

# National Indigenous History Month



Tansi,

Hello and welcome!

June has been designated as National Indigenous History Month in Canada. This designation came into effect in 2009 by the House of Commons. This month can be a time to learn about Indigenous history like the many different cultures across Turtle Island, read and listen to our stories around the experiences we have had as First Nations, Metis and Inuit.

Join in our celebrations this summer, like powwows and various gatherings. Everyone is always welcome. June 21 has been designated as National Indigenous Peoples Day. There will be many celebrations held across Canada. We hope you will choose to participate in any event you hear about.

Northern Lakes College is a leader in providing space for Indigenous people and Indigenous knowledge. We are grateful to provide you with information this month on various ways of learning.

Thank you, Aiy Hiy, Nanaskomon  
Kokum Priscilla

## Pow Wow

What is a powwow? A powwow is a celebration of dance, drums and songs - they are a tradition, a festival, a competition, a reunion, an arts and crafts venue, and a food fair - one word cannot encompass the many facets of a powwow; they are a feast for all five senses.

[Pow Wow Protocol](#)

[Pow Wow Guide for 2024](#)



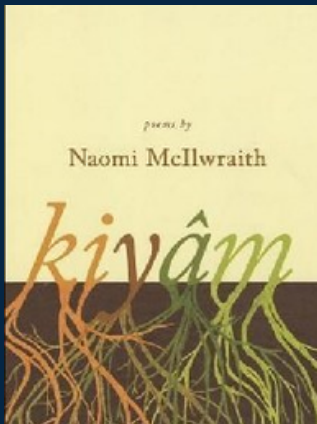
## The power of a Story

Indigenous cultures share stories in many ways – orally, in song, in drumming, with pictographs, and through medicine wheels and tipi rings. Traditionally, stories are told by elders – known as Knowledge Keepers or Historians in some nations – as well as community members who have earned the title of Storyteller.

Check out their stories

[Flight of the Hummingbird](#)  
[Inuit story telling](#)

# Featured eBooks from our NLC Library



## **Kiyâm by Naomi McIlwraith**

“Through poems that move between the two languages, McIlwraith explores the beauty of the intersection between nêhiyawêwin , the Plains Cree language, and English, âkayâsîmowin . Written to honour her father's facility in nêhiyawêwin and her mother's beauty and generosity as an inheritor of Cree, Ojibwe, Scottish, and English, kiyâm articulates a powerful yearning for family, history, peace, and love.”

[Click to read](#)

## **Fatty Legs by Christy Jordan-Fenton**

“The moving memoir of an Inuit girl who emerges from a residential school with her spirit intact. Complemented by archival photos from Margaret Pokiak-Fenton's collection and striking artwork from Liz Amini-Holmes, this inspiring first-person account of a plucky girl's determination to confront her tormentor will linger with young readers.”

[Click to read](#)



# Indigenous People – In the Spotlight

## **Tom Longboat (1887-1949) - Canada's greatest long-distance runner.**

In the early 20th century, Thomas Charles Longboat, an Onondaga, was considered one of the most famous athletes in the western world. His star began to rise when he won the Boston Marathon in 1907, the most prestigious road running event at that time. He defeated 123 other runners and smashed the record by five minutes. The following year, he was favoured to win in the Olympics but failed. Nevertheless, he won most of the succeeding races he joined, even setting a world record for the fifteen-mile race in 1912 (one hour and 18 minutes).

Longboat had a stellar career despite experiencing racism from the sports community and the media. When he pioneered a training technique alternating days of intense workouts with days of lower-stress exercise and rest, he was labelled “lazy.” Today, this technique is widely adopted by athletes.

In 1916, Longboat joined the Canadian Forces serving WWI. He served as a dispatch carrier running orders and messages between military posts in France. While in the army, he continued to join races, winning several inter-battalion sporting contests. After the war, he returned to the Six Nations Reserve to retire. In 1955, Tom Longboat was inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame as “Canada's greatest long-distance runner.” June 4th was declared “Tom Longboat Day”.



## Wilfred Buck - Science Facilitator and Educator

Wilfred Buck is from the Opaskwayak Cree Nation of northern Manitoba and previously worked for the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) as a science facilitator. He has over 15 years of experience as an educator and expanded on MFNERC's vision to bring a First Nations perspective to the sciences by doing what he is most passionate about: looking up at and thinking through the stars. Known as 'the star guy' due to his extensive knowledge of First Nations astronomy, Wilfred has researched and consulted with Elders to learn more about the astronomical knowledge of Cree, Ojibway and Lakota peoples.

In 2016, in collaboration with members of the Native Skywatchers initiative, Wilfred helped create an Indigenous sky map, Ininew Achakos Masinkan, an artistic rendering of Cree constellations in planisphere format. He is the author of the 2018 publication *Tipiskawi Kisik: Night Sky Star Stories* as well as the 2021 memoir *I Have Lived Four Lives*. Wilfred was also one of the co-organizers of the first Indigenous Star Knowledge Symposium hosted in Ottawa, on traditional Algonquin Anishnaabeg territory.



## Music and Song

Indigenous artists are making amazing music in pop, rock, country, blues, roots, hip-hop, dance, traditional music, and more.

As we recognize and celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day June 21, below are a few Indigenous music artists we think might interest you!

Fawn Wood is a Cree and Salish musician from St. Paul. Here is a link to her 2022 Showcase for the Junos. We have linked right to the track Mommy's Little Guy but if you are interested you can go back to the start of the video and watch the whole performance! [Mommy's Little Guy](#).

The Bearhead Sisters were the winners of the traditional Indigenous artist or group of the year at the 2023 Juno awards. This trio of sisters are proud members of the Paul First Nation (Treaty 6). Check out their song Waka'Ne from the opening of the 2023 Juno Awards. [Waka'Ne](#)

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Inuk singer-songwriter, Susan Aglukark, has been in the industry for over 25 years. During that time she has won many awards, performed for dignitaries, and been involved in numerous charitable and cultural projects. At the 2022 Juno awards Aglukark was awarded the Humanitarian Award. Check out the video [here](#). Here is a recording of one of her best known songs, [O Siem](#).

The Halluci Nation (formerly known as A Tribe Called Red) mix traditional Indigenous music with hip hop, reggae, dubstep, dancehall, and more, to create a modern mashup of fun. Their music has been called powwow step. Check out their song [Electric Pow Wow here](#). And for a newer track check out [It's Over \(ft Chippewa Travellers\)](#).

This is just a small sample of the amazing talent showcased amongst Canadian Indigenous musicians.