

December 2021

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Virtual Family Gatherings | January to March 2022

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit education team is once again offering online virtual gatherings for EIPS families of First Nations, Métis or Inuit children. We look forward to continuing the conversation from last year and welcoming new families to our virtual circle. These gatherings are an opportunity for First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents/guardians to come together to make connections, create a supportive environment for dialogue, share hopes and ideas for their children within the EIPS family and learn what's happening around the Division. We're grateful to Elder Wilson Bearhead for attending our virtual parent gatherings last school year and agreeing to open each of our gatherings again this year. It's truly an honour and a privilege to be guided by Elder Wilson, and we hold our relationship with him close to our hearts.

Sessions will take place online using **Microsoft Teams Meetings**. Join on your computer or mobile app. [Join the meeting](#) (the same link will work for all three meetings).

- **Gathering 1: Jan. 18, 2022 (7–8 p.m.)**
- **Gathering 2: Feb. 15, 2022 (7–8 p.m.)**
- **Gathering 3: March 15, 2022 (7–8 p.m.)**

ASBA Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards | Deadline: Feb. 1, 2022

Submissions are now open for the 2022 *Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards!* [Nomination packages](#) in both English and French are available online. The deadline for nominations is **Feb. 1, 2022**. Hosted by the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA), these awards celebrate exceptional First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, nominated by members of their education communities, based on their exemplary leadership, courage and commitment to their cultures and educational paths. Last year, ASBA received a total of 204 unique nomination letters and submissions from across the province. Students may be nominated by other students, teachers, principals, superintendents, education directors, trustees, school staff, Elders or a member of the education community. [Watch past student recipients speak about why these awards are so special.](#)

If you're interested in having your child nominated, please connect with your school's administration or lead teacher to begin the process. Three EIPS students were selected for special recognition last school year!

Tawatinâ Bridge Opening | December 12

The official opening of the Tawatinâ bridge in Edmonton and the beautiful mural art installation happened on December 12. Métis artist David Garneau's work line the new bridge walkway and speaks to Indigenous histories and stories in the river valley. Read a [news article](#) on the

bridge art installation.

Direct Student Support

RBC Future Launch Scholarship for Indigenous Youth

Are you an Indigenous youth in Canada looking to pursue post-secondary education? The [RBC Future Launch Scholarship for Indigenous Youth](#) could help you achieve your post-secondary goals. The application deadline is **Jan. 5, 2022**.

The RBC Future Launch Scholarship for Indigenous Youth will award 20 scholarships valued up to \$10,000 each per year (up to four years) to First Nations, Inuit and Métis students across Canada demonstrating strong academic performance and community involvement. RBC has been providing a scholarship for Indigenous students to complete post-secondary education since 1992. To date, more than \$1.8 million dollars have been awarded to 198 Indigenous youth across Canada pursuing post-secondary education.

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.

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

One powerful project the Métis Nation of Alberta and Rupertsland Institute recently launched is the [collaborative storyboard mural](#) and re-release of the book, ***Métis Memories of Residential Schools, A Testament to the Strength of the Métis***. In a collaborative effort with respected Métis Elder Angie Crerar, author Jude D. Daniels, Canadian artist Lewis Lavoie, Rupertsland Institute and Werklund School of Education, this powerful resource was designed to acknowledge, highlight and share Métis residential school survivor experiences. Watch the [recording of the virtual unveiling](#) of the mural.

Did you know? EIPS First Nations Métis and Inuit Education team has a collection of hundreds of books by Indigenous authors and illustrators for all ages—kindergarten to Grade 12. These books are available for all Division schools to sign out and use with students or for their own enjoyment/learning. If there's a particular book, author or genre you'd like to read with your child, reach out to your school's lead teacher. If an author, book or genre is not in your school library, we may have it in our collection to lend.