



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.

## JUNE 2021

### Upcoming Events and Important Dates

#### **National Indigenous Peoples Day | June 21**

Schools across the Division are planning events to recognize and celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21. Additional community events and resources that might be of interest are posted in the Resources of Interest section below.

#### **Online and in-person events for National Indigenous Peoples Day | June 21**

Join us for an action packed hour of Indigenous entertainment, cultural teachings and an interactive art lesson in celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day (NIPD)! Hosted by Lance Cardinal and featuring musical performances by Spur Pourier & Fawn Wood, World Champion Hoop Dancer Dallas Arcand, Inuit Drum & Dance by Connie Kanayok & Jaynine McCrae, and more. Brought to you by Edmonton Public Schools, Edmonton Catholic Schools, Kihew Waciston MacEwan University, Edmonton Public Library and the City of Edmonton. Visit [www.edmonton.ca/IndigenousHistoryMonth](http://www.edmonton.ca/IndigenousHistoryMonth) for the event link on June 21. The event will also be recorded and available to view later in June.

#### **Opening of Central Services Land-based Learning Space | June 21**

EIPS has been working closely with Elder Wilson Bearhead to design and build a land-based learning space at EIPS Central Services. With spring on its way, construction will resume on the space. As part of National Indigenous Peoples Day, EIPS will officially open the space, honour our ongoing relationship with Elder Wilson and affirm our commitment to deepen our relationship with the land that sustains us.

#### **Treaty 6 and Métis Nation Flag Raising**

As a further commitment on the path of truth telling toward reconciliation, as an affirmation as Treaty partners and as a recognition of the Métis homeland, EIPS held a very important ceremony on June 13. For the first time, the Treaty 6 and Métis Nation flag were honoured and raised at Central Services. Both flags will fly permanently at the site and will serve as important reminders of our shared history, the story of the land and of our continued commitment to respectful relationships. We'd like to thank Elder Wilson Bearhead, Métis Nation of Alberta Region 4 Vice President Garry Gagnon, students Owen Shepherd and Buddy Crier and Spearpoint Singers for being a part of this important and historic ceremony.

Each school in the Division will also display the two flags and have engaged in staff professional development and student learning experiences to understand the significance of each flag. Reach out to the lead teacher to find out more about the flag raising at your child's school. You can watch the [recording](#) of the Division's flag-raising ceremony on the EIPS YouTube channel.

#### **Staffing Update**

We are thankful for the wonderful and impactful heart-work Harlee McArthur has provided to EIPS staff, students and families for the 2021-22 school year as our Family and School Liaison Worker. Harlee is embarking on a new

adventure and will be deeply missed. We wish her all the best and are grateful for the time she has given EIPS. We'd like to welcome Leah Atcheynum to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team and look forward to each of our families getting to know her and work with her in the coming school year.

## Direct Student Support

### MNA Scholarships Applications

Each year, the Métis Nation of Alberta provides scholarships to reward outstanding academic achievement. Scholarships are open to Métis students pursuing post-secondary education. Scholarship recipients receive both monetary reward and recognition during the November Métis Week celebration. The deadline for scholarship applications is Oct. 31, 2022. Submit application packages to [Kaylee Townend](#).

### Nelson Canada Scholarship Applications

The 2022 Nelson Scholarship Program is now open! Do you know a Grade 12 student who's doing exceptional work in the classroom as well as in their community? This year, we're once again offering \$10,000 for each scholarship opportunity: the Civic Leadership Scholarship and the Indigenous Student Scholarship, in partnership with Inspire. Recipients of the awards are young leaders of tomorrow, showcasing a commitment to community stewardship and academic achievement.

To learn more about the scholarship program and how to apply, visit the [Nelson Canada website](#). Applications close **Aug. 1, 2022**.

### MNA Youth Services and Events

The Métis Nation of Alberta Youth has many opportunities for young people to get involved with the community, build friendships and deepen their cultural understandings. Follow their [facebook page](#) for all of the opportunities available over the summer, including summer camp!

### Message from the MNA:

"Have a child going into preschool, kindergarten, Grade 1, or Grade 2?

We have you covered for back-to-school! Early learning and literacy are top priorities for our Children and Family Services Department. Education is the key to creating thriving Métis families and we want to help however we can. We are once again offering FREE school supplies to assist Métis families for the 2021-22 school year, AND we're delivering them right to your door! **The Gear Up For School** program supports children and families in all scenarios of learning, both in the classroom and at home. We aim to prepare early learners with the tools they need to begin a successful learning journey while reducing financial stress on Métis families.

Supplies are limited, so register today! To apply, complete [the form](#)!

### WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

Children enrolled in preschool, kindergarten, Grade 1, or Grade 2 beginning September 2021 Residents of Alberta (Applicants must provide an Alberta mailing address.) Parent/Guardian or child must be an MNA citizen Have questions or need more information? Please email [mnacfs@metis.org](mailto:mnacfs@metis.org).

### Honouring the Spirit Award EIPS Recipients

The Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards recognize First Nations, Métis and Inuit students across Alberta who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education path and embrace their own gifts, strengths and potential. Further, the awards provide the opportunity to celebrate the unique qualities of students who inspire their peers, teachers, education leaders and community members. The Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards is sponsored by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) and supported by the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS), Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA) and Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA). We're excited to share the three EIPS students who each received an Honourable Mention for the 2021-22 school year. Congratulations to Esme Chouinard, Pine Street Elementary; Mackenzie Osmond, Salisbury Composite High; and Camden Spiderwick, Win Ferguson Elementary.

### Woodbridge Farms Elementary Culture Camp

Woodbridge Farms Elementary continued its relationship with Strathcona Wilderness Centre to host the second annual culture camp for Indigenous students and their families. The weekend camp invited students to learn drum teachings, make dry meat, flesh a moosehide, learn Métis beading techniques, try birch bark painting, work with diamond willow, learn the sacredness of tobacco, taste traditional Inuit foods and much more. Many thanks to knowledge holders Connie Kulhavy, Goota Desmarias and Lloyd Cardinal, as well as Elders Juliette Auger, Gilman Cardinal and Bert Auger for generously sharing their teachings with families. EIPS looks forward to expanding the culture camp experience to include more families at more locations across the Division.

### Thank you to all Elders, Knowledge Holders and Families

EIPS would like to thank all of the Elders, knowledge holders and families who shared with our students and staff

throughout the year. We're thankful for your friendship and grateful for your generosity. We look forward to renewing these important relationships in the new school year.

## Resources of Interest

- Explore these [interactive maps](#) of Treaty 6 territory.
- The Downie-Wenjack Foundation is hosting virtual events across the country for the month of June. Find out more and register for one or more of the events through [the event website](#).

Book signing with authors Charlene and Wilson Bearhead

Saturday, July 9, 2022

10 a.m.

Western Varieties Wholesale, 7003 Roper Rd., Edmonton

Celebrating their eight series set of Siha Tooskin Knows:

- The Best Medicine
- The Catcher of Dreams
- The Gifts of His People
- The Love of the Dance
- The Nature of Life
- The Offering of Tobacco
- The Sacred Eagle Feather
- The Strength of His Hair

This series is on the list of recommended resources from Alberta Education for Grade 3 English Language Arts.

Bring a friend and enjoy a special series discount as well as tea and bannock.

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

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