

SCHOOL DISTRICT 83

## IMPORTANT DATES

### January 1

New Year's Day

Ochetoookeskaw -

Kissing Day (Metis)

### January 4

National Ribbon Skirt Day

# TRC Newsletter

## National Ribbon Skirt Day

A Bill was brought forward in November 2021 by Senator Mary Jane McCallum to declare January 4 as National Ribbon Skirt Day. The movement was inspired by 10-year-old Isabella Kulak, a Saskatchewan student who was shamed for wearing her ribbon skirt on formal day. [\(Source\)](#) Bill S-210, an Act respecting a National Ribbon Skirt Day received royal assent on December 15, 2022. [\(Source\)](#)

Modern ribbon skirts are adapted from European designs and the Buckskin dresses, T-dresses, and ceremonial skirts of the Woodlands and Plains; Indigenous designs were transformed with European materials, patterns, and techniques. Ribbon skirts can be a personal symbol of reaffirmation, resilience, survival, reclamation, and identity. The origin, evolution, teachings, and meanings of ribbon skirts are very diverse and unique to different nations and communities, and the art of the Ribbon Skirt a medium for reclamation and reconciliation. [\(Source\)](#)



IEW Tori Jewel is always looking for ways to decolonize schools. Here are the "Winter Solstice" inspired decorations on the door of the Welcome Room at PVSS.



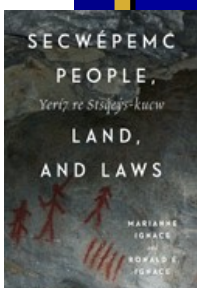
[Photo Source](#)

### Self-Learning

### Secwepemc People, Land, and Laws

By Marianne Ignace and Ronald E. Ignace

The DRC and each school in the district has a copy of this book.



## Mother who Fought Smudging in School Loses Appeal

Vancouver Island mother and evangelical Protestant Candice Servatius, who argued that an Indigenous smudging ceremony and prayer demonstration at her children's school violated their religious freedoms, has lost her appeal and has been ordered to pay the court costs incurred by the school district. The claim against the Port Alberni school district was struck down by the B.C. Supreme

Court in 2020 and on December 12, Appeal Court Justice Susan Griffin upheld the prior court's ruling. The court ruled that Servatius failed to establish that the cultural demonstrations, which occurred in 2015 and 2016, interfered with her children's ability to act in accordance with their religious beliefs. The elementary school, where approximately one-third of the students are Indigenous, is within the

traditional Nuuchah-nulth territories. Even though the Supreme Court judge ordered both Servatius and the school district to pay their own costs in January 2020, the Appeal Court judge set aside that decision and ordered Servatius to pay the school district's court costs after it was revealed that the mother's case was being funded by the Calgary-based Justice Centre for Constitutional Freedoms (JCCF). [\(Source\)](#)

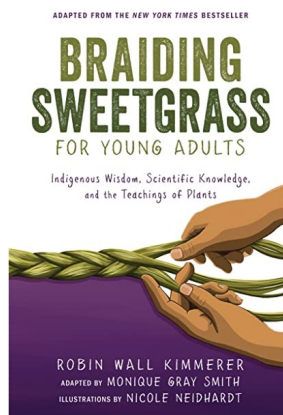
# New Resources at the DRC



**Resilience: 50 Indigenous Art Cards and Teaching Guide** is a boxed set that contains 50 full-colour, 8" x 10" reproductions of art featuring contemporary First Nations, Inuit and Metis women artists and a bilingual (English/French) teaching guide. **(K-12)**

[Link to Teaching Guide](#)

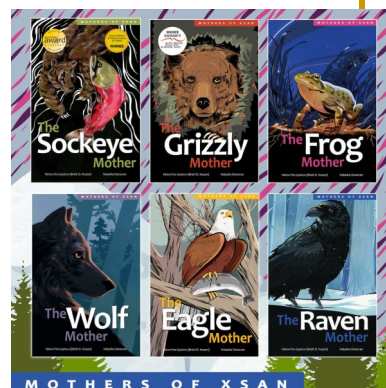
Drawing from her experiences as an Indigenous scientist, botanist Robin Wall Kimmerer demonstrated how all living things—from strawberries and witch hazel to water lilies and lichen—provide us with gifts and lessons every day in her best-selling book *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Adapted for young adults by Monique Gray Smith, ***Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults*** reinforces how wider ecological understanding stems from listening to the earth's oldest teachers: the plants around us. **(7-12)**



## BC FIRST PEOPLES 12 TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

This Teacher Resource Guide is intended to support students and teachers of BC First Peoples 12.

The **Mothers of Xsan** series is a collection of stories that connect the world to the matrilineal society of the Gitxsan people, located in Northwestern British Columbia. It presents scientific knowledge in language and a format that is accessible. **(3-7)**



What is Aboriginal law? Historical background, Sovereignty and Aboriginal-Crown relations, Aboriginal rights and title, Treaties, Consultation, accommodation, and consent, Indigenous and international law.

TEACHER RESOURCE

## Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada Giant Map Kit

This resource will assist you and your students in understanding the past, present and future of Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The online lesson plans explore climate change, connection to the land, Indigenous governance, human rights, Indigenous languages and much more. **(K-12)**

[Link to Teacher Guide](#)

How do I order resources from the District Resource Centre (DRC)? [Follow this link](#) and click on "Placing a Reservation" or send a TEAMS chat to Emily Lazar (DRC Library Technician/Clerk) and let Emily know what you would like to order.



IEW Tricia Jeffery and TRC Ally Tammy Vlieg at Parkview Elementary worked with student Tristin Funk to create a Remembrance Day bulletin board honouring his ancestors.



## Zoom Workshop: Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults

Tuesday, January 17 – 4pm Pacific / 7pm Eastern

In this workshop Monique Gray Smith will share her adaptation of *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer and dive into how to share Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants with Young Adults.

[Link to Registration](#)