

RCH NEWSLETTER



PD SESSION GIVEN TO SSRSB CUSTODIAL, JANITORIAL, TRADES AND OTHERS IN THE OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT.

What stops our learners from achieving?

This is a question that was posed at one of our most recent RCH PD sessions. The question is a great one because if we don't know who our learners are, we can't serve them best.

So when educators at this PD session answered the question, I was very pleased to hear that the common thread was relationships. I believe that if we don't get to know our students and build relationships with them, then our teaching lacks the authentic learning experience that kids need.

Here are some of the answers given by educators in SSRSB:

- RELATIONSHIPS: missing the engagement and personal link to the curriculum
- sleep
- lack of goal setting
- lessons aren't individualized, we don't address race, gender, etc.
- lack of restoring issues
- not linking with the home
- working in isolation and not using the inter-school networks that we have set up

When I begin to take a good look at some of these points, I know we can influence some and we have no control over others. The ones that we have no control over ... Forget! The ones that we can do something about, be pointed and focused every day in every lesson. Ask yourself who your students are, and teach to them. And one thing to remember: it is ok to talk about the tough topics. Race and gender are two that people stray from, but if we are teaching ALL of our students, then we have to teach ALL of our students.

Learning on the go:

Entire school takes field trip to Kejimikujik



Taken from Queens County Advance Oct. 28, 2015

KEJIMKUJIK- North Queens Community School put away the books, packed up their students and headed to Kejimikujik National Park and Historic Site for an interactive learning experience recently.

In total, approximately 150 students attended the Oct. 7 field trip and participated in a variety of activities ranging from touring the petroglyphs along the lake to guided walks to participating in the Parks Canada Xplorer Program.

As October is Mi'kmaq Heritage Month, principal Jennifer Weare said that the trip was a perfect way to tie the curriculum into a greater sense of cultural awareness.

"Teresa Provo, our student support worker, was the one who suggested it," said Weare. "It tied into so many different curriculums, like social studies and health."

She added that the trip was beneficial in supporting one of the school's goals: helping to create a sense of belonging for the students. Through the many interactive experiences offered at Kejimikujik, the students were able to connect with Mi'kmaq culture in a way that a classroom alone couldn't provide.

According to the park's website, school programs are offered every spring and fall, with activities

and walks provided by both Natural History and Mi'kmaq interpreters.

Students were also able to experience the interactive exhibits at the Visitor Information Centre, and each left with a pin to commemorate their trip.

"Keji is so close, it's right at our back door, and it has so many resources," said Provo, who added that planning for the trip started last year.

When asked about her favourite part of the trip, Provo didn't hesitate.

"The petroglyph tour. I couldn't tell you how many times I've been (to Kejimikujik) - many, many times. And I never saw them. So that was great," she said.

Weare said students and staff feel the same way.

"The staff enjoys getting out of the school and away from typical academics," she said. "They really enjoy seeing the kids running around, enjoying themselves, but learning at the same time."

This is the first time that the entire school, instead of just individual classes, has gone to the park, but hopes are high to do it again in the future.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

NOVEMBER

Monthly/Weekly Awareness & Celebrations:

November

Woman Abuse Prevention Month

Family Violence Prevention Month

Transgender Awareness Week: Nov 20-26

Anti-Bully Week: Nov 16-20



Daily Awareness:

Nov 11: Remembrance Day

Nov 11: Diwali/Deepavali

Nov 13: World Kindness Day

Nov 16: International Day of Tolerance (UN)

Nov 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance

Universal Children's Day

Nov 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

Nov 29: First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER

Monthly/Weekly Awareness & Celebrations:

Universal Human Rights Month

Dec 26-Jan 1: Kwanza

Dec 6-Dec 14: Hanukkah

Daily Awareness:

Dec 6: National Day of Remembrance &
Action on Violence Against Women

Dec 10: International Human Rights Day

Dec 24: Christmas Eve

Dec 25: Christmas

Dec 26: Boxing Day

Dec 31: New Year's Eve



These do not cover every culture or holiday, but does attempt to give information of some important events.

EVENTS, PHOTOS & PD FROM OCT.



1. Bluenose Academy takes a trip to the Queens County Museum and learns about the Mi'kmaq. 2. Sheila Porter cooks with a student making Mi'kmaq Luskis 3. Drumming at CAMS 4. Talking sticks at GES 5. Mi'kmaq art work by Bluenose students.

SOME RCH/SCHOOL PARTNERING THIS MONTH:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. BA | 9. BES |
| 2. DJCWA | 10. BCS |
| 3. CDS | 11. PVEC |
| 4. PES | 12. NQCS |
| 5. GES | 13. LRHS |
| 6. WNES | 14. FHCS |
| 7. CAMS: | ... AND |
| 8. BJSMS | MORE |

An active month with a lot of involvement from schools!

October was a great month for RCH. We were able to host a lot of PD sessions for educators and other board staff. In addition, the student support workers and RCH Coordinator worked in a number of buildings to bring a bit of the Mi'kmaq culture to students. The focus this month was being in schools and being

visible. I think we did a great job and continued some of the fantastic work of the previous month. On the next couple of pages, you will see just some of the things we did in schools and with educators. It is always a pleasure being able to help with the culture of our board. I know November will be even better!

SOCIAL JUSTICE PD SESSION

SSRSB, ALONG WITH FREE THE CHILDREN (THE ORGANIZATION THAT PUTS ON "WE DAY"), HOSTED A PD SESSION THAT FOCUSED ON RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS AND COLLABORATION TIME TO SHARE THE WONDERFUL THINGS GOING ON IN OUR SCHOOLS.



RCH PD SESSION

IN FOLLOWING THE STRATEGIC PLAN, A GROUP OF SCHOOLS WAS SET UP LAST YEAR TO MEET AND FOCUS ON CULTURAL PROFICIENCY WITHIN SCHOOLS. THIS GROUP WAS COHORT 1. OVER THE LIFE OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN, OTHER SCHOOLS WILL COME ON BOARD AND JOIN IN THE PD. THIS SESSION OCCURRED OCTOBER 5. WE FOCUSED ON PLANNING FOR THE YEAR TO BE CULTURALLY FOCUSED.



RCH PD SESSION: COHORT 2

SEVEN SCHOOLS CONTINUED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN COHORTS. WE MET ON OCT. 29 AT THE BOARD OFFICE. GREAT CONVERSATION AND QUESTIONING OCCURRED. WE LOOKED AT INSTITUTIONAL RACISM, RACE IN THE SOUTH SHORE, SSRSB DATA AROUND RACE. SESSION TWO LOOKS TO BE A GREAT FOLLOW-UP.





LRHS: BUILDING CULTURE

LAST YEAR, LRHS USED THEIR PLC TIME TO LOOK AT THE CULTURE WITHIN THEIR TEACHING STAFF AND HOW IT IMPACTED STUDENTS. IN CONTINUATION FROM LAST YEAR TO THIS YEAR, STAFF HOSTED A FOCUS GROUP OF 24 STUDENTS TO DIG DEEPER. SOME OF THE SESSION WERE RCH, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS, CULTURAL DIVERSITY, DRUGS & CITIZENSHIP.



MI'KMAQ TALKING STICKS AT PES

STUDENT SUPPORT WORKERS SHEILA PORTER AND TERESA PROVO HELD A WORKSHOP WITH ALL OF PENTZ ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. EACH STUDENT WAS ABLE TO MAKE A TALKING STICK. TEACHERS READ THE BACKGROUND BEHIND IT DURING THE WEEK IN PREPARATION.

MI'KMAQ STUDENT DANCERS SHARE AT CDS

TO CELEBRATE THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, THE STUDENT SUPPORT WORKER AT CDS, SHEILA PORTER, HELPED TO ARRANGE A SCHOOL-WIDE ASSEMBLY. DURING THE ASSEMBLY, SOME STUDENTS FROM THE SCHOOL DRESSED IN THEIR MI'KMAQ REGALIA AND DANCED FOR THE STUDENT BODY. ELDER PEGGY WENTZEL CAME IN AND PLAYED HER DRUM. THANK YOU!



South Shore Public Libraries Presents Award Winning Author

Lawrence Hill

Book Talk and Reading

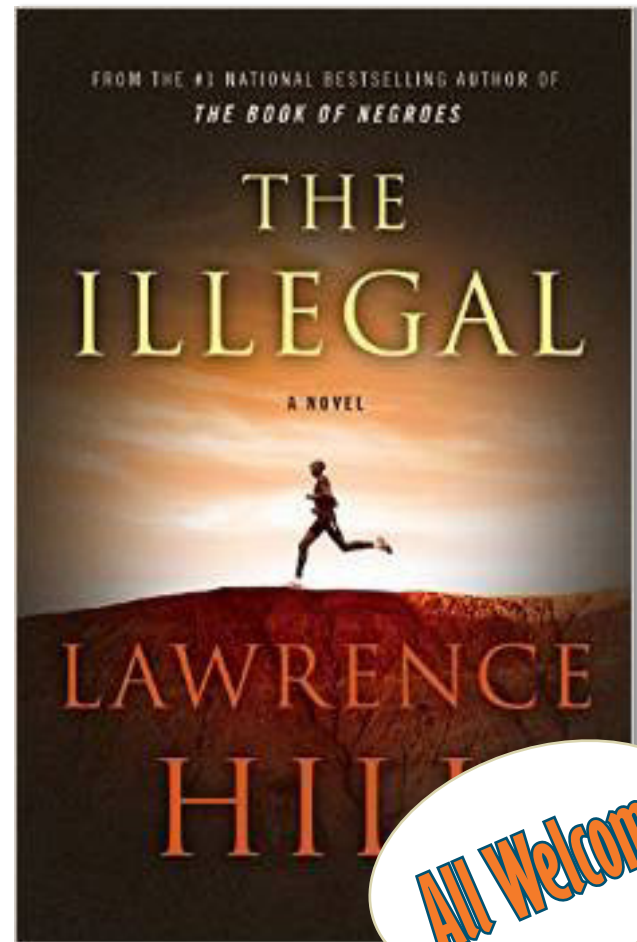
Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic

68 Bluenose Drive, Lunenburg

Saturday, December 12
2 p.m.

FREE

Doors open at 1:15 p.m.
for book purchase and signing.



All Welcome

Lawrence Hill is the author of several novels including *The Book of Negroes*, which won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. In 2015 Hill was appointed to the Order of Canada "for his contributions as an author and activist who tells the stories of Canada's black community and of women and girls in Africa."

We are pleased to work with our community partners:
- Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic
- Lexicon Books



Actor, Playwright, Director: Juanita Peters



LIVING THE ARTS SURVIVAL GUIDE NOVEMBER 9TH-26TH 2015

Director of CBC Television's new dramatic series *Studio Black*, Producer and Director of *Africville Can't Stop Now*, and actor in more than 30 screen and stage productions. Juanita Peters is excited about her more than 30 years in the arts and wants to share the "good" news with students and teachers in Nova Scotia.

FOR BOOKINGS : CALL 902-410-3794 OR email:
sanfamilyprod@gmail.com

Local Mi'kmaq Artist Alan Syliboy Publishes Book, The Thundermaker

Mi'kmaq multimedia artist Alan Syliboy can now add published author to his list of many talents.

Syliboy, from the Millbrook First Nation in Nova Scotia, has written and illustrated his first book called "The Thundermaker" based on the Mi'kmaq legend, The Stone Canoe.

"I've always told stories but to put it in a structured format where it was a book was something different," Syliboy explained.



A launch of the children's book is being held at the Truro campus of the Nova Scotia Community College. The book is published by Nimbus.

"The Thundermaker" is a coming-of-age story about Little Thunder who is encouraged by his elderly parents to get married. The story follows Little Thunder as he takes over the duties of his father, Big Thunder, to become the Thundermaker.

Syliboy's idea for the book began after he provided illustrations for the book, "The Stone Canoe: Two Lost Mi'kmaq Tales" by Elizabeth Paul, which was published in 2007 by Gaspereau Press.

The story of "The Thundermaker" first began as a series of paintings that became an art exhibit. The exhibit toured various libraries throughout Nova Scotia in 2014.

Syliboy then worked with students studying animation at NSCC to create a video about Little Thunder. The video was shown during the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver and was recently included in the imagineNATIVE film festival in Toronto.

The exhibit and video are currently on display at the library on the NSCC Truro Campus.

Syliboy's children's book is the latest in the Mi'kmaq artist's Thundermaker series.

"I'm really happy about this," Syliboy said. "It's been a long process."

Syliboy said he wrote his story in the Mi'kmaq tradition to use storytelling as a teaching tool.

"I wanted to keep that as a way to stay in the tradition of storytelling and that all stories have a lesson," he said.

POSTED BY: [MAUREEN GOOGOO](http://kukukwes.com) OCTOBER 26, 2015 on <http://kukukwes.com>

COFFEE &



CONVERSATION

South Shore Welcoming Communities: Come for the coffee... stay for the conversation

Background:

South Shore Welcoming Communities is a network that works with individuals and groups to honor local heritage and to embrace a culture of inclusion and diversity for all who visit, work, live and play on the South Shore. The purpose of holding a 'Coffee and Conversation' is to go out into the communities along the South Shore and talk to people about what we are doing well to celebrate culture and diversity and what creates barriers or challenges for people. This session we will be discussing welcoming the LGBTQ+ community.

What: Coffee and Conversation:

When: November 4, 2015

Where: Lunenburg County Lifestyle Centre
135 N. Park Street, Bridgewater, NS

Time: 6:30pm-8pm

Other: If you have questions, please contact us at the information below. Drop-ins are more than welcome but if you wish to let us know you're coming, please contact:

Dianne Crowell (902) 523-5685 or
saslq@harbour-house.ca



Native Council of Nova Scotia

Aboriginal Youth Outreach Program to participate at:

THE GATHERING OF OUR VOICES CONFERENCE IN VICTORIA, B.C.

**2 YOUTH WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND
THIS CONFERENCE FROM MARCH 21-24/2016**



Essay competition is open to all off-reserve Aboriginal Youth, aged 15 to 19 years residing in Nova Scotia. Registration costs, flights, meals & accomodations will be covered for two (2) successful applicants. Deadline is February 6th, 2016 at 4:30 pm.



**For further information and essay requirements, please contact:
Brittney Francis @ (902) 405-4730 or email: reachyouth@eastlink.ca**



GoodMinds.com is a First Nations family owned book wholesaler located on Six Nations of the Grand River (Brantford) in Southwestern Ontario. Our goal is to support Aboriginal communities that do not currently have a public library and to help those existing Aboriginal public libraries enhance and expand. That is why the SALT fund was created. SALT stands for Supporting Aboriginal Libraries Today. For details please visit our website: www.goodminds.com.

Why Are Public Libraries Important?

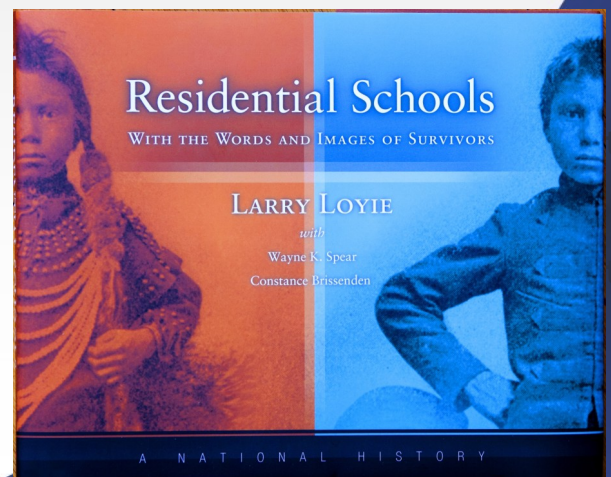
A library is much more than just books; it's a meeting room, children's programs, reading time, internet access, research, DVD's, featured movie nights, summer reading clubs and special events. Many libraries subscribe to special databases for research and provide a much higher quality of service than your basic web search.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are approximately 617 Reserves in Canada with LESS THAN 60 First Nations public libraries
- LESS THAN 1 in 10 First Nations communities have a public library
- Many existing Aboriginal libraries have inadequate facilities and collections
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada does not currently allocate funds for public libraries for Aboriginal communities

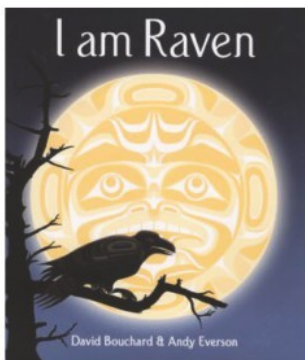
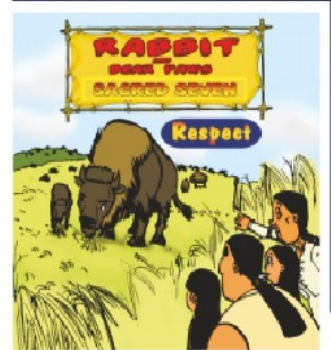
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

When books are purchased from **GoodMinds.com**, most sales will be discounted, plus it will automatically generate a personal monetary contribution from President Jeff Burnham of 5% of net sales to the SALT fund.



“The library is the heart and mind of the community. It is a place where healing can begin and continue on a long and healthy good life.”

- Chad Solomon,
Author/Illustrator

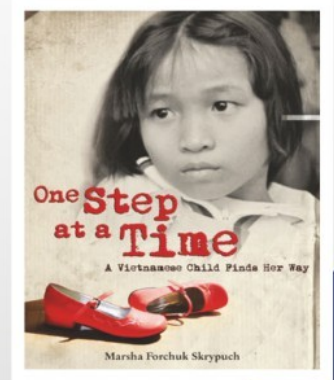


“That a single Canadian community has no library, in 2013, is incomprehensible. That the vast majority of Aboriginal communities are denied this basic human right is simply wrong.”

- David Bouchard,
Author

“Access to a public library is something many Canadians take for granted. I applaud GoodMinds.com and their initiative.”

- Marsha Skrypuch,
Author



“Perhaps a little SALT is the answer.”

- Don Lynch,
Chair of Six Nations Public Library



For more information visit: GoodMinds.com or Call 1-519-761-0366

Email: burnhamj@goodminds.com