



In this space, we'll be sharing information and resources related to First Nations, Métis and Inuit education throughout EIPS. We'll highlight what's happening in our Division schools, provide resources available for students and families, and share upcoming school and community events. Our goal is to share an update at the beginning of each month.

## FEBRUARY 2021

### Upcoming Events and Important Dates

#### Virtual Family Gatherings | February and March 2022

Many thanks to the families who joined us for our first virtual gathering in January. We're grateful for the welcome from Elder Wilson Bearhead, the questions and conversation from attending families, and for your patience as we work through spotty internet connections from our homes!

We look forward to seeing you all again in February and welcome any families who wish to join us. Elder Wilson will again open our gathering, followed by a short presentation from our friends at Rupertsland Institute to share the programs and supports they offer for Métis children and families. We'll then have time for any discussion or questions and comments families wish to share regarding Indigenous education or supports within EIPS.

The theme for our third gathering in March will depend on what families have shared in the first two gatherings. If there's a specific topic or idea you'd like the group to discuss, please reach out to someone from the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team directly:

- [jeremy.albert@eips.ca](mailto:jeremy.albert@eips.ca)
- [harlee.mcarthur@eips.ca](mailto:harlee.mcarthur@eips.ca)
- [cheryl.devin@eips.ca](mailto:cheryl.devin@eips.ca)

Sessions will take place online using **Microsoft Teams Meetings**. Join on your computer or mobile app. If you are interested in attending, please email one of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team members for the log in code.

- **Gathering 2: Feb. 15, 2022 (7–8 p.m.)**
- **Gathering 3: March 15, 2022 (7–8 p.m.)**

### Direct Student Support

**Study Help for Métis students** Rupertsland Institute has secured access to Alberta ExamBank for K-12 Métis students to test their understanding through online practice. Métis students can sign up for the [RECC Room](#) to find the log in for their MNA Region. Questions? Contact [education@rupertsland.org](mailto:education@rupertsland.org).

**Is your child in Grade 12 and looking to move on to post-secondary education?** There are a [variety of scholarships, bursaries and grants](#) available to First Nations, Métis and Inuit students to attend trade school, college or university. Talk to your child's lead teacher for more information or support in filling out applications.

2022 marks the beginning of the **Decade of Indigenous Languages** as declared by The United Nations General Assembly. The First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team would like to begin gathering information that informs us on how to move forward with language learning opportunities for EIPS students and families. We invite families to complete a [short online survey](#) as one of our first steps in envisioning what language learning can look like in our Division. We're excited to think of the possibilities for students and families and thank you in advance for your input and ideas. The survey will remain open until the end of February. Thank you also to the family members in our January virtual gathering for sharing their wishes for Indigenous language opportunities.

We are thankful for questions posed during the virtual gathering and wanted to share the answers with all families:

**- Are sharing circles offered at EIPS schools?**

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team members do visit schools and facilitate sharing circles for students. If you're interested in this opportunity for your child at his/her school, reach out to your school's lead teacher to chat.

**- Do EIPS schools participate in smudging?**

EIPS does have a smudging policy and guiding document for schools written with guidance from Elder Wilson—[AP 159: Smudging in Division Facilities](#). After guidance from Elder Wilson or members of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team, some schools within EIPS offer regular smudging opportunities for students who wish to have access to the ceremony at school. Upon parent request, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team members can work with other Division schools to ensure smudging is respectfully and freely available for any students wanting to do so at school. Please reach out to [Jeremy.Albert@eips.ca](mailto:Jeremy.Albert@eips.ca) to chat further if you're interested

## Resources of Interest

### Tutoring Support

Did you know? Edmonton Public Library offers free tutoring support for anyone with an EPL library card? Check out all of the [supports for students](#) they offer.

Alberta Education has launched [online tutorial videos](#) for students as well. New materials will continue to be added in the coming months.

### Cree Language Learning

Families at our January virtual gathering also requested information about online Cree language courses being offered. Here are some that might be of interest to families:

- The Centre for Race and Culture is once again offering beginner and intermediate Cree language classes with program coordinator and instructor Reuben Quinn. Refer to the website for [descriptions, dates and support resources](#).
- Portage College also offers [online Cree classes](#).

---

For inquires about First Nations, Métis and Inuit education happening in your school, please reach out to the designated lead teacher, [Pam Erickson](#), 780-998-7771.

---

Elk Island Public Schools would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you no longer wish to receive school and Division emails such as school newsletters, information about upcoming school and/or Division events, parent/community engagement opportunities, etc. (which may contain content of a commercial nature from time to time), follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

This message has been sent to you by: Elk Island Public Schools 683 Wye Rd., Sherwood Park, AB T8B 1N2 780-464-3477 [www.eips.ca](http://www.eips.ca)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.