

INDIGENOUS PATHWAYS

Indigenous Pathways Newsletter
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Indigenous Pathways Areas of Focus

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

Earth & Sky Teachings - March 2023

- As students, school staff and families prepare for spring break, a number of seasonal changes will unfold in the month of March; it is an amazing time of year to weave in Indigenous Foundational Knowledge, whether in literacy, science, mathematics, art, drama or outdoor pursuits!
- The full moon in March takes place on Tuesday, March 7 and can be referred to as Worm Moon, Lenten Moon, Crow Moon, Crust Moon, Chaste Moon, Sugar Moon, or Sap Moon!
- A number of rich and engaging resources supporting Alberta educators and students during this season of change include:

University of Calgary's Rothney Astrophysical Observatory

- [The Moon and Indigenous Skylore](#)
- [Indigenous Skies](#)
- [Conserving the Wilderness of Night Sky in Alberta](#)

Indigenous Education - The National Centre for Education

- [Lessons From The Night Sky](#)

Telus World of Science - March 2023 Programming

- [Legends of the Northern Sky](#)
- [Aurorae](#)





Springtime & Maple Sugar

- The article, **Colonialism, Maple Syrup, and Way of Knowing**, published by Krista McCracken (2018) by *Active History, History Matters*, addresses the Indigenous perspective of maple syrup on the continent now North America. The article is suitable for high school students and educators; however, the content can be summarized and shared with all learners.
- Indigenous Education - The National Centre for Education Resources lessons:
 - **Measuring Sweet Water and Maple Syrup**
 - **Ratios of Sweet Water and Maple Syrup**
 - **The Seasons - Maple Sugar Trees**
 - **Tree Tapping**
 - **Maple Syrup and Climate Change**



Classroom & School Resources

- Compare and contrast opportunity: suitable for high school media studies, social studies, and film study for the examination of cultural bias, colonialism, and historical media influence:
 - **Canada Presents: Maple Sugar Time - Les Temps des sucres** (1941, 8 min. YouTube)
 - **Nonoone Anishinabe Ishichekewin Ka Kanawentank** (1980, 10 min. NFB subscription)
- 49th Shelf children's fiction: **Maple Moon** by Connie Brummel Cook explores how maple syrup may have been discovered through her protagonist named Rides The Wind.
- Life & Thyme's article, **Decolonizing Maple Syrup**, by Bhavani Munshi, is appropriate for high school students and educators; however, the photographic and artistic imagery is suitable to be shared with all learners.
- Alberta Wheat Commission's online publication, *Life's Simple Ingredient*, includes an Indigenous-inspired recipe with a sweet twist: **Maple Bannock** - deliciously suitable for all ages!



Professional Development Opportunities

Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium, ERLC, March Professional Development Sessions:

- March 7 - **Indigenous Ways of Knowing and School Community Garden Projects**
- March 9 - **How to Incorporate Indigenous Worldviews into Your Teaching Practice**
- March 20 - **Indigenous Games and Outdoor Activities to Fulfill PE Requirements**
- March 21 - **Exploring Wisakachihowin (Trauma) and Indigenous Trauma Practices**
- March 21 - **New curriculum and incorporating Indigenous ways of knowing - Elementary Math**
- March 22 - **What are Indigenous-based assessment practices, and how can these be used in your classroom?**
- March 23 - **Indigenous Education is Canadian Education**

Links to Guide Professional Practice

ALBERTA & CANADIAN RESOURCE LINKS

- [Teaching Quality Standard](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action - English](#)
- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action - French](#)
- [Orange Shirt Day Organization](#)
- [Teacher Guide - Beyond 94 Truth and Reconciliation in Canada](#)
- [Acknowledging Land & People](#)

GYPSP RESOURCE LINKS

- [GYPSP Land Acknowledgement, AP 204](#)
- [Smudging & Pipe Ceremonies, AP 162](#)
- [Resources To Support Indigenous Competencies from TQS - Doc with links](#)

"It's not going to be fast, and it's not going to be easy, but it's going to be rich and uplifting for us all."

Marie Wilson
Speaking to the Truth and Reconciliation Process

*Journalist, Lecturer, Executive Manager,
Social Justice Advocate, and
Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner*

