



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.

OCTOBER 2023

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

What's happening at Fort Saskatchewan Elementary

On September 26th, we had our first Indigenous Family Gathering at Turner Park Gazebo. We had the pleasure of hosting Elder Evelyn Day who opened our evening in circle and prayer. Thank you to everyone who came out. If you missed it, do not worry. We will be hosting another event in January. Details to come.

Changes in EIPS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Team

We are sad to share the news that our cultural advisor, Jeremy Albert, has accepted an exciting career opportunity outside of Elk Island Public Schools (EIPS). We wish him the very best in his new adventures. With change comes new opportunities and new relationships, and EIPS would like to welcome Matthew Spencer to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education team. Matthew is a proud Nakoda from Carry the Kettle, Treaty 4 territory. He brings much experience and expertise to the Division. We're excited for Matthew to meet everyone and become an important part of our EIPS family.

Days of Significance

There are many important dates of significance in the coming weeks, and EIPS is planning many engaging learning experiences for staff and students across the Division.

November 7 – [Inuit Day](#)

November 8 – [Indigenous Veterans Day](#)

November 12-18 – [Métis Week](#)

November 15 – [Rock Your Mocs](#)

Blanket Exercise - November 16 - 6:30 – 8:00 pm

In support of learning more about our common history and moving towards reconciliation, Heritage Hills Elementary is hosting a Blanket Exercise in the school gym on November 16 that is open to all community members. It will be led by members of the EIPS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Team. Please note, this event is intended for adults only.

The Blanket Exercise is a powerful experiential learning opportunity for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. It is a 1 ½ hour interactive simulation that shares the story of colonization and the lived experiences of First Nations, Métis and Inuit over 500 years of shared history. The exercise was developed by KAIROS and Indigenous Peoples as a response to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and helps participants begin to understand the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Crown.

If you have attended a Blanket Exercise in the past or if this is your first time, it is a very impactful, thought-provoking activity. To learn more about this experience, visit: <https://www.kairosblanketexercise.org/>

Click [here](#) to RSVP by November 8.

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 login for their MNA Region. Questions? Contact 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.

Scholarship opportunities for Métis students | Deadline: October 31 Each year, 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 October 31 of the current year. Submit application packages to scholarship@metis.org. For all scholarship questions, [contact the MNA](#).

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

Interested in learning more about EIPS divisionwide work in First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education? Reach out to your school's lead teacher, connect with the Division team at victoria.vilaivan@eips.ca and read the Division's [blog](#).

Resources of Interest

Learn more about Indigenous Veterans

- [CBC Unreserved: Remembering the contributions of Indigenous veterans](#) is an Indigenous radio broadcast exploring the contributions of Indigenous veterans in Canada.
- [NFB-Forgotten Warriors](#) (51:20) is a full-length documentary about the service of Indigenous peoples in the Canadian military. The documentary features interviews with Indigenous veterans who chose to serve abroad while their rights were being violated at home.

Learn more about Métis Week | November 12-18

- Rupertsland Institute is offering [daily, free virtual field trips](#) during Métis Week. Log in to the RECC Room to access them.
- [Who are the Métis?](#) – Video from the Métis Nation of Alberta.
- Métis Settlements ebook – [Making History: Our Land, Our Culture, Our Future](#).
- [Digital Storytelling](#) – Stories from Fishing Lake Métis Settlement.
- Rupertsland Institute electronic books on the [five Métis Foundational Knowledge themes](#).

Learn more about Inuit Day | November 7

- [Inuit Circumpolar Council](#) has a website with engaging activities for children.
- [Inuit Nunangat Taimannganit storytelling project](#) is a collection of many stories from across Inuit homelands.
- [Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami webpage](#) is a wealth of information for exploring and learning.

4th Annual Walk a Mile in a Ribbon Skirt Event | October 28

This [annual event](#) is intended to share the rich history behind the ribbon skirt as a symbol of Indigenous strength and feminism. On October 28, from noon to 3 p.m., join others at Edmonton City Hall to learn about and help stop the prejudices Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people face when they wear their skirts.

Second Annual Okimâw Awards | November 18

On November 18, join the community to celebrate and recognize Indigenous men from across the land we presently call Alberta. Visit the [Okimâw Awards website](#) or [Facebook page](#) for details, including time, place and award categories. Elder Bert Auger, Elder Gilman Cardinal and drum keeper Lloyd Cardinal—who are instrumental in EIPS' annual culture camp—all received an Okimâw award last year. We're grateful for the Indigenous men who generously share their gifts with the community in a variety of areas.

Curious about Indigenous-focused events and programs planned for our area?

- Visit [Strathcona County's Indigenous Connections](#) page for information and upcoming events.
- The City of Fort Saskatchewan has a [Truth and Reconciliation initiatives page](#) and an active [Indigenous Society of Fort Saskatchewan](#).
- Visit the [Indigenous events page through eventbrite](#).

- The [Edmonton Indigenous Relations Community Bulletin](#) shares events and initiatives in the Edmonton area.

Interested in taking an online course? University of Alberta Continuing Education and the Faculty of Native Studies offers excellent online courses throughout the year. [Registration for Indigenous Canada](#) is now open.

Interested in a free, 30-day online fitness challenge with Iskwew Health? Western Variety is offering another [30-Day Fitness Challenge](#) in November in partnership with [Iskwew Health](#). Registration closes on Oct. 31, 2023. NOTE: This challenge is through Facebook, as all workouts will be accessed through that platform.

Interested in holiday shopping? The Indigenous Arts Market Collective (IAM Collective) is hosting their annual [Very Indigenous Holiday Market](#) November 10, 11 and 12.

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.