

REDI NEWSLETTER

Practicing Reconciliation, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Perspectives on Spring

*The first bud of spring sings the other seeds
into joining her uprising.*

Amanda Gorman

*it is a blessing
to be the color of earth
do you know how often
flowers confuse me for home*

Rupi Kaur

*How should Spring bring forth a garden on
hard stone? Become earth, that you may grow
flowers of many colors. For you have been
heart-breaking rock. Once, for the sake of
experiment, be earth!*

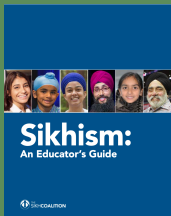
Rumi

Calendar Resources

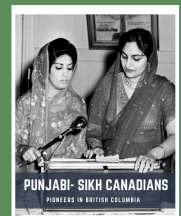
Although holidays and dedicated heritage months are helpful reminders in an inclusive calendar, celebrating diversity and inclusion could be the lens through which educators approach all learning. Diverse identities can be affirmed and embedded throughout the year through culturally and historically responsive pedagogy.

SIKH HERITAGE MONTH

Developed by Langley School District, this [teacher resource guide](#) reflects a diverse community and is meant to engage learners in a critical study of Punjabi-Sikh pioneer contributions to Canada. This project aligns with BC curriculum attempts to reflect and embed First People's Principles of Learning.

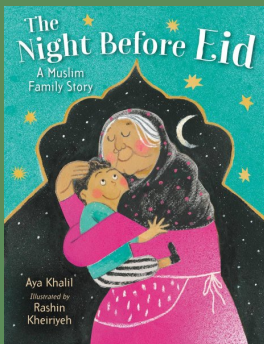
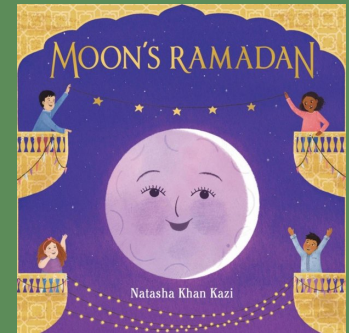


The [Sikh Coalition of Canada](#) has created [this guide](#), explicitly designed in an effort to equip educators to teach Sikhism and provide them with the depth of necessary information regarding the Sikh community, traditions and faith.



MOON'S RAMADAN, BY NATASHA KHAN KAZI

Cleverly blending glimpses of different countries' celebrations with the corresponding phases of the moon, Moon's Ramadan makes Ramadan, one of the world's most widely celebrated traditions, accessible and exciting for all readers.



THE NIGHT BEFORE EID, BY AYA KHALIL

Together with Mama and Teita, Zain follows his family's recipe and brings to life Eid songs and prayers, pharaonic history, and the melodies and tastes of his Egyptian heritage. This Muslim holiday story, featuring a delicious ka'ak recipe, is a satisfying addition to a joyful and expansive Eid.

AN INVITATION TO PASSOVER

BY RABBI KERRY OLITZKY & RABBI DEBORAH BODIN COHEN

Hannah's mom tells her that Passover is "a celebration of springtime and the hope for new beginnings." Then she adds that it's not just about looking forward but reflecting back, to "also remember our history." It also means eating food everyone loves and that includes matzah ball soup!



Indigenous Knowledge and Worldview

Spring is a season of renewal and new beginnings and is much anticipated by Indigenous peoples who follow a seasonal round cycle. Spring signals the start of travel and harvesting after the long winter months. Indigenous peoples have a relationship to the land that involves caring for it through balance and reciprocity.

BC FIRST NATIONS LAND, TITLE, AND GOVERNANCE: TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

The Laws of the Land are guidelines used to ensure that all resources are sustainable. The knowledge Indigenous peoples gathered about the land over thousands of years are important teachings still used today to be responsive to the land and its needs. Below is an excerpt from page 114 of [BC First Nations Land, Title, and Governance: Teacher Resource Guide](#) from FNEESC.

Blackline Master 10

First Nations Laws and the Land

First Nations had governments in the past.
They have governments today.
First Nations have always had governments.

They follow traditional laws.
The laws were followed in the past.
They are still followed today.
The laws are unwritten.
They are passed down orally.

The laws tell how to take care of the land.
They tell how to treat animals.
They tell how to treat each other.

Here are some laws about the land:

- Thank the plants and animals when you take them.
- Only take what you need.
- Share your food with others.
- Only take food from your own land.

ᓁᓄᓇᓂᓄᓇ SALMONBERRY SHOOTS



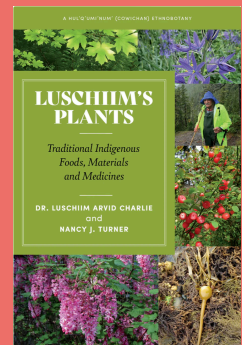
Picking salmonberries is one of the highlights of the summer months. In the spring, the fresh shoots are an important food source for the x^wməθk^wəy^m (Musqueam) people. When the branches are still pliable you can pick off the sprouts, peel the outer layer off, and eat the inside.

The pronunciation of salmonberry shoots in hən̓q̓əmi̓nəm̓ for ᓁᓄᓇᓂᓄᓇ is provided [here](#) by Elder Larry Grant. He also provides the pronunciation for lileʔ (salmonberry fruit) and lileʔəɫp (salmonberry plant). More knowledge about Coast Salish plants can be found in Luschiim's Plants or Saanich Ethnobotany (below).

LUSCHIIM'S PLANTS

BY DR. LUSCHIIM ARVID CHARLIE & NANCY J TURNER

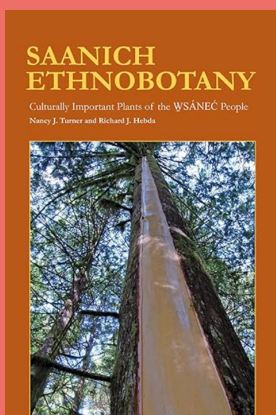
In this unprecedented collection of botanical information, over 140 plants are categorized within their broad botanical groupings: algae and seaweeds, lichens, fungi and mushrooms, mosses and liverworts, ferns and fern-allies, coniferous trees, deciduous trees, shrubs and vines, and herbaceous flowering plants. Each entry is illustrated with a colour photo and includes the plant's common, scientific and Hul'q'umi'num' names; a short description; where to find it; and cultural knowledge related to the plant. Additional notes encompass plant use, safety and conservation; the linguistic writing system used for Hul'q'umi'num' plant names; as well as miscellaneous notes from interviews with Luschiim.



SAANICH ETHNOBOTANY

BY NANCY J. TURNER & RICHARD J. HEBDA

Turner and Hebda present the results of many years of working with botanical experts from the Saanich Nation on southern Vancouver Island. Elders Violet Williams of Pauquachin, Elsie Claxton of Tsawout, and Christopher Paul and Dave Elliott of Tsartlip pass on their knowledge of plants and their uses to future generations of Saanich and Coast Salish people, and to anyone interested in native plants and their uses.





SILA AND THE LAND

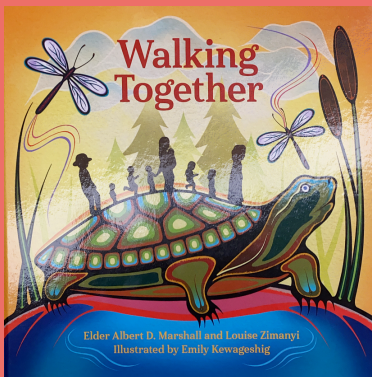
BY SHELBY ANGALIK, ARIANA ROUNDPOINT & LINDSAY DUPRÉ

Three young Indigenous women came together to write a children's book that could help share perspectives on the land common across First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities. This includes a shared respect for the earth and an understanding of our responsibilities to protect it for future generations.

In order to convey these perspectives in the story, the authors spoke with youth from a number of Indigenous communities across Canada. They asked about why the environment was important to each of them and what land-based teachings and experiences were significant to their identities and cultures. Their responses helped shape the book, offering examples of things Sila could learn from the land during her journey travelling across the North, East, South and West.

WALKING TOGETHER

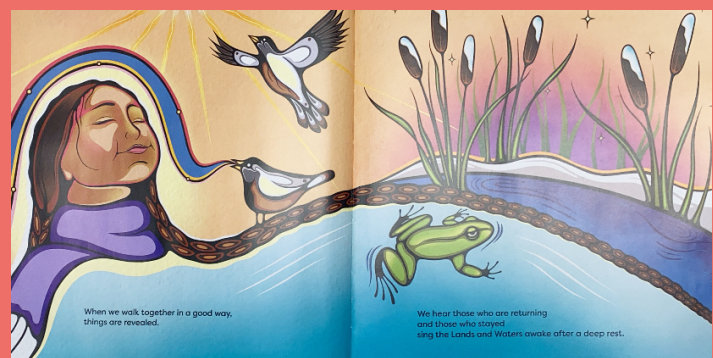
BY ELDER ALBERT D. MARSHALL & LOUISE ZIMANYI



A poetic, joyful celebration of the Lands and Waters as spring unfolds: we watch for Robin's return, listen for Frog's croaking, and wonder at Maple tree's gift of sap. Grounded in Etuaptmunk, also known as Two-Eyed Seeing – which braids together the strengths of Indigenous and non-Indigenous ways of knowing – and the Mi'kmaq concept of Netukulimk—meaning to protect Mother Earth for the ancestors, present, and future generations – *Walking Together*

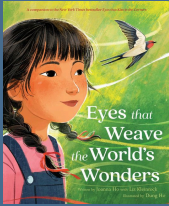
nurtures

respectful, reciprocal, responsible relationships with the Land and Water, plant-life, animals and other-than-human beings for the benefit of all. Fans of *Be a Good Ancestor* will find this to be a nice complement.



New and Notable

EYES THAT WEAVE THE WORLD'S WONDERS, BY JOANNA HO WITH LIZ KLEINROCK



From New York Times bestselling Joanna Ho, of *Eyes that Kiss in the Corners*, and award-winning educator Liz Kleinrock comes a powerful companion picture book about adoption and family. A young girl who is a transracial adoptee learns to love her Asian eyes and finds familial connection and meaning through them, even though they look different from her parents'.

THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT: SEARCHING FOR A JUST PEACE

The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the most controversial issues in our contemporary world. This unit approaches the conflict through the vehicle of narrative constructed through the judicious use of facts and perspectives. The unit materials include a broad spectrum of resources, lesson plans and student assignments that will produce multiple narratives based on individual perspectives. The unit, which was initiated by the British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) Representative Assembly, closes with a critical thinking exercise that asks students to identify the obstacles to peace and write their own narrative about the conflict. While the unit was created in 2016 and the geopolitical conflict is not new, the discussion is notably and currently on the hearts and minds of many.



FOOD INSECURITY

All schools have recently received community fridges as a part of the District initiative to ensure that SD38 students have access to healthy, and high quality food. Elementary schools have also received a carefully curated book bundle which reflects contemporary values and addresses issues related to food insecurity. See the TL at your site for more information.



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.