



**ANNOUNCING:
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 27 INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
2025 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY POETRY CONTEST WINNERS**

Thank you to everyone who submitted poems! We received 771 Poetry entries this year. Thank you to our team of Judges!

KINDERGARTEN CATEGORY:

1st Place Winner receives (\$100.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake):

Nika Guichon from Nagwntl'oo Band School.

Teacher: Elizabeth Cushnie receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom from SD27.

2nd Place Winner receives (\$75.00 in books of their choice at Nuthatch Books, 100 Mile House): Linden Fast from 100 Mile Elementary School.

Submitted by Penny Reid. She receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom from SD27.

3rd Place Winner receives (\$50.00 in books of their choice from The Open Book, Williams Lake): Cash Gregg from Tatla Lake Elementary/Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Ikebuchi receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom from SD27.

4th Place Winner receives (\$25.00 in books of their choice from The Open Book, Williams Lake): Wren Saunders from Tatla Lake Elementary/Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Ikebuchi receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom from SD27.

Honorable Mentions (K Category): (these students receive a book from SD27)

Elodie Lozier, 150 Mile Elementary School

Isla Rolston, 150 Mile Elementary School

Lindsay Jorgensen, 150 Mile Elementary School

Clayton Bartlett, 150 Mile Elementary School

GRADE 1-3 CATEGORY:

1st Place Winner receives (\$100.00 in books at Nuthatch Books, 100 Mile House): Ayla Racine from 100 Mile Elementary School.

Submitted by Penny Reid. She receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom from SD27.

2nd Place Winner receives (\$75.00 in books at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Hudson Faulkner from Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Heather Lamorie receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom from SD27.

3rd Place Winner receives (\$50.00 in books at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Ruth Cheung from Chilcotin Road Elementary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Sayenchuk receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom from SD27.

4th Place Winner receives (\$25.00 in books from The Open Book, Williams Lake): Kalaya Bowe from Mountview Elementary School.

Teacher: Ms. Testawich receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom from SD27.

Honorable Mentions (Grade 1-3 Category): (these students receive a book from SD27)

Beth Casson and Druscilla Meldrum, 150 Mile Elementary School

Ayla Morey, 100 Mile Elementary School

Eliza Andrew, Cataline Elementary School

Ximena Paul, Sxoxomic Community School

GRADE 4 CATEGORY:

1ST Place Winner receives (\$100.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake):

Shepard Murphy-Lulua from Nesika Elementary School.

Teacher: H. McKinnon will receive Aboriginal themed books for the classroom from SD27.

2nd Place Winner receives (\$75.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Harper Pickles from Mountview Elementary School.

Teacher: Ms. Mader will receive Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

3rd Place Winner receives (\$50.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Juniper Deyo from Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Classroom teacher will receive Aboriginal themed books.

4th Place Winner receives (\$25.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Jasleen Garcha from Marie Sharpe Elementary School.

Teacher: Natalie Craig will receive Aboriginal themed books for the classroom.

Honorable Mentions (Grade 4 Category): These students receive a book from SD27.

Izzy Fraser, 150 Mile Elementary School

April Von Bieker, Marie Sharpe Elementary School

Avery Vreeman, Nesika Elementary School

Rex Robbins, Sxoxomic Community School

GRADE 5 CATEGORY:

1ST Place Winner receives (\$100.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Sivkan Kaur from Marie Sharpe Elementary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Uppal will receive Aboriginal themed books for the classroom.

2nd Place Winner receives (\$75.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): James Morgan.

Teacher: Natalie Craig received Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

3rd Place Winner receives (\$50.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Sage Mason from Mountview Elementary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Grant received Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

4th Place Winner receives (\$25.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Kai Bedford from Marie Sharpe Elementary School.

Teacher: Natalie Craig received Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

Honorable Mentions (Grade 5 Category): These students receive a book from SD27.

Lochlan Benish, Marie Sharpe Elementary School

Sawyer Hutchinson, Nesika Elementary School

Peyton Dan, Nesika Elementary School

Peyton Petryshen, Marie Sharpe Elementary School

GRADE 6 CATEGORY:

1ST Place Winner receives (\$100.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Harjasmindeep Garcha from Marie Sharpe Elementary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Uppal receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

2nd Place Winner receives (\$75.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Emmy Shortreed from Mountview Elementary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Grant receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

3rd Place Winner receives (\$50.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Dominik Wycotte from Nesika Elementary School.

Teacher: Ms. Campsall receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

4th Place Winner receives (\$25.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Mackenzie Thibeault.

Teacher: Ms. Rehbein receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

Honorable Mentions (Grade 6 Category): These students receive a book from SD27.

Callia Pook, 150 Mile Elementary School

Alethia Turner, Tatla Lake Elementary/Jr. Secondary School

Alicia Turner, Tatla Lake Elementary/Jr. Secondary School

Gunika Sharma, Marie Sharpe Elementary School

GRADE 7-9 CATEGORY:

1ST Place Winner receives (\$100.00 in books of their choice at Nuthatch Books, 100 Mile House): Kylie Sedford from PSO Secondary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Glen receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

2nd Place Winner receives (\$75.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Rylee Poole, Columneetza Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Ms. McCartney receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

3rd Place Winner receives (\$50.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Mia Azak from Columneetza Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Ms. Billyboy receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

4th Place Winner receives (\$25.00 in books of their choice at Nuthatch Books, 100 Mile House): Jackson Lipsett from PSO.

Teacher: Mrs. Glen receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

Honorable Mentions (Grade 7-9 Category): These students receive a book from SD27.

Samantha Kerman, Columneetza Jr. Secondary School

Khya Swanson, Columneetza Jr. Secondary School

Anna Burkey, Columneetza Jr. Secondary School

Kylie Sedford, PSO Secondary School

GRADE 10-12 CATEGORY:

1ST Place Winner receives (\$100.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Sasha Fofonoff from Lake City Secondary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Davis receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

2nd Place Winner receives (\$75.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Ryder McLennan from Lake City Secondary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Davis receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

3rd Place Winner receives (\$50.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Autumn Clarke from Lake City Secondary School.

Teacher: Mrs. MacKinnon receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

4th Place Winner receives (\$25.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Dawson Nohr-Stangoe from Lake City Secondary School.

Teacher: Mrs. MacKinnon receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

Honorable Mentions: These students receive a book from SD27.

Yashmeet Bansal, Lake City Secondary School

Lila-Dawn McAlpine, Lake City Secondary School

Nadia Wallin, Lake City Secondary School

Che Carson, Lake City Secondary School

FRENCH CATEGORY:

1ST Place Winner receives (\$100.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Noah Van Eeckhout from Tatla Lake Elementary/Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Mrs. Ikebuchi receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

2nd Place Winner receives (\$75.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Caprice Hoelzler from Columneetza Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Miss Schiller receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

3rd Place Winner receives (\$50.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Caprice Hoelzler from Columneetza Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Miss Schiller receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

4th Place Winner receives (\$25.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Caprice Hoelzler from Columneetza Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Miss Schiller receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

*There were no Honorable Mentions in the French Category.

CHILCOTIN POEMS:

1st Place Winner receives (\$100.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Juniper Deyo from Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: Classroom teacher will receive Aboriginal themed books.

2nd Place Winner receives (\$75.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Zayden Williams from Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: June Williams receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

3rd Place Winner receives (\$50.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Hannah Vinje from Chilcotin Road Elementary School.

Teacher: Stacey Bergen receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

4th Place Winner receives (\$25.00 in books of their choice at The Open Book, Williams Lake): Shazzarae Haines-Lebrun from Naghtaneqed Elementary/Jr. Secondary School.

Teacher: June Williams receives Aboriginal themed books for her classroom.

Honorable Mentions: These students receive a book from SD27.

Sawyer Fuller, Chilcotin Road Elementary School

Casen Boyd, Chilcotin Road Elementary School

Payton McKeeman, Chilcotin Road Elementary School

Alida Brown, Chilcotin Road Elementary School

SHUSWAP CATEGORY: (There were no entries this year)

Thank you to all the Teachers and Support staff who encouraged their students to participate in our 2025 Indigenous Peoples Day Poetry Contest for School District No. 27.