

# Spring – Summer Newsletter



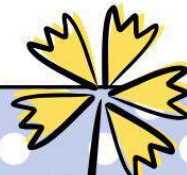
## Kwe', Hello!

Welcome to our Spring/Summer 2026 newsletter

We are a program based in Kjipuktuk (Halifax), Nova Scotia. We use the core value of Etuaptmumk (Two-Eyed Seeing) to provide programming for youth. Our program is built for community, with community.

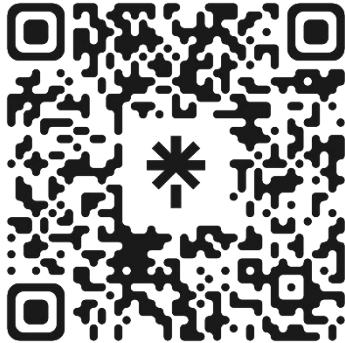
## Updates in this Newsletter:

- Stay Connected with Us
- NSERC Funding Update!
- Recent Programming and Initiatives
- Other Initiatives We've Supported
- Social Media Updates
- Congratulations Ann Sylliboy
- Practicum Student



## Stay Connected with Us

While reading, you may feel inspired to get involved with our program, so we encourage you to reach out to [TESProgram@msvu.ca](mailto:TESProgram@msvu.ca) and join our volunteer list. Additionally, you can stay connected via social media and our links can be found here:



Wela'liq!

## NSERC Update!

We are so pleased to share that we have received an NSERC PromoScience grant. The announcement was made by NSERC on May 25, 2026.

This marks our fourth three-year funding cycle, and we want to express our sincere gratitude to NSERC for their ongoing support. The Two-Eyed Seeing Program has now entered its 10th year, and we would not be able to do the work we do without this support. Thank you!

And thank you to our program lead, Dr. Krista Collier-Jarvis for her work in securing this funding!

Connect with us on social media to stay up to date on upcoming event dates and announcements.

The official announcement from NSERC can be found [here](#).

## Recent Programming and Initiatives

### Visiting Fairview Heights Elementary

Rebecca, president of the Fairview Heights Parent School Association, reached out to us via social media asking about our book kits. We gave one to her and her child and received very positive feedback from them! Rebecca reached out again and asked about presenting one of the books and activities to her daughter's class.



We visited the class, read *Sweetgrass* by Theresa Meuse, chatted about the significance of sweetgrass, and did the corresponding bracelet-making activity together.

It was an incredible experience. Thank you so much to Rebecca, the classroom teacher, and the students for having us!

**If you are a parent or a teacher at a school and would like us to come into the classroom, please reach out!**

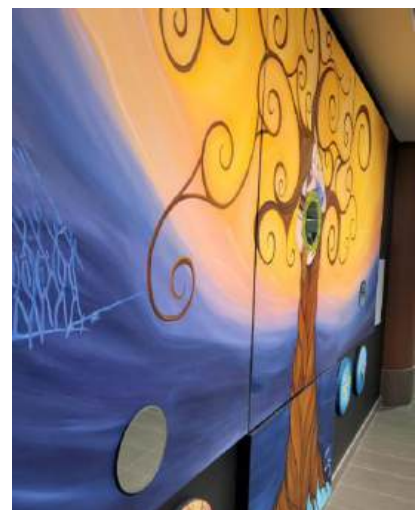


### MSVU Mural Updated for Accessibility

In October 2025, we unveiled a mural in the Mount Saint Vincent University Library. The mural was painted by

- Mi'kmaw artist Jessica Jerome
- Afro-Indigenous student artist Grace LeBlanc
- TES Program Lead, Krista Collier-Jarvis
- TES Program Coordinator, Cheyenne Hardy

We hoped people would be able to see themselves in the art, so we added a mirror to the center of the mural. Once it was installed, however, we realized the mirror would be inaccessible to many people. We held a poll so community members could vote on where additional mirrors should be placed. With the help of the MSVU Art Gallery, the additional mirrors were adhered to the mural.



More recently, the mural bio was translated into Mi'kmaw. The translated bio can now be found on a panel beside the mural. The translations were completed by William Jeddore of Eskasoni First Nation.

Visit the mural at the MSVU Library, 15 Lumpkin Rd. More information can be found [here](#).

### Annual Luski Workshop at Pier 21

Every year, we have the chance to work with Pier 21 during their March Break programming. Ann Sylliboy shares teachings on luskinikn, and we work together with the Pier 21 staff, learners, and families to make luski they can take home!

The recipe was made by our team in collaboration with the MSVU Breakfast and Beyond Program. The recipe can be found [here](#). Give it a try!



### Presentation in MSVU Classroom

Earlier this year, a Child and Youth Studies instructor reached out to our team and asked if we could speak in her culturally responsive pedagogy class. We spoke about the work we've done on campus and beyond, the "why" in our projects, and how practicing Two-Eyed Seeing can support our communities.

### Continued Book Kit Distribution

Last year we put together 100 book kits and distributed them to schools and libraries across the province. The book kits include:

- 4 children's books focused on Two-Eyed Seeing
  - *Sweetgrass* by Theresa Meuse, illustrated by Jessica Jerome
  - *Walking Together* by Elder Albert Marshall and Louise Zimanyi, illustrated by Emily Kewageshig
  - *Wolverine and Little Thunder* by Alan Sylliboy
  - *Mi'kmaw Moons* by Cathy LeBlanc and David Chapman, illustrated by Loretta Gould
- A booklet of information and activities corresponding to each book
- Materials to complete the activities



We have limited book kits at this time, but we're continuing to distribute them where we can. Should you wish to order your own Book Kit, please reach out to us!

## Other Initiatives We've Supported or Attended

### May 5<sup>th</sup> Gathering at MSVU

May 5th is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+, also known as Red Dress Day. On this day, we attended the gathering held at MSVU. It was very meaningful to sit with the campus community and reflect on those lost, and how their stories still carry forward today.

It was a very powerful experience and we thank the organizers for creating that space.



### Elder Dr. Albert Marshall & Professor Emeritus Richard Kroeker's conversation on Etuaptmuk

On March 27, our team attended Elder Dr. Albert Marshall & Professor Emeritus Richard Kroeker's conversation on Etuaptmuk.

As always, Elder Albert shared a wealth of wisdom on being a student of life, the importance of Two-Eyed Seeing in engineering, architecture, and healthcare, and the significance of the Mi'kmaw language. It was an honour to learn from both speakers, as well as Elder Ann LaBillois, Elder Charlotte Bernard, and John R. Sylliboy.

Thank you to the Dalhousie Faculty of Architecture and Planning for having us!



### Connection For Action Conference on Gender-Based Violence

On May 26 and 27, Two-Eyed Seeing staff volunteered with the Connection for Action Conference hosted by Nancy's Chair. It was a very special experience where the staff, attendees, and presenters made it a safe yet vulnerable space. We discussed statistics and first-hand stories about women and gender diverse people in politics and in the workplace.

Cheyenne, Program Coordinator, was featured in the [CTV report on the event.](#)

## Social Media Updates

We post regularly to our social media accounts, including Facebook, Instagram, and Bluesky. Some of our most significant online engagement included the following:

- February 11<sup>th</sup> was the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. To celebrate, we showcased seven of the many influential Indigenous women leading and transforming STEM fields.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> was International Women's Day, and we continued highlighting Indigenous women. On this day, we shared bios of nine additional women across Canada, recognizing their amazing achievements.
- Mural Polling: Social media allowed us to gather feedback on our mural and determine where the additional mirrors should be placed. Combined with in-person voting, we received more than 300 votes in total.
- If you scroll through everything we've posted in 2026, you'll notice that every photo includes alt text. We're committed to continuing this practice to help ensure our posts are more accessible.



## Congratulations Ann Sylliboy!

Congratulations to Two-Eyed Seeing Program co-founder and leadership team member, Ann Sylliboy, on the announcement of her Honorary Doctorate at King's!

Ann is a Mi'kmaw leader, educator, and advocate dedicated to supporting Indigenous students and families across Nova Scotia. A trusted voice in advancing Indigeneity and reconciliation, she continues to guide institutions and share her knowledge. While recognized for her contributions at King's, Ann is also deeply involved in the MSVU community, serving on the L'nu Advisory Circle, supporting the Kinu Tourism Project, and being a very important member of our TES Program team.



For a decade, she has helped build and grow this program. Ann, we are so proud of you...it's an honour to know you! ❤️

Read Ann's bio on the King's website: <https://ukings.ca/.../kings-honours-former-board-chair.../>

## Practicum Student

In September, we will be taking on a practicum student...Jessica Jerome! We have worked with Jessica on various projects, so we were delighted when she asked if she could work with us as part of her practicum. She is doing a university program focused on teaching adult learners and we are very excited support her with this!

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Thank you so much for your continued support and engagement. If you want to learn more about our program, reach out at any time or check out our 2025 Year in Review which can be found [here](#).

If you'd like get involved or work together on a project, we'd love to hear from you!

Our email is [TESProgram@msvu.ca](mailto:TESProgram@msvu.ca)

Take care,

*The Two-Eyed Seeing Program Team*