

IMPORTANT
DATES

November 7

Inuit Day

November 8

Indigenous Veterans Day

November 11

Remembrance Day

November 16

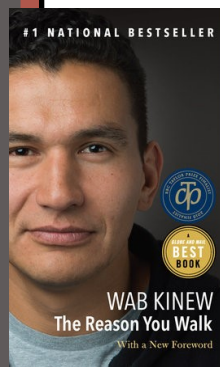
Louis Riel Day

November 14-20

Rock Your Mocs Week /

Metis Week

Self-Learning



By WAB KINEW

Also available in E-
Book and Audio
formats

TRC Newsletter

Mi'kmaw filmmaker Jeff Barnaby dies at 46

The ground-breaking Mi'kmaw director of horror genre films died from cancer on October 13. Jeff Barnaby's 2013 feature film "Rhymes for Young Ghouls" was built around the violence and legacy of the residential school system, and the lead role was played by Devery Jacobs. After her debut in "Ghouls", Jacobs went on to acclaim in "Reservation Dogs" and has recently been announced to play a key role in an upcoming Marvel show. Barnaby's second film "Blood Quantum" won 6 Canadian Screen Awards. The 2019 film features a zombie plague

outside the isolated Mi'kmaq reserve of Red Crow that the Indigenous inhabitants are strangely immune to. "Blood Quantum" is a unique horror film that tells the story through an unapologetically Indigenous lens. ([Source](#))

[Trailer for "Blood Quantum"](#)



Recommended Resource

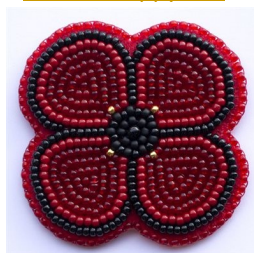
This Place: 150 Years Retold

Description: Graphic novel anthology, 150 years, in what is now Canada, retold by Indigenous creators.

This text features the story Peggy, about the life of Francis Pegahmagabow, a highly-decorated First World War soldier from Wasauksing First Nation

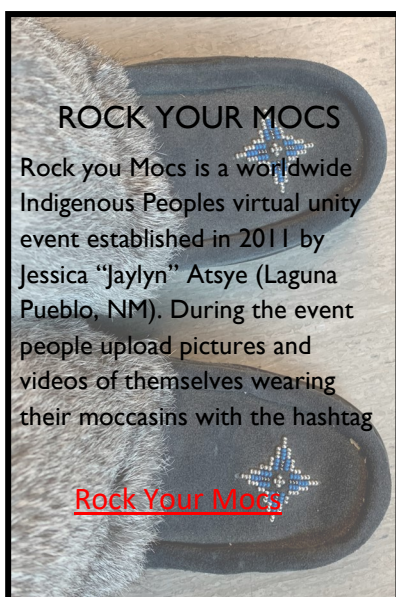
Audio versions of the stories are available on [CBC LISTEN](#)

Suitable for grades 9-12

Remembering
Indigenous Veterans[Beaded Poppy Kits](#)

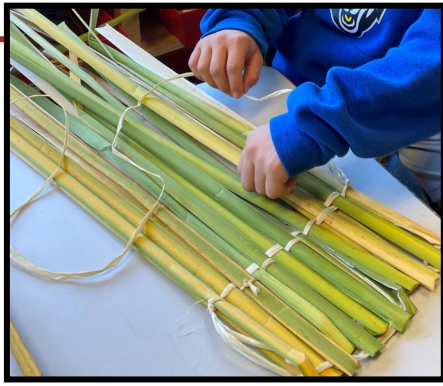
Legion

[Indigenous Veterans Lapel Pin](#)

**ROCK YOUR MOCS**

Rock your Mocs is a worldwide Indigenous Peoples virtual unity event established in 2011 by Jessica "Jaylyn" Atsye (Laguna Pueblo, NM). During the event people upload pictures and videos of themselves wearing their moccasins with the hashtag

[Rock Your Mocs](#)



Laura Dolha recently took a grade 4/5 class from HPE to harvest, process, and make bulrush mats. The children modeled respectful harvesting practices by taking only what they needed, using everything they took and leaving a tobacco offering to the bulrush where they harvested. They harvested the bulrushes at a marshy area near the school and processed them in the school field. After leaving the bulrush to dry in Laura's room for a day and a half, then made the bulrush mats in the classroom with parent volunteers. Everyone persevered and did a lovely job with their mats.



Working with IEW's

It is important for TRC Allies and school staff to maintain positive relationships with the Indigenous Education Workers and other members of the Indigenous Education Team in their schools. IEW's provide cultural enrichment for the benefit of students with Indigenous ancestry, but cultural enrichment may also be provided in the regular classroom setting. IEW's should not be asked to do research or prep on topics they are not familiar with; curriculum is the responsibility of the teacher. Teachers can reach out to Indigenous Resource Helping Teacher [Tina Lepine](#) for assistance with Indigenous-content curriculum. IEW's are an invaluable and essential personal connection and support person for students of Indigenous ancestry in the school. Their knowledge and experiences are unique and varied, and they enhance Indigenous students' overall sense of belonging and connection in the school or classroom.

Indigenous Veterans Day - November 8

During WWI over 4,000 Indigenous people served in uniform during the conflict. In some areas, such as Head-of-the-Lake near Vernon, every able-bodied man between 20-35 enlisted. Indigenous people brought valuable skills to the military which helped them become successful snipers and reconnaissance scouts. In WW2 over 3,000 First Nations members, as well as an unknown number of Métis, Inuit and other Indigenous recruits, served in uniform, and again served as snipers and scouts, but also as "code talkers" who used their Indigenous languages to deliver messages. At home, Indigenous peoples donated large amounts of money, clothing and food to the effort and their reserve lands were used for the construction of new airports, rifle ranges and defence installations. During the Korean War several hundred Indigenous people served overseas, many of whom had seen action in WW2. Indigenous men and women continue to proudly serve in the Canadian Armed Forces, being deployed for service with NATO, the UN and in Afghanistan. [\(Source\)](#)

Sadly, when Indigenous soldiers returned from WWI, they did not receive the same assistance as other returned soldiers. Many First Nation soldiers had to become enfranchised to enlist in WW2, and when veterans returned from fighting overseas, they found out that they no longer had Indian status as they had been absent from their reserve for 4 years. Indigenous veterans did not have the right to obtain many benefits available to non-Indigenous veterans due to restrictions in the Indian Act. [\(Source\)](#)

The service of Indigenous Canadians was overlooked, and they were excluded from laying wreaths at official Remembrance Day ceremonies. It wasn't until 1994 that the first Aboriginal Veterans Day was observed. Indigenous Canadians fought for freedom and human rights that they themselves were denied. [\(Source\)](#)



Over the past several decades, Veterans Affairs Canada has been increasing support and recognition of Indigenous veterans. This includes increasing the awareness of veterans' programs and services, honouring service through memorials, commemorative programs and learning opportunities, and increasing engagement with Indigenous veterans' organizations. [\(Source\)](#)

