|  |
| --- |
| **November 2021** |
| **Upcoming Events and Important Dates** |
| **Indigenous Veterans Day | Monday, November 8** See the Resources of Interest below for a list of possible resources.  **Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Engagement Sessions - Sherwood Park/Fort Saskatchewan | November 9, 5-9 p.m.** Make your voice heard at the Otipemisiwak Métis Government Constitution gathering for Métis citizens in the Fort Saskatchewan and Sherwood Park area on November 9. No previous knowledge or expertise needed! All area MNA citizens aged 16 and older are welcome and encouraged to join in, listen, learn and give feedback. “Our ancestors fought and died for the freedom to live as Otipemisiwak, to own ourselves. Now’s our time to realize their dream and choose the right path for our people.”  [Register](https://bit.ly/gathering-registration?fbclid=IwAR2Nvcq9HQ9iATDg38SR9w2W4yKbZobJb9IlVVFSmR_ku2OTF7YX3gB7zVM)  **Rock Your Mocs | November 14-20** [Rock Your Mocs Day](https://rockyourmocs.org/) is November 15. Wear your moccasins with pride on this day and every day!  **Métis Week | November 14-21** Métis Nation of Alberta and Rupertsland Institute have been creating resources for Métis Week 2021. Resources for schools and families are available through Rupertsland Institute’s [RECC Room](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Vx3Jy-TXWYOwqcFftXz45Ksmw1nO3cJi/view?usp=sharing). [Create a free account](https://rli.connectedcommunity.org/home) and gain access to the webinar and a vast collection of Métis resources you can access with your family at home—including archived recordings of Métis artist Leah Dorion sharing stories and art projects and the new art series with Angie Hall. |
| **Direct Student Support** |
| **Is your child in Grade 12 and looking to move on to post-secondary education?** There are a [variety of scholarships, bursaries and grants](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wMzm3dtf4atzOgGPFRb_xpkVCJMu7eHg8xZxz700sDg/edit?usp=sharing) 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.  **MNA Resources** From skills courses to wellness kits, discover all the [MNA Youth Services](https://albertametis.com/programs-services/youth-programs-and-services/) has to offer free to all Métis ages 12-29. The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) has a [variety of other family support](https://albertametis.com/programs-services/children-family-services/supports-and-services-navigator/) services, including health, housing and entrepreneurship.  **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](https://rli.connectedcommunity.org/) to find the login for their MNA Region. Questions? Contact [education@rupertsland.org](mailto:education@rupertsland.org).  **Jordan’s Principle** Learn more about Jordan’s Principle and the funding supports available for First Nations children—visit the [Assembly of First Nations](https://www.afn.ca/policy-sectors/social-secretariat/jordans-principle/) and [Government of Canada](https://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1568396042341/1568396159824) resources.  **Questions?** Have questions about your child’s learning? Please reach out to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education lead teacher at your child’s school. We’re here to engage with you and offer supports to students. [Harlee McArthur](mailto:harlee.mcarthur@eips.ca), EIPS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Family School Liaison Worker, is also available for conversation and to offer supports to children and families. |
| **Resources of Interest** |
| **Indigenous Veterans Day**  Here are some possible resources to learn more about First Nations, Métis and Inuit veterans.   * **Watch** the short documentary film, [**Cree Code Talkers**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JiUPBKST5M) and learn more about this [local Edmonton film team](http://www.creecodetalker.com/) * **Watch** the video from the Métis National Council: [**Aboriginal Heroes: A Spiritual Journey**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYgeaGVDvOM) * **Watch** the video [**No Longer Forgotten: Commemorating Métis Veterans**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9lBw3OdfMA) * **Watch** the NFB’s documentary [**Forgotten Warriors**](https://www.nfb.ca/film/forgotten_warriors/) that shares the stories of Indigenous veterans * **Witness** the names of many Indigenous veterans collected in this [**database**](https://www.vcn.bc.ca/~jeffrey1/tribute.htm) * **Watch** the Heritage Minute on [**Tommy Prince**](https://www.historicacanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/tommy-prince) * **Read** the stories of some Indigenous war heroes from[**Muskrat Magazine**](http://muskratmagazine.com/remembering-honouring-indigenous-war-heroes-world-war-1-2/) * **Learn** about [**The Ballendine Brothers**](https://www.e-know.ca/regions/east-kootenay/fighting-ballendines-eight-brothers-go-war/)   **Global TV Story** In September, Global National was at Glen Allan Elementary filming for a story for their current affairs TV show, “The New Reality.” Various people were involved in the filming including Glen Allan students and teachers along with Elder Wilson Bearhead and Superintendent Mark Liguori. Thank you to Glen Allan for hosting and making everyone feel welcome. The segment aired on Global’s “The New Reality” program on October 30. If you missed it, you can [watch the video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxbL_Zjcnpg&list=PLA0c-X5PdUCXq_tZMmPv4nGrK0vMy-CPD&index=5&t=280s) or [read the online piece](https://globalnews.ca/news/8332181/education-key-reconciliation-students/).  **The U of A Faculty of Native Studies** is offering [online courses](https://www.ualberta.ca/native-studies/programs/onlinecourses/index.html) that can be taken by university students or community members. Two winter semester courses that may be of interest are “Indigenous Peoples & Technoscience” and “Countering Stereotypes of Indigenous Peoples.”October 2021  Upcoming Events and Important Dates  As our Division reflects upon the history and continuing legacy of residential schools, annual Orange Shirt Day and the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we commit to ongoing learning and truth-seeking. Important learning and conversation cannot happen for just one day; we will continue to deepen our understanding throughout the school year.  Virtual Youth Leadership Conference  Métis Nation of Alberta’s upcoming Virtual Youth Leadership Conference will take place on Oct. 16, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will all be on a virtual platform. We’ll be discussing topics including social justice, 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and climate change. Individuals must be Métis Nation of Alberta Citizens between the ages of 12-29 to attend. The formal registration deadline has passed, but interested families can inquire about possible late registration options by contacting the MNA at youth@metis.org.  Global TV Story  In September, Global National was at Glen Allan Elementary filming for an upcoming story for their current affairs TV show, “The New Reality.” Various people were involved in the filming including Glen Allan students and teachers along with Elder Wilson Bearhead and Superintendent Mark Liguori. Thank you to Glen Allan for hosting and making everyone feel welcome. The segment is scheduled to air on Global’s “The New Reality” program on October 30. It will be on at 7 p.m. across all markets and time zones (e.g., 7 p.m. in Toronto, 7 p.m. in Edmonton, etc). There will be a YouTube version and an online piece.  Ongoing First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education  Curious to see what’s happening in First Nations, Métis and Inuit education around the Division? Check out the monthly blog on the EIPS website. School leads, teachers, students, administrators and families are working throughout the Division to understand the truths of colonization, to develop foundational knowledge for better understanding and to build respectful relationships.  One exciting project you may have noticed is the inclusion of a tipi at Central Services, thanks to the ongoing relationship with Elder Wilson Bearhead. Many schools in the Division are thinking deeply about Elder Wilson’s teachings, how to honour his invitation for each EIPS school to know their story with land and place, and to breathe life to that story.  As such, several schools are learning to build relationships with the natural spaces near their schools or are creating outdoor learning spaces within their schoolyards. Elder Wilson worked alongside Superintendent Liguori to create a vision for a land-based learning space at Central Services. The central space will lead the Division as an example of learning from and with the land. It will showcase Elk Island Public Schools’ commitment to bring to life the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action and the Division’s commitment to honour its responsibility as a Treaty 6 partner. We are just at the beginning stages of this learning as a Division and look forward to all the ways we can work with Elder Wilson, families and communities to invite land-based learning experiences for EIPS students.  Many events happen in the month of November, including Métis Week, Inuit Day, Rock Your Mocs and Indigenous Veterans Day. We’ll include more information on these events and how EIPS will participate via our website and newsletter.  Direct Student Support  MNA Resources From skills courses to wellness kits, discover all the MNA Youth Services has to offer free to all Métis ages 12-29. The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) has a variety of other family support services, including health, housing and entrepreneurship.    Literacy Resources For Métis families new to EIPS, the Métis Nation of Alberta has partnered with Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library for the Oskaya Ayamichikewak Young Readers Program. Children four years and older registered in the program receive a new book in the mail every month. It’s an excellent way to promote literacy and foster a love of learning in children. Rupertsland Institute is also holding virtual early learning engagement sessions for Métis parents, educators and families.    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.    Questions? Have questions about your child’s learning? Please reach out to the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education lead teacher at your child’s school. We’re here to engage with you and offer supports to students. Harlee McArthur, EIPS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Family School Liaison Worker, is also available for conversation and to offer supports to children and families.  Resources of Interest    Virtual Family Gatherings We’re grateful to Elder Wilson Bearhead and the family members who attended our virtual parent gatherings last school year. We look forward to continuing the conversation and welcoming new families to our virtual circle. We have set the meetings for the winter season, the traditional season for gathering and visiting. Once we firm up Elder attendance at the meetings, we’ll share the specific dates, times and meeting link with you. We’ve tentatively planned for one meeting in November, one in January and one in March.    Interested in learning Michif online? Josh Morin will be once again hosting a southern Michif language virtual gatherings for beginners taking place Oct. 13 to Dec. 1, 2021. Register online or call Dana at Further Ed at 780-460-2207.    Interested in learning Cree?  The Centre for Race and Culture is once again offering beginner and intermediate Cree language classes with program coordinator and instructor Reuben Quinn. Check out this website for descriptions, dates and support resources.    NorQuest College also has an open studies beginner Cree course starting in January.    Check out Edmonton Public Library’s commitment to the 94 Calls to Action and working toward reconciliation through their Indigenous Services programs. Many programs are available, including online Cree classes in partnership with the Canadian Native Friendship Centre.    Interested in learning about Indigenous sports role models with your family in a COVID-safe, online format? An invitation to you from our friends at Roots of Resilience.  We’re so excited to be back at it for a second year of speakers series kicking off with the fall series “Indspired Through Sports,” providing an opportunity to celebrate Indigenous resilience and success after the hard but necessary truth learning we all did leading up to the inaugural National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.    This speakers series will feature six incredible Indigenous athletes with different sports and backgrounds. From Bullriding to Dance we’ll hear of their motivations, their setbacks and what pushes them to continue to strive for greatness. This series is going to be a great opportunity for students to get a look into what these professional athletes have gone through to get to where they are today and give a new outlook at the many possibilities sports can open up to youth! The series will also help teachers and adults see first-hand the importance of sports as an avenue to responsibility and success.    Speakers and dates:  • October 14: J.R. LaRose (Football)  • October 21: Dakota Louis (Bullrider)  • October 28: Kendra Jessie (Dancer, Fitness Coach & Tiktok influencer)  • November 4: Mathew Rathbone (Hockey)  • November 12: Sonya Dodginghorse (Barrel Racing)  • November 18: Angie Lightning (the importance of sports for youth)  Tickets are available online (one price for the whole family).        **Interested in learning about Indigenous sports role models with your family in a COVID-safe, online format?** An invitation to you from our friends at Roots of Resilience.  We’re so excited to be back at it for a second year of speakers series kicking off with the fall series “Indspired Through Sports,” providing an opportunity to celebrate Indigenous resilience and success.  You may wish to register for the remaining online sessions.  This speakers series will feature six incredible Indigenous athletes with different sports and backgrounds. From Bullriding to Dance we’ll hear of their motivations, their setbacks and what pushes them to continue to strive for greatness. This series is going to be a great opportunity for students to get a look into what these professional athletes have gone through to get to where they are today and give a new outlook at the many possibilities sports can open up to youth! The series will also help teachers and adults see first-hand the importance of sports as an avenue to responsibility and success.  Upcoming speakers and dates:   * November 4: Mathew Rathbone (Hockey) * November 12: Sonya Dodginghorse (Barrel Racing) * November 18: Angie Lightning (the importance of sports for youth)   [Tickets](https://www.rootsofresilience.info/event-details/indspired-through-sports-2021-10-14-12-00) are available online (one price for the whole family). |