



## FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES IN TURTLE ISLAND: KWANTLEN FIRST NATION

Kwantlen Traditional Territory extends from Richmond and New Westminster in the west, to Surrey and Langley in the south, east to Mission, and to the northernmost reaches of Stave Lake in what settlers know of as the Province of British Columbia. Kwantlen translates to “tireless runner”. Following their rich legacy and traditions, the Kwantlen First Peoples continue to work tirelessly at building a strong sense of community within their traditional territory. Since time immemorial, they live by the seven traditional laws that guided their ancestors: health, happiness, generations, generosity, humbleness, forgiveness and understanding. To learn more about this beautiful community, visit [kwantlenfn.ca](http://kwantlenfn.ca)



## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES IN TURTLE ISLAND: Halkomelem

Halkomelem is a language of the Salishan language family (Central Coast Salish Branch.) Halkomelem is spoken along the Fraser River and its tributaries from Sawmill Creek (also known as 5 Mile Creek) above Yale, British Columbia, downriver to Vancouver, British Columbia; it is also spoken on Vancouver Island from Malahat to Nanosee and along the Cowichan River, and by some members of the Nooksack tribe in the area of Everson and Deming, Washington (who speak Sumas, Matsqui and Chilliwack dialects). There are as many as (17) dialects of Halkomelem. They fall into three major groups: Upriver dialects (Halq'emeylem), Downriver dialects, and Island dialects. For more information and to learn some words and phrases in Halkomelem, visit <https://www.firstvoices.com/explore/FV/sections/Data/Salish/Halkomelem/Halq'em%C3%A9ylem/learn>

## INDIGENOUS ARTIST HIGHLIGHT: Norval Morrisseau



**Norval Morrisseau** was an Anishinaabe artist. Best known for his paintings of mythical tableaux, his narrative works of figures and animals were painted in vibrant, fluorescent colors featuring thick black outlines akin to stained glass windows or woodcuts. “What I teach the people many times is that attitude and attention will determine the whole course of our lives”. the self-taught artist once said. “Get rid of fear and that is all you ever have to get rid of. Fear of anything at all.” Born on March 14, 1932, in Beardmore, Ontario, he achieved widespread national success throughout his artistic career, garnering major commissions such as a large mural created for Expo 67 in 1967, which expressed the political dissatisfaction of the First Nations People of Canada. Morrisseau also regularly exhibited and sold his work in various Canadian galleries until his death in Toronto on December 4, 2007. Today, his work can be found in the

collections of the Royal Ontario Museum, the National Gallery of Canada, the Dennis Museum Center, and the Art Gallery of Windsor, among many others. For more information read *Norval Morrisseau: Man Changing into Thunderbird* by Armand Garnet Ruffo, published in 2015 by Douglas and McIntyre.

## FROM THE YORK REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

The Indigenous Education and Equity Strategy provides direction for actions in classrooms, schools and the system to foster the development of high levels of critical consciousness and transformative practice that fulfill the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action, foster accessible and equitable schools and classrooms and improve outcomes for all students.

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## CALLS TO ACTION (FROM THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION REPORT, 2015)

**#2.** . We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the provinces and territories, to prepare and publish annual reports on the number of Aboriginal children (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) who are in care, compared with non-Aboriginal children, as well as the reasons for apprehension, the total spending on preventive and care services by child-welfare agencies, and the effectiveness of various interventions.