

REDI NEWSLETTER

Practicing Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion



Photo by 2H Media on Unsplash

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All About Calendar

How might the calendar be a space to practice inclusivity?

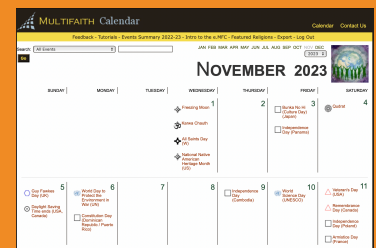
An inclusive calendar is a living document that shares dates of significance, recognition, and celebration for all members of the school community. It recognizes dates of significance and holidays of the diverse cultures, races, places of origin, ethnicities, religions, economic statuses, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientations, disabilities and abilities of the school community. It is a tool intended to normalize diverse representation and also bring awareness to important causes. In practicing decolonization and nurturing an environment of belonging for all, what if we got to a place in our shared understanding that an “inclusive calendar” is just “the calendar” that guides our thinking and practices as educators?

This first issue of the REDI newsletter offers some classroom and professional learning resources that connect to some of the themes for celebration and recognition this fall.

The district Multifaith/DEI calendar can be found [here](#) on the portal. An expansion of it with recommended links will be shared on a monthly basis this year. These expanded months can be found [here](#) on the portal.



SD38 has teamed up with the Multifaith Society to bring you an [online Multifaith Calendar](#), featuring detailed information on practices, holy days and observances for many world cultures and religions. Shareable with staff, students, and caregivers.



Stories and Voices for the Season

It seems October is a month of recognition for just about everything! There are also several key dates throughout October and November. Here are some resources that connect to some themes this fall. *While dates of recognition and celebration are timely reminders, diverse representation and culturally and historically relevant pedagogy could be the lens through which we approach teaching and learning all year round.*



ISLAMIC HISTORY MONTH

Here is an excellent resource and guidebook for educators created by the Toronto District School Board on the Islamic faith, practices, and observances.

SALAT IN SECRET, BY JAMILAH THOMPkins-BIGELOW

When Muhammad gets a special salat (prayer) rug on his seventh birthday, he is determined to do all five prayers on time. But one salat occurs during the school day, so Muhammad decides to search for a secret place to pray.






LATIN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Here is an extensive, categorized list of educational resources shared by the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion.

ONLY FOR A LITTLE WHILE, BY GABRIELA OROZCO BELT

A heartwarming picture book with Spanish words woven in, about a father helping his daughter adjust when they temporarily have to move in with extended family.



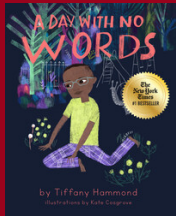


COMMUNITY INCLUSION MONTH

Inclusion BC provides resources for parents, educators, policy makers, academics and researchers. Visit [this page](#) for inclusive education reports, articles, guides and advocacy tips.

A DAY WITH NO WORDS, BY TIFFANY HAMMOND

A colorful and engaging picture book for young readers shares what life can look like for families who use nonverbal communication, utilizing tools to embrace their unique method of "speaking." The story highlights the bond between mother and child and follows them on a day where they use a tablet to communicate with others.





WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY IN CANADA

Canada's 2023 theme for Women's History Month is "Through Her Lens: Celebrating the Diversity of Women". The Government of Canada website for [Women's History Month](#) offers several resources celebrating women past and present in Canada: a timeline of women's contributions and milestones, a gallery of women's achievements. The government's [Gender Equality Commemorations and Celebrations](#) website also highlights [International Day of the Girl](#) and [Persons Day](#) with overall history, description, and digital toolkits.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 8



National Indigenous Veterans Day is an important day of remembrance that honours the contributions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people who participated in Canada's military efforts.

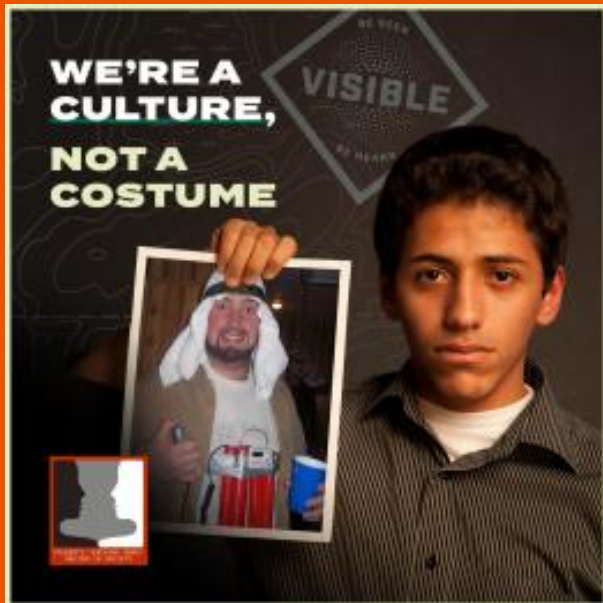
This [Government of Canada website](#) shares a commemorative history of Indigenous veterans, details of unfair treatment by the Canadian government, videos of veterans speaking about their experiences, and so much more. The Minister of National Defence puts out a video annually in recognition of the day [Here](#) is last year's address.



Indigenous soldiers chose to serve Canada when they didn't have legal standing, and when they returned from service, they weren't provided access to full Veteran benefits and support programs. While their sacrifices were equivalent to other veterans, their history and contributions are largely unknown to most Canadians. An opportunity to amplify their voices today is to incorporate them into Remembrance Day observances and assemblies.

Resources for Professional Learning

Here are some resources and articles that consider events through a REDI lens.



Ohio University: Division of Diversity and Inclusion

HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER 31

For those who celebrate it, Halloween should and needs to be fun! And it can be fun for ALL and not at the expense of equity-deserving groups. For further reading and learning, these articles offer some perspective on how groups have been marginalized through mimicry and cultural appropriation during Halloween and other 'dress up' events.

- ❖ ["Your Halloween Headdress Isn't Interesting and Neither Are You"](#)
- ❖ ["5 Tips for Teaching Your Kids About Cultural Appropriation This Halloween"](#)
- ❖ ["Teach About Blackface and Other Racist Halloween Choices"](#)
- ❖ [My Culture is Not a Costume](#)

THANKSGIVING

OCTOBER 9

Canadian Thanksgiving is an official statutory holiday occurring on the second Monday of October. Though its origin is rooted in prayer for and celebration of the autumn harvest, Thanksgiving is no longer restricted to harvest activities and has become a day for gathering family to give thanks for their general well-being.

While Thanksgiving has become a common cultural celebration, it can be difficult to ignore its colonial beginnings. These articles may be helpful in considering the Indigenous contributions to Thanksgiving traditions as well as the colonial undertones of the day.

- ❖ ["How Some Indigenous People are Reclaiming Thanksgiving to Honour Their Food and Culture"](#)
- ❖ ["Can Thanksgiving be Redeemed?"](#)
- ❖ ["A First Nations take on Thanksgiving: 'You're Welcome Weekend'"](#)



CBC

Musqueam Day ~ November 1

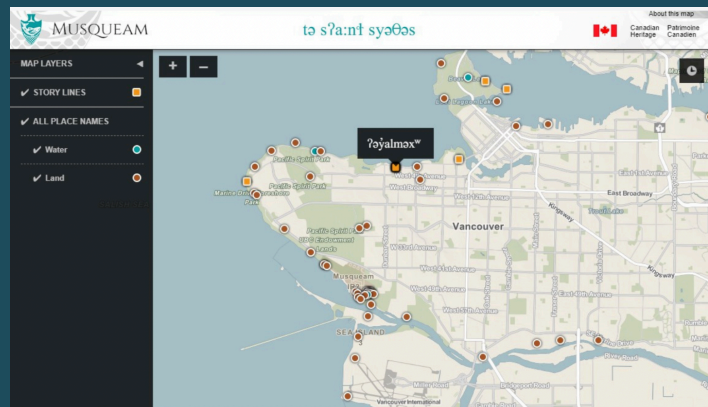
“Every year, Musqueam acknowledges November 1 as Musqueam Day – a holiday to celebrate [their] ancestor’s determination to seek justice and protect [their] inherent rights. On November 1, 1984, Musqueam won *Guerin v. The Queen*, the landmark Supreme Court of Canada case regarding the Shaughnessy Golf Course lease. The case, led by Musqueam Chief Delbert Guerin, fundamentally changed Canadian law by challenging the:

- legal enforceability of the Crown’s obligations to Aboriginal people in Canada;
- fiduciary duty owed to Aboriginal people in Canada;
- nature of Aboriginal title in Canada; and
- the Crown’s duty to consult with Aboriginal peoples.”

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TERRITORY

Musqueam’s ancestors have lived throughout and stewarded the Fraser River estuary for thousands of years. Today, portions of Musqueam’s territory are called Vancouver, Burnaby, Richmond, New Westminister, Delta, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Surrey, UBC Endowment Lands, YVR Airport and Coquitlam. This [Musqueam Place Names Map](#) is an interactive tool where you can: hear audio of the hən̓q̓əmi̓n̓əm̓ language from Musqueam Elders past and present, view historical photographs and see where they are located, and read and hear audio of the children’s place names book and follow the route of the story on the map.

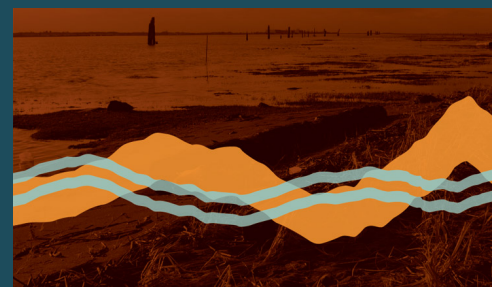


MUSQUEAM TEACHING KITS

Teaching materials are linked through the Museum of Anthropology website:

- ❖ [The Musqueam Teachers Kit in English](#) (PDF Download)
- ❖ [The Musqueam Teachers Kit in French](#) (PDF Download)
- ❖ [The Website Accompanying the Teachers Kits](#)

Within SD38, the [Musqueam Teaching Kit: Giving Information About Our Teachings](#) is available to be signed out to individual schools, through the Teacher Librarian, with support from the Indigenous Success Team. Please ask the TL at your school to contact the District Resource Centre for details.



MUSQUEAM & MUSEUM OF VANCOUVER

Museum of Vancouver has two standing exhibitions developed in partnership with Musqueam and local First Nations.

čəsnaʔəm THE CITY BEFORE THE CITY

čəsnaʔəm, known to archaeologists variously as the Eburne Midden, Great Fraser Midden, and Marpole Midden, recently made headlines when ancient burials were uncovered through urban development and the Musqueam strove to protect them. This collaborative project aims to generate public discussions about heritage and Indigenous history, and to raise awareness of the significance of čəsnaʔəm for the Musqueam people and for the City of Vancouver. [Here](#) is a video featuring Musqueam elders and knowledge keepers commenting on the importance of the exhibition and what they would want visitors to take away from it.



The Unity Indigenous Plant Garden-A Living Exhibition was created in partnership with the Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh and Tsleil-Waututh Nations. This garden connects two MOV exhibition projects: “Wild Things: The Power of Nature in Our Lives (2018-2020)” and “That Which Sustains Us (opened in 2020),” both featuring traditional knowledge from these host nations.

hə́ŋqəmíŋəm translations for the garden were provided by the Musqueam Language Department with approval of the Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Skwxwú7mesh snichim translations were provided by the Ta na wa Ns7éyxnitm ta Snewíyelh - the Squamish Nation Language and Cultural Affairs Team.

Every effort has been made to highlight resources that are useful and appropriate for a wide range of students. The resources offered are not meant to be prescriptive. Each class of students and teacher is different, and previewing all the resources is essential.