



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.

## MONTH 2021

### Upcoming Events and Important Dates



Fort Saskatchewan Elementary recognized the second annual “National Day for Truth and Reconciliation” through classroom activities, creating a wall of orange shirts with special messages of HOPE, as well as began creating our “Rock Garden: A Project of Heart.” Many conversations were had around *reconciliation* and how we can move forward as individuals in our school, and as a school community together in a good way.

\* On November 17, Rupertsland Institute presents the [Get Ahead of Your Future](#) job fair at the Edmonton Convention Centre for Métis Nation of Alberta students ages 15-17. To find out more or register for the event, email [careerfairs@rupertsland.org](mailto:careerfairs@rupertsland.org).

\* Gallery@501 in Sherwood Park has a wonderful [Alex Janvier exhibit](#)—on now until November 20—“The Healing Language of Alex Janvier” by world-renowned Denesuline artist, Alex Janvier, from Cold Lake First Nations, Treaty 6 Territory. Curated in partnership with the Janvier Gallery and Gallery@501, this exhibition features paintings, sketchbook drawings, video and audio works that reflect Janvier’s experiences within Canada’s residential school system.

\* [Strathcona Museum and Archives](#) has two exhibits featuring Indigenous artists—Aaron Paquette’s immersive mural, The Past Shows Us The Way, and Shakihî: The Art of Connie Kulhavy.

\* Strathcona County Hall in Sherwood Park is showcasing Métis artist Heather Shillinglaw’s art piece [miyotamon nanas - it is a good road in all directions](#).

### Direct Student Support

\* The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) is continuing its partnership with Dolly Parton Imagination Library for its Oskaya Ayamichikewak Young Readers Program. MNA citizens can sign up for free children’s books mailed home each month. [Learn more](#)

\* 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 Métis Week celebration in November. The deadline for scholarship applications is October 31—of the current year. [More information and applications forms](#) are available on the MNA website.

\* **Jordan’s Principle:** Learn more about Jordan’s Principle and the funding supports available for First Nations children—visit the [Assembly of First Nations](#) and [Government of Canada](#) resources.

\* Welcome to Leaha Atcheynum, the newest member of the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team. Leaha identifies as a proud Métis woman with Cree ancestry and comes to us from Jackfish Lake, Saskatchewan, where her family still resides on



their traditional Métis land. Her great-grandmother (chapan) comes from Saulteux First Nation and her great-grandfather was a French settler. Leaha is married into Sweetgrass First Nation where her husband and children are registered treaty members. Leaha and her family reside just east of Chipman, Alberta. She is an advisor with the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team where she supports staff, students, families and communities. Leaha has a degree in social work from the University of Regina.

## Resources of Interest

\* Interested in learning more about how your school is engaging in truth-telling and the reconciliation process? Connect with Ms. Zapesocki, the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Lead Teacher at our school.

Interested in learning more about EIPS Division-wide work in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education? Connect with the [Central Services Team](#) and read the Division's [monthly blog](#).

\* NextGen Book Club is holding its next meeting at Fort Edmonton's Indigenous Peoples' Experience on October 4. At the meeting, participants will discuss *Five Little Indians*. Refer to the [event details](#) for more information and to purchase a ticket.

\* You may have noticed some recent and important additions at EIPS Central Services and at each Division school. Continuing on our learning journey of truth, understanding the meaning behind our land acknowledgement, and our commitment to the reconciliation process, the Treaty 6 and Métis Nation flag are now permanently displayed at each EIPS site. The official flag raising ceremony at Central Services happened in June and can be watched in its [entirety here](#) or a shortened video highlighting the Board of Trustees commitment can be [watched here](#). Please check with the lead teacher to find out more about the flag unveiling at your school.

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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, [Kim Zapesocki](#), 780-998-7771.

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