



*"The Feather", Aboriginal Learning memo, keeps you up-to-date on events and news related to our department. Submissions are accepted ([kerins\\_l@surreyschools.ca](mailto:kerins_l@surreyschools.ca)) up to noon on the previous Friday.*

### **Resource**

This resource intends to "provide information on the traditional protocols, histories, and current realities of Indigenous, Metis, and Inuit people in Canada, and addresses common misconceptions about the First People of this land." It also reflects local First Nation communities (Katzie, Kwantlen, Semiahmoo):

Surrey First Peoples Guide for Newcomers PDF: [https://surreylib.ca/sites/default/files/SNCG-VERSION%201\\_0.pdf](https://surreylib.ca/sites/default/files/SNCG-VERSION%201_0.pdf)

Original article: [https://www.missioncityrecord.com/news/new-surrey-first-peoples-guide-for-newcomers-seeks-to-uplift-and-amplify-voices/?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](https://www.missioncityrecord.com/news/new-surrey-first-peoples-guide-for-newcomers-seeks-to-uplift-and-amplify-voices/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

### **Female Youth Mentorship Program - Launched Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

Mentorship program kicked off on Sunday at 1pm PST. She Connects is a Canada-wide program that offers peer mentorship for women in highschool to be mentored by women in their 20s.

[Website](#)

[Events | She Connects](#)

### **Orange Shirt Day – September 30<sup>th</sup> - Phyllis Webstad to Speak**

See the [flyer](#).

### **The Windspeaker Program 2021-22**

Aboriginal Learning is excited to announce we are returning to outdoor field studies with The Windspeaker program! Windspeaker is open to Aboriginal students in grades 8-12, and is intended to provide opportunities for leadership and networking among Indigenous students, as

well as offering both cultural and land-based activities that support and foster Aboriginal identity. Those in grades 10, 11 & 12 are able to get IDS credit on their school transcript for their work in Windspeaker. (The credits come in 2, 3 & 4 credit increments depending on how many field studies they attend and how many media journal entries they complete.)

The Windspeaker program is proven to be very popular amongst participants and is provided at no cost to students. If you feel like you have a grade 8 – 12 Aboriginal student who would be able to commit to the monthly field studies and benefit from being in The Windspeaker program for 2021-22, please fill out this form <https://forms.office.com/r/TfgG1JE60i>

### **Truth and Reconciliation Week**

Be sure your Gr. 5 to 12 teachers sign up for Canada's 2021 Truth and Reconciliation Week, running Sept. 27 to Oct. 1, 2021. Over the course of five days, teachers will share videos created by Indigenous storytellers, which show traditional ceremonies and artistic performances, alongside conversations with Elders and knowledge keepers, survivors, and children of survivors of residential schools. There will also be a moving tribute to the missing children that never returned home from the residential schools. On September 30, Orange Shirt Day, a special program will be held to commemorate the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Registration is accessible on the [National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation](#) website.

### **Legacy Schools Toolkits**

Every year, the resources in our Legacy Schools toolkits are updated. Here's a sneak peek at the resources being shipped to schools and clubs throughout Canada for September!

[Download digital copies from the website.](#)

Some requested a year-at-a-glance format for the calendar. Now you can see all the wonderful Indigenous days of significance well in advance to help plan reconciliATIONS better with your club, group or school.

If you don't receive your toolkit or booster by the end of September, please let them know. They are aiming to have all the resources delivered to everyone between Sept 7-21, 2021.

Email [LegacySchools@DownieWenjack.ca](mailto:LegacySchools@DownieWenjack.ca) for tracking information.

### **Back-to-school Contest**

Lelum leaders and SIYAC at FRAFCA have put together two back-to-school giveaways for Indigenous students in Surrey. The Herschel giveaway is open to all grades. The second contest is strictly for Indigenous high school students. For more information email [naomi.kennedy@fracfa.org](mailto:naomi.kennedy@fracfa.org). See the [contest flyer](#) for secondary students. See the [contest flyer for all grades](#).

## **Secret Path Week - October 17<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Secret Path Week is a national movement commemorating the legacies of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack. This is a meaningful week as October 17 and 22 respectively mark the dates that Gord and Chanie joined the spirit world.

They call on all people in Canada to use Secret Path Week to answer Gord Downie's call to action, to **Do Something** by participating in a [reconciliACTION](#) and furthering the conversation about the history of residential schools.

[Check out the website](#) to learn how you can take reconciliACTION this Secret Path Week!

## **The Whole Truth About Residential Schools: Then and Now**

Beginning Sept. 15, 2021, Nelson will host a new, free webinar series entitled "The Whole Truth About Residential Schools: Then and Now." The series will provide a comprehensive overview of the Residential School System and the intergenerational impacts and actions resulting from the Indian Residential School Settlement agreement. Participants will learn of practical strategies and recommended resources to help support student learning about residential schools and tips on navigating these crucial K-12 classroom discussions. With the recent findings of unmarked graves of children who attended residential schools, this series is recommended for educators and students to learn more about the truth of these schools. Register through [Nelson's website](#) today!

## **ACCESS – Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society**

ACCESS provides career guidance and funding for Indigenous students to attend further training and education. Despite the COVID-19 challenges, ACCESS is open for business and staff members are available to provide support and guidance to your students. For more information about ACCESS programs and supports, please see ACCESS.

## **Coaching Opportunity for Youth**

It's a free coaching course happened on Sunday, September 26th. The ACM (Aboriginal Coaching Modules) is an essential resource to those that work with, coach, and/or supervise Aboriginal people in physical activity, recreation, and sporting activities. This one-day workshop will provide a greater understanding of coaching through an Aboriginal lens, and is designed to motivate, inspire, and lead Aboriginal people in sport, recreation, and physical activity. This course is free and lunch is provided. Limited seats!

Anyone ages 16 and up can take it, and I would also allow someone who is 13, 14 or 15 to take it if they are a mature individual that would be respectful of the course matter. It's an awesome opportunity for any Indigenous youth to receive some free coaching training (and looks great on a resume!).

Here is the [registration link](#), and the [information poster](#).

## **Collection of First Nations Furniture for all Types of Classrooms and Learning Commons**

[First Nations collection](#) for your review.  
[www.mitybilt.com](http://www.mitybilt.com)

## **Common Ground: The Strawberry Project**

**BCAITC is excited to launch a new free K-12 growing project with Indigenous roots!** Common Ground: The Strawberry Project is an initiative that brings together youth from local First Nations Schools and other schools in British Columbia in an effort to better understand one another. Through a cultural exchange on growing native plant species and topics relevant to sustainability, the program helps participants learn about agriculture and the importance of food, all while increasing engagement with Indigenous Ways of Knowing and Understanding.

Teachers can sign up now for a chance for their class to be selected for this project. Registration closes November 25, 2021. Registration and more details are found at:  
<https://www.bcaitc.ca/blog/common-ground-strawberry-project>

## **Surrey launches anti-gang school program** [Surrey Now-Leader article.](#)

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