

Upcoming Events

November 7 - National Inuit Day
November 8 - Indigenous Veterans Day
November 15 - Roc Your Mocs
November 10-21 - Métis Week (SD61)
November 16 - Louis Riel Day
December 10 - Human Rights Day
December 21 - Winter Solstice
January 4 - National Ribbon Skirt Day

Learn More...

[Indigenous Veteran's Resource Collection](#) at the IED Library

[14 Facts You May Not Know about Indigenous Veterans](#)

[Indigenous Veterans: Equals on the battlefields, but not at home](#)

[Metis Veterans](#)

[The Memory Project](#)

[National Aboriginal Veterans Day - BC Museum Learning Portal](#)



Lest We Forget

During WWI, 4,000 status Indigenous men enlisted in the military, most going overseas to fight for a country that had dispossessed them of land, rights, and identity. This number does not include the many more non-status, Métis and Inuit men and women who enlisted. Indigenous people enlisted in every following major war, many using specialized skills and knowledge acquired from generations of living, hunting and trapping on the land. Many of these people died in countries far from home. Those who did come home returned to do further battle with racism, barriers to veterans' services, and life governed by racist policies of the Indian Act.

National Indigenous Veterans Day

This day was first commemorated in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1994 to recognize the widespread contributions of Indigenous men and women throughout Canada.

Lay a Wreath



It wasn't until 1995 that the first wreath to commemorate Indigenous veterans was allowed to be laid in Ottawa. This practice has slowly increased over the years across the country. Schools are encouraged to lay a wreath on November 8th to honour Indigenous Veterans.

Indigenous Contributions

Indigenous men and women have made important contributions to all war efforts in Canada. Here are just a few highlights of veterans who were awarded medals for their bravery, skills and efforts (from the Indigenous Corporate Training website: <https://www.ictinc.ca/blog/indigenous-war-heroes-good-men>):

Edwin Victor Cook, Alert Bay, BC; Distinguished Conduct Medal; WW I

William Cleary, Innu, Pointe-Bleue, Quebec; awarded the Military Medal; WW I

George McLean; Nk'maplqs (Head of the Lake) Okanagan Indian Band, BC; Boer War & WW I; awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM)

Henry Louis Norwest, Metis, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta; one of the most famous snipers in WWI; was awarded the Military Medal

Tom Charles Longboat, Onondaga, Six Nations Grand River Reserve, Ontario; WW I

Francis Pegahmagabow, Ojibway, Wasauksing First Nation, Ontario; was one of the first Canadians to receive the Military Medal; WW I

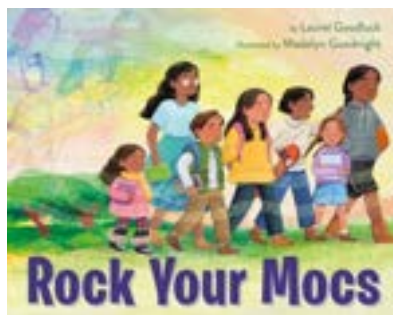
Thomas George Prince, Ojibway, Brokenhead Band, Manitoba. Awarded the Military Medal and the Silver Star, WWII



Poppy design by Cowichan artist Stuart Pagaduan.

A printable poppy design template, and other Indigenous Veterans Day resources can be found [here](#).





Rock Your Mocs: Nov. 15

Rock Your Mocs is a worldwide Indigenous Peoples virtual event in which people wear their moccasins, take a photo, create a video or story, add the hashtag #ROCKYOURMOCS and upload to social media. Following this event could be a great tool for celebrating the many diverse moccasins and nations they come from across Turtle Island. Remember, the goal isn't to make moccasins with your students, but to use this event to learn about and celebrate Indigenous cultural diversity. If students wear their moccasins, please be mindful that they may or may not want to share more information about them.



Image of Owl's Bouquet (2007) by Kenojuak Ahsevak

National Inuit Day

November 7 is International Inuit Day. International Inuit Day is an opportunity to celebrate, listen to, and learn from Inuit from across the North. It is a day to honour the rich contributions and vibrant ways of knowing and being of Inuit across the globe.

With a rapidly changing world and climate, Inuit peoples are faced with the continued challenges of keeping traditional practices alive amid the pressures of a tech-filled, fast-paced world.

Connected North

Remote and northern Indigenous communities across Canada face persistent inequities in access to education: fewer local specialist teachers and enrichment opportunities, limited exposure to role models, and barriers to consistent, culturally relevant programming. **Connected North** provides live, interactive virtual learning experiences and access to educational resources for students and teachers in remote communities, supporting them where they live. Great website with **Fireside Chats** - 200 video interviews with inspiring First Nations, Metis, and Inuit role models who share their knowledge and experience with youth.

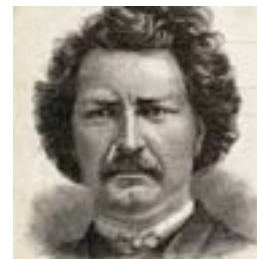
Inhabit Media

Inhabit Media Inc. is the first Inuit-owned, independent publishing company in the Canadian Arctic. They aim to promote and preserve the stories, knowledge, and talent of the Arctic, while also supporting research in Inuit mythology and the traditional Inuit knowledge of Nunavummiut (residents of Nunavut, Canada's northernmost territory). Their authors, storytellers, and artists bring traditional knowledge to life in a way that is accessible to readers both familiar and unfamiliar with Inuit culture and traditions. You can find Educator Guides for their books at all levels on their website.



Métis Week

Indigenous Education and the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria have declared November 10-21 as a **Métis Week**. This is an opportunity to highlight Métis history, knowledge and culture, with Nov 16th being Louis Riel's birthday. We encourage educators to refer to this day as "Louis Riel and Beyond". Please share Métis knowledge throughout the entire year. Maarsii (Thank you in Michif)



Beyond Louis Riel

For many years, Métis history has been recognized by celebrating the life and legacy of Louis Riel. We are encouraging educators to look beyond Louis Riel, as much of Métis life, history, culture and celebrations go far beyond what Louis Riel represents. Please refer to the websites at the side of this page for valuable resources that highlight Métis culture.

Métis Links and Resources

[Métis Music and Dance](#)

[The Métis People - Kid's Version](#) (video)

[Métis Nation of Greater Victoria](#)

[Métis Nation of British Columbia](#)

[The Gabriel Dumont Institute](#)

[Amelia Douglas Institute: For Métis Culture and Language](#)



Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada

These resources are available in both English and French and are filled with information and photographs. Titles include *Inuit, Metis, First Nations, and Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada*. They can be used alone or alongside the Giant Indigenous Floor Map.

Inuit Learning Kit

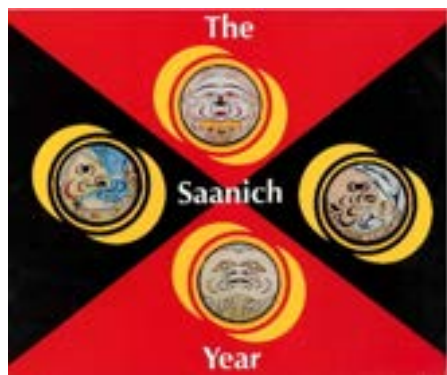
[Inuit Kit](#)

Métis Learning Kits

[Bringing Métis Children's Literature to Life](#)

[Métis Values Kit](#)

[Métis Cultural Collection](#)



Watch here for an announcement about the Saanich Moons coming soon.

In the meantime, [Seasonal Rounds and Moons kits](#) are available to borrow from the IED library.

Indigenous Guest Speakers In Schools

If you plan on inviting Indigenous guests into your school, please be sure to connect with one of the IED Teacher Consultants.

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Indigenous Education Library Team

Metthea Maddern
mmaddern@sd61.bc.ca
IED Teacher-Librarian
Friday PM



Francine Spahan
fspahan@sd61.bc.ca
Elementary Teacher Consultant

Tanya Adams
tadams@sd61.bc.ca
Middle School Teacher Consultant

Emma Milliken
emilliken@sd61.bc.ca
Secondary School Teacher Consultant

The role of Indigenous Teacher Consultants is to work with SD61 staff to help build capacity of Indigenous knowledge, resources and Indigenous ways of knowing and being.

To view and browse the IED library collection online, please visit destiny.sd61.bc.ca and select *Indigenous Education Library* from the bottom right.

[Click here to browse the Library Collection on Destiny](#)

To borrow items from the IED Library please email iedlibrary@sd61.b.ca and allow a day or two for reply.