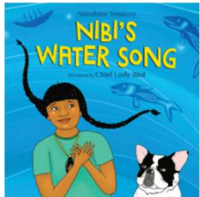


## Indigenous Awareness and History

The following toolbox has been created as a resource to help Ontario teachers teach about Indigenous culture and history. So many times within my practicum I have heard teachers say that it is easier not to teach about Indigenous history rather than teaching it and getting it wrong. This is not creating a safe and welcoming environment for students if they are not seeing themselves represented in the curriculum. It is also not upholding our oath to teach students about Indigenous Peoples and cultures, including residential schools (First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada, 2020). The following toolbox provides teachers with three resources that can be used directly within the classroom to guide discussions and lessons. It also contains two resources that are not recommended to be used within the classroom, or if the website is going to be used, to pay close attention to the specific resources that are being pulled from them.

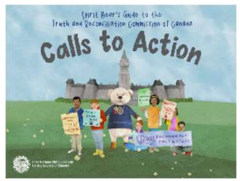
### Recommended Resources

#### Resource #1

Name of Resource:	Nibi's Water Song – Written by Sunshine Tenasco, Illustrated by Chief Lady Bird	
Type of Resource:	Picture Book	
Link to Resource:	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBHnM8ZTQ48">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBHnM8ZTQ48</a> This is a link to a read-aloud but it is recommended to purchase a hard copy of this book.	
Citation:	Tenasco, S. (2019). <i>Nibi's water song</i> . North Winds Press.	

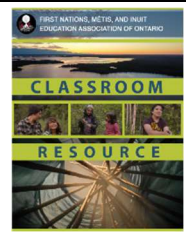
Description:	<p>Nibi’s Water Song discusses the injustices that many Indigenous communities face regarding the lack of clean drinking water in their communities. Nibi is a young Indigenous girl who goes to get a drink of water from her kitchen sink but all that comes out is dirty brown water. Nibi goes searching for water within her community but all she finds is dirty water. Nibi decides to go visit the town with the big shiny houses to see if they can help. She knocks on the door and a lady hands her a plastic water bottle, but this is not enough. Nibi and members of her community begin to dance and shout ‘Nibi is thirsty, Nibi needs water’. They dance and shout until the people in the big shiny houses come and join them, only then with all of them working together is Nibi able to get water for her community.</p>
Rational:	<p>This picture book is a quality resource as it is specifically written by an Indigenous writer and illustrated by an Indigenous illustrator. The book was written to bring awareness to the lack of clean water in Indigenous communities. Sunshine Tenasco is from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, Quebec and is a clean water activist. Chief Lady Bird is a Chippewa and Potawatomi artist from Rama First Nation and Moose Deer Point First Nation. Chief Lady Bird is most known for her murals across Turtle Island. Teachers must understand who the authors that wrote these resources are as this is what makes a resource a quality and well-constructed resource.</p> <p>This resource is an appropriate ethical resource as it tells a story about an Indigenous child and the injustices that their community is facing and it is written by someone who is part of this community. The author and illustrator are sharing about a cause that is near to their heart and has a direct impact on their community and many others.</p>
How is this useful?	<p>This resource can be used alongside a lesson to introduce students to the injustices that Indigenous communities are facing in Canada. The book can also be used in the classroom to start a conversation about the injustices that Indigenous Peoples are facing. Although this book is a children’s picture book it can be used for a variety of different grade levels for a variety of purposes.</p>

**Resource #2**

Name of Resource:	<p>Spirit Bear’s Guide to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action</p>	
Type of Resource:	<p>Article</p>	
Link to Resource:	<p><a href="https://pacificmountain.ca/wordpress2021/wp-content/uploads/child_friendly_calls_to_action_web.pdf">https://pacificmountain.ca/wordpress2021/wp-content/uploads/child_friendly_calls_to_action_web.pdf</a></p>	

Citation:	First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada. (2020, February 20). <i>Spirit Bear's guide to the truth and reconciliation commission of Canada</i> . <a href="https://pacificmountain.ca/wordpress2021/wp-content/uploads/child_friendly_calls_to_action_web.pdf">https://pacificmountain.ca/wordpress2021/wp-content/uploads/child_friendly_calls_to_action_web.pdf</a>
Description:	The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada created a children's version of the TRC's 94 Calls to Action. This document contains all 94 Calls to Action in an easy to understand version to help children become part of the process of truth and reconciliation. The document includes an introduction that explains to children why the 94 Calls to Action were created and the steps forward.
Rational:	<p>The resource helps children understand what actions need to be taken by a variety of different people to make a difference in the truth and reconciliation process. The document is written by Spirit Bear who is a Barrister, which means when he sees something wrong, he has to learn about it and try to help (First Nations Child &amp; Family Caring Society of Canada, 2020). This is an amazing thing to introduce in your classroom with help from the Caring Society.</p> <p>This resource is an appropriate ethical resource as it was created by an organization that has made it its goal to provide reconciliation-based public education. They work to ensure that First Nations, Metis and Inuit families are supported and recognized.</p>
How is this useful?	This resource is useful in the classroom because it allows teachers to introduce students to the TRC's 94 Calls to Action while providing it in language that they can best understand. This document can be used within the classroom environment by having students choose one of the TRC's 94 Calls to Action and brainstorm ideas that they believe are the best course of action.


### Resource #3

Name of Resource:	First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Education Association of Ontario: Classroom Resource	
Type of Resource:	Teaching Resources	
Link to Resource:	<a href="https://fnmieao.com/">https://fnmieao.com/</a>	
Citation:	First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Education Association of Ontario (FNMIEAO). (N.D.). <i>Classroom Resource</i> . <a href="https://fnmieao.com/">https://fnmieao.com/</a>	

Description:	This resource was created by the First Nations, Metis & Inuit Education Association of Ontario. The association creates resources to help all teachers in Ontario teach the history of First Nations, Metis & Inuit Peoples. The resource contains materials for teachers to teach the grade 4 and grade 5 social studies units of early civilizations with an emphasis on Indigenous ways of knowing, doing and being. The resource provides a variety of learning activities including worksheets and hands-on learning opportunities. These materials go alongside videos created by Indigenous Peoples, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers.
Rational:	<p>The resource helps teachers know that they are providing students with accurate information about Indigenous Peoples using real stories and videos from the community. The resource provides worksheets and answers for teachers to ensure that they are providing the right information for students.</p> <p>I chose this resource for my toolbox because it helps junior teachers who are not part of the community know that they are teaching the right information to students.</p> <p>This is an appropriate ethical resource because it was created by Indigenous Peoples to share the history of Indigenous communities in Ontario. The resources that are provided in this classroom resource are direct stories, videos, and knowledge telling by members of the Indigenous community.</p>
How is this useful?	This would be useful in a grade 4 or grade 5 classroom to teach the Ontario social studies curriculum. The classroom resource is very easy to follow and prompts teachers for which video is to be shown and which worksheet is to be completed for that video.

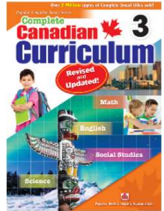
### Questionable Resources:

#### Resource #1

Name of Resource:	TVO Kids: National Indigenous Peoples Day	
Type of Resource:	Video	
Link to Resource:	<a href="https://www.tvokids.com/school-age/celebrate-indigenous-stories/videos/national-indigenous-peoples-day">https://www.tvokids.com/school-age/celebrate-indigenous-stories/videos/national-indigenous-peoples-day</a>	
Citation:	TVO kids. (n.d.). <i>Celebrate Indigenous Stories</i> . <a href="https://www.tvokids.com/school-age/celebrate-indigenous-stories/videos/national-indigenous-peoples-day">https://www.tvokids.com/school-age/celebrate-indigenous-stories/videos/national-indigenous-peoples-day</a>	

Description:	This video from TVO kids was designed to teach students about National Indigenous Peoples Day, but after watching the video it is clear that they are only showing the stereotypical aspects. The video follows a young child who is invited to attend a traditional Pow Wow. Although the video means well, there are better videos and stories that give an accurate representation of Indigenous Peoples and their culture. TVO kids states that “resources are reviewed by a team of Ontario Certified Teachers and go through equity and inclusion reviews by curriculum and subject-matter specialists” (TVO kids, n.d.). Within this statement, they do not state that resources are created alongside Indigenous Peoples, Elders or Knowledge Keepers.
Rational:	The video resource is aimed at supporting teachers in celebrating National Indigenous Peoples Day. The video contains many stereotypical aspects that are not an overall representation of Indigenous communities. This resource would not be an ethical resource to use within the classroom because we cannot be sure of the creators of the video. We cannot be sure that the resource has been created by a member of the Indigenous community, therefore, it is best not to use this specific video. The video also contains stereotypical aspects of Indigenous culture and does not give an accurate representation of National Indigenous Peoples Day. Although this resource is an Ontario-based resource and the resources are reviewed by a team of experts, we have to be aware of the resources that we are choosing for our classrooms and how these resources have been created. Many resources are better suited to help celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day. Inviting an Elder to speak for your class and to share in a conversation provides a better learning opportunity for students.
How is this useful?	This would not be a useful resource as it does not teach students about the whole person or the whole culture. We cannot only teach students about the stereotypical things that have been taught throughout history. If we continue to do so, we are not helping to break these biases and create an anti-racist environment. I would recommend using resource videos that have been created directly by an Indigenous community. Resources that are a first-hand account of Indigenous communities to represent National Indigenous Peoples Day are the best way to celebrate this day.

## Resource #2

Name of Resource:	Complete Canadian Curriculum: Revised and Updated	
Type of Resource:	Workbook	
Link to Resource:	The link provides access to a free PDF version of the resource: <a href="https://archive.org/details/complete-canadian-curriculum-grade-3/page/n371/mode/1up?view=theater">https://archive.org/details/complete-canadian-curriculum-grade-3/page/n371/mode/1up?view=theater</a>	

Citation:	<i>Complete Canadian curriculum: Revised and Updated.</i> (2015). Popular Book Company (Canada) Limited. <a href="https://archive.org/details/complete-canadian-curriculum-grade-3/page/n371/mode/1up?view=theater">https://archive.org/details/complete-canadian-curriculum-grade-3/page/n371/mode/1up?view=theater</a>
Description:	The complete Canadian curriculum is a curriculum workbook that covers the four key subject areas; Math, English, Social Studies and Science. This workbook is designed for students to practice what they have learned inside the classroom. It is designed with ready-to-use activities along with an answer key to help ensure students are on the right track.
Rational:	<p>This resource is a ready-to-use workbook that can be used within the classroom or at home. From the outside, this workbook seems to be a valuable resource for teachers, but after some research, it is clear this is not an appropriate ethical resource. After looking into the resource, it was found that the resource contained many stereotypical things that we have heard throughout history about Indigenous Peoples. The resource has been scrutinized by the media for publishing false information about residential schools and early civilizations. The workbook contains the following passage; “When the European settlers arrived, they needed land to live on. The First Nations peoples agreed to move to different areas to make room for the new settlement” (Complete Canadian Curriculum, 2015).</p> <p>I would not use this resource within my classroom as it was not written by a member of an Indigenous community, therefore they should not be profiting off this resource. The resource also contains false information that can lead to a very harmful narrative being shared with younger generations.</p> <p>Therefore, this resource is not an appropriate ethical resource as it does not create an environment that fosters anti-racism.</p>
How is this useful?	Although this resource is a few years old, it helps teachers realize how easily we can be drawn into using a resource without reviewing it first. I would not use this type of resource to teach social studies, especially about our history and Indigenous Peoples because many valuable resources have been created by Indigenous communities containing accurate information.

## **Appendix A**

Please find attached the full link to the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Education Association of Ontario: Classroom Resource:

[https://fnmieao.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/First\\_Nations\\_Metis\\_Iniuit\\_Education\\_Association\\_of\\_Ontario\\_Class\\_Room\\_Resource\\_English.pdf](https://fnmieao.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/First_Nations_Metis_Iniuit_Education_Association_of_Ontario_Class_Room_Resource_English.pdf)