.

The Honorable, Murray Sinclair