



OCTOBER · WIKEWIKU'S · OCTOBRE



REGIONAL UPDATE

Newsletter of the Tri-County Regional Centre for Education



Orange Shirt Day

Recognizing National Day for Truth and Reconciliation at Lockeport Elementary School.

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A Message from the Regional Executive Director

Our 2022-23 school year is well underway and throughout TCRCE, we are focused on a creating successful learning environments where students can grow and prosper.

As a region, we believe that students' well-being will be enhanced and their academic achievement will improve when educators grow and improve in meeting the individual needs of learners. I am pleased to say, I see examples of this each day, whether that be meeting with colleagues or visiting a classroom.

In TCRCE, we have three main goals that lead our work, those are, well-being, literacy, and numeracy. We have numerous strategies that will help us achieve those goals, one being cultural responsiveness. Part of the way we put that strategy in action is through celebration and education of important events like Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. You'll see examples of this on the front cover of this report and on this page to the right.

This month we mark Mi'kmaq History Month and we will continue to focus on building an understanding of our shared history this month and all year long.

I am pleased to share this report with you and hope you enjoy seeing a peek inside our classrooms on page four and learning how virtual reality is providing some students with a unique chance to try out a skills trade job. I invite you to follow us on social media for more examples of student achievement and success.

All the best,

Jared Purdy
TCRCE Regional Executive Director



Students at Meadowfields Community School learned about Mi'kmaq culture by reading and talking about gatherings. They also made friendships bracelets and learned how beads mirror the world around us (pictured above).

A newly painted sidewalk at Digby Elementary School honours the survivors of residential schools along with all those who didn't return (pictured below).



Trying out a Trade with VR



Ever wonder what it's like to be a welder or a carpenter? With the help of virtual reality, these students at Digby Regional High School got to try a trade in the Skilled Trades Centre.

FSL Educator of the Year Award

Congratulations to Kim Messenger, teacher at Clark's Harbour Elementary School, who has received the French Second Language Educator of the Year Award! Félicitations!

The award is presented by the Canadian Parents for French Nova Scotia and acknowledges excellence in French Second Language teaching and rewards teachers' initiative and innovation. CPF Nova Scotia seeks to recognize those who motivate students to achieve their best and who contribute significantly to their school and community.



See inside our schools



Teachers at Carleton Elementary appreciated spending time together during a recent CLT day to discuss how they are doing with their literacy goal as well as opportunities to improve (pictured above).

Forest Ridge Academy students enjoy a salad bar with fresh produce from Coastal Grove Greenhouses (pictured left).



Students at Shelburne Regional High School put the "I" in Kind on Pink Shirt Day (pictured above).

Recently, St. Mary's Bay Academy O2 students completed a Fall Protection certification. These students learned how to protect themselves on the job, but also made themselves more employable (pictured left).




Achievement depends on attendance.

Absences add up quick. Missing just two days a month is the same as missing 15% of the school year. And missing this valuable in-person instructional time has a direct impact on the overall achievement and well-being of our students.




If your child is worried about their grades, please know they are not alone. Reach out to your school and someone will be happy to help get your child back on track and help improve their attendance.

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 <p>GNSPES Access Click the Nova Scotia Homework Hub icon</p>	 <p>Available 24/7 · textbooks · videos · practice questions · vocabulary review</p>	 <p>Bilingual Tutors Tutors for Grade 4 - 6 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.</p>
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Storm Day Closure Process

TCRCE takes great care when making the decision to alter the normal operations of schools and school busses in the event of severe or inclement weather.

We encourage you to check multiple sources for school closure info. Here are the ways we share the updates:

- Check our website www.tcrce.ca
- Local media (radio and TV stations)
- Our [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)
- Email & text alerts: messages are sent via email and text through our service provider to contact information we have on file. Opt-ins are required to receive text messages. **If you haven't already done so and would like to sign up to receive texts from TCRCE, text "Y" (from a number on file with a school) to 978338.** Please note, delivery times for text and email can vary based on service providers. It is not recommended to rely solely on receiving this notification. If you need to update your contact information, please contact your school directly.



Host Families Needed for February

The Nova Scotia International Student Program is looking for families in the TCRCE area to host international students.

Families receive \$725 monthly (per student) for expenses and will gain memories to last a lifetime.

Students range in ages and we have a number arriving in February, 2023.

NSISP students enjoy all of the perks of becoming a member of one of our fantastic homestay families. Our homestay families open their hearts and their homes to the international students, and the experience for everyone is extremely rewarding. The homestay program is the heartbeat of the NSISP experience. For students, it is a way to learn about the Canadian way of life. For the host families, it's an opportunity to bring the world to their home and gain a new family member. These rewarding relationships do last a lifetime.

Are you ready to open your heart and home to this fulfilling life-changing experience?

Visit www.tcrce.ca/host for more info.



\$725/month per student
Tax-free

BECOME A HOST FAMILY

Learn more
about hosting
an international
student today

<https://www.tcrce.ca/nsisp>

More info or to apply: nsisp@tcrce.ca

MI'KMAQ

WIKEWIKU'S HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2022

Mi'kmaw Beadwork & the Art of Beading

Perfected through process and vision, Mi'kmaw beadwork represents life and creation. Generations of hands, eyes, backs, and fingers have worked for balance in intricate designs and colour palettes. From *wampum* and bone beads to suspenders and peaked caps to contemporary medallions, beauty emerges from skill and love. Ceremonies have a special place to focus the intentions of artists' hearts and minds. In kitchens and *wikuoml* masters have shared their practice with those who were dedicated. In turn, they were asked to share with the next generation.

Agnes 'Aggie Baby' Gould told new beaders "share, please share." We carry that teaching in our hearts as we celebrate this year's poster.



Mary Josephine (MacLeod) Morn, Eskasoni First Nation, 1930



Mal An (Morn) Syllboy, Eskasoni First Nation, 1930

MOTIFS AND DESIGNS

Beaded designs reflect the patterns in the world around us. Across Mi'kmaw, expressions mirror colours, plants, places, and social life of our communities. Motifs like the double-curve make worldviews visible and shared. Small quilling shell beads woven into patterns (*wampum*) have recorded important decisions. Beading styles and forms signify age and life stage, gender, and social and political roles as well as community.

"I bead with my mood."
— Erica Busby



TECHNIQUES

Integrating traditional techniques with contemporary contexts has given rise to innovative shapes and forms that are uniquely Mi'kmaw. Shifting from moose hair threading to wax thread lacing, from heavy beaded suspenders to elaborate medallions, we continue to ask the question: what techniques will carry our creations into the future?

"That's our people for you; figuring it out."
— Valerie Meader



Alex 'skwej'



Orange shirts honour Phyllis Webstad from the Stowveam c Xgaitem First Nation and all residential school survivors across Canada.



Pauline Meader

Red dresses represent the national movement to heighten response for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited people (MMIWG2S).



Agnes 'Aggie Baby' Gould

Beaded poppies honour and celebrate indigenous veterans and raise awareness their experiences.



Kila Akenci

Descendant Pauline Meader uses her beading skills to honour the stories of Phyllis and her grandmother Margaret (Margie) Pato, #60

Virginia Sure Pictou disappeared in Maine in 1923. Her sister Agnes 'Aggie Baby' Gould, a master beader, was one of the first to create a beaded red dress.



Kila Akenci

Kila Akenci has been dedicated to sharing her teachings and beading across Mi'kmaw for many years.

Kila Akenci

GLOBAL ENCOUNTERS

European contact increased the types and amounts of beads available in Mi'kmaw. Indigenous demand for raw beads in turn produced new forms of market-ready objects such as purses or small bags. Over decades and then centuries, international markets expanded to Asia and beyond, creating worldwide prominence for Mi'kmaw beadwork.

"[Beads and quills were] all their ornament in every kind of work..."
— Nicholas Denys (French, A.D. 1672)



BEADING IS HEALING

For many beaders, the hands and hearts of our ancestors place each stitch and lay each bead. Designs are sketched. Colours are chosen. Prayers and blessings are given as needles pierce and move. We acknowledge our gifts by letting go.

"It's all about mind, body and soul."
— Nik Phillips



Alex 'skwej'

BEADS!

Beads have been essential to our culture for thousands of years. Beaders often have very particular tastes and needs, creating an enormous variety of styles and materials. Today, the contemporary beading market is global and significant. Specialized historians track minute changes in forms and styles to create timelines for broader cultural and human histories.

Many beaders honour the teaching that "nothing in this world is perfect" by adding an odd or unexpected bead to their creations. These *kepmek waio'psk* (spirit beads) are often unnoticeable such as using an orange bead rather than a red one. Can you find the *kepmek waio'psk* in the poster?

"Nothing in this world is perfect."
— Mariah Battiste



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