



## Meet the Team

Click [here](#) to meet the Indigenous Education Team.

## Resources and Support

If you would like support from the Team, complete a [Request for Support Form](#). For more Indigenous Education resources, be sure to check out the Indigenous Education page on [Insite](#).

## Save the Dates

More information about these upcoming events will be shared in [The Week Ahead](#).

### March 20:

Indigenous Student  
Grade 9 Transitions  
Round Dance

### May 31:

CBE Indigenous  
Student Graduation

## Significant Dates

Click the links to learn more.

### March 20:

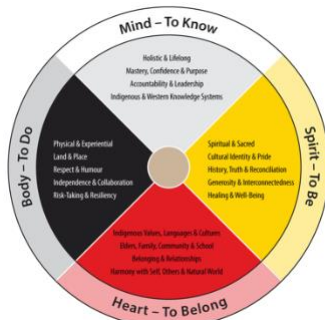
[Spring Equinox](#)

### March 22:

[World Water Day](#)

### April 22:

[Earth Day](#)



# Indigenous Education Newsletter

## Resources and Teachings to Support Classroom Learning

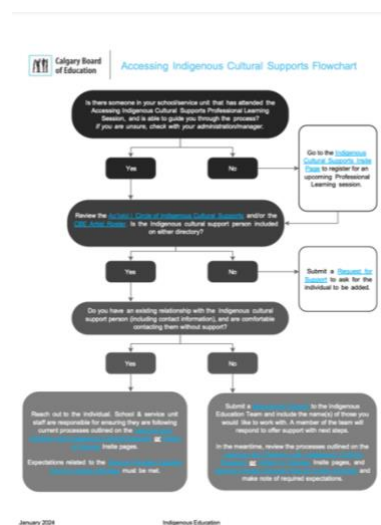
Blackfoot (Moytoy); Tsuut'ina (Xadaguzidi); Stoney  
Nakoda (Widu); Métis (Praentaan) - Spring

## NEW CBE Framework for Learning and Working with Indigenous Cultural Supports

In January 2024, the CBE introduced a new process to support schools and service units when learning and working with Indigenous Cultural Supports (Elders, Knowledge Keepers, drummers etc.) who receive an honorarium. To support our collective work, the Indigenous Education and Finance teams have designed a [one-hour professional learning session open to all CBE staff](#). This session is intended to ensure that all schools and service units have up-to-date information on the processes and protocol for learning and working with Indigenous Cultural Supports, including:

- Welcoming of Indigenous Cultural Supports
- New [CBE Honorarium Form](#) and rates.
- Information about the new [Indigenous Cultural Supports Insite page](#) and [Ao'takii | Circle of Indigenous Cultural Supports](#).

Sessions will continue to be offered weekly in the month of February, and monthly from March to June, with all dates/times listed on the Indigenous Cultural Supports Insite page and in EAMs. We encourage all CBE staff to [sign up for a session](#), as strengthening CBE's relationships with Indigenous Cultural Supports is important for the well-being and academic success of Indigenous students, as well as for upholding Truth and Reconciliation through education for all students.



## Celebrate Spring Equinox on March 20

March 20<sup>th</sup> marks the Spring Equinox. In 2023, Elder Saa'kokoto shared Blackfoot teachings about the significance of this day. A video recording of these teachings is available on the [Indigenous Education Insite](#) page. To acknowledge this important day, teachers are encouraged to share the video with their classes and to take their students outside to reflect on and appreciate the beauty and significance of this day. On March 21, Elder Saa'kokoto will also be

facilitating a sunrise ceremony for CBE staff at the Nose Hill Siksikaitsitapi (Sun Wheel). More details and registration information will be announced in [The Week Ahead](#) the first week of March.

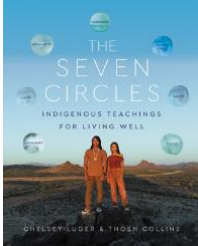
"This is a time to acknowledge all the beautiful changes...Springtime is a time of celebration. It is also a time of reflection-- to look back and learn from the journey we have had throughout the year and how we can carry that forward". - Elder Saa'kokoto

## Texts People are Talking About

### For Educators:

*The Seven Circles:  
Indigenous Teachings for  
Living Well*

By Chelsey Luger & Thosh Collins

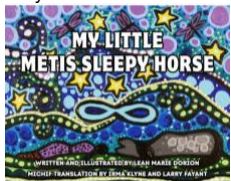


(Image from: [Good Reads](#))

### For Little Learners

*My Little Métis Sleepy  
Horse*

By Leah Marie Dorion

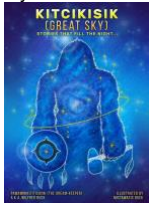


(Image from: [Gabriel Dumont  
Institute](#))

### For Middle Grades

*Kitcikisik (Great Sky)*

By Wilfred Buck

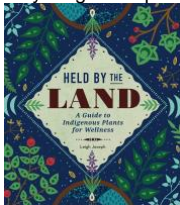


(Image from: [Goodminds](#))

### For Teens/Adults

*Held by the Land: A Guide  
to Indigenous Plants for  
Wellness*

By Leigh Joseph



(Image: [CBC](#))

Note: Because all learning communities are unique, please be sure to preview all resources before sharing with students to ensure they are appropriate for your community.

## Professional Learning Opportunities

### CBE Professional Learning Opportunities

#### April 19<sup>th</sup>: Body Domain- To Do / ACTUA Land-Based Learning

April 19<sup>th</sup> is the next system PL day. The Indigenous Education Team will be releasing resources to support learning connected to the Body Domain: To Do of the [Indigenous Education Holistic Lifelong Learning Framework](#). There will also be an exciting in-person STEM focused land-based learning opportunity offered by the Indigenous Education Team and [ACTUA](#) on this day. Keep an eye on our [Insite page](#) for updated information on these offers.

#### Indigenous Land-Based Learning

The CBE Indigenous Education team is offering a 2-part series of Indigenous Land Based Learning with Elder Saa'kokoto on February 9 and March 8. Participants must register on [EAMS](#). The Indigenous Education Team has also created an [Indigenous Land-based Learning Padlet](#) to provide resources on learning about and using land-based learning in schools.

#### Coming Soon: Professional Learning about Smudge

The primary purpose of smudge in CBE schools is to create culturally safe spaces for Indigenous students, families, and community, and to reinforce welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environments that honour diversity. A new professional learning session and planning template for smudging in schools is being developed and will be shared soon.

### ATA Professional Learning Opportunities

#### Various Dates | Indigenous Matriarchy—Balance Through Truth, Justice and

Reconciliation: The ATA Indigenous Education Walking Together team offers a session to examine historical and contemporary issues, challenges and inequities for Indigenous women, girls and Two Spirit people. The ATA will facilitate the session for your staff. The session can be booked by emailing [pd@ata.ab.ca](mailto:pd@ata.ab.ca).

## Celebrating Indigenous Education Initiatives in the CBE

### Niihiyiyat Celebrations



As part of the [Niihiyiyat \(nee-hee-yee-yah\) locally developed course](#), students at Terry Fox School learned about sky stories through Wilfred Buck's Rattle Story, [Sisikwun](#). Water melts from the bottom up, creating ice crystals. Wind makes the sound of a rattle as it blows across the ice, calling the animals, plants, people to "wanska!" (wake up!) in *sikwun*—Spring. Students were then taught how to make rattles in response to the story. They learned how to harvest materials properly, to create their own rattles, and to decorate them with personalized symbols that reflect their identity. Through this hands-on, experiential learning, students will remember the story whenever they shake their rattles.

Students in the *Niihiyiyat* course at Dr. G.M. Egbert, Ian Bazalgette and Ernest Morrow schools were supported by the AFCC's *Honouring Life* program and Elder's teachings as they learned how to make medicine bags and Métis dot paint. The activities included regular check-ins through sharing circles for holistic well-being and community building. The students look forward to this learning continuing through the next season!

