



## THE IHLA NEWSLETTER

### Message from our President

*Dear Esteemed Member Schools and Friends of IHLA,*

*I hope this newsletter and address finds you all and your schools progressing well as we approach Winter Solstice and the New Year! We have much to be thankful for as we come to the end of 2022!*

*In September, we started our Professional Development (PD) Sessions for Teachers and Administrators with great response! Please do not forget to check the IHLA website for PD Sessions and check your emails.*

**VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1**  
EDITOR: MARINA CASTRO

NOVEMBER 30, 2022

**PLEASE do not forget that our Annual Mother Language Day (MLD) Celebration is Saturday, February 25th at the Polish Hall.**

***We are SO excited to be returning to an IN-PERSON format and on IHLA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of holding Mother Language Day!! To think that in Canada, Bill S-211 An Act to establish International Mother Language Day was first presented by the Senate on October 27, 2020, by Honourable Senator Jaffer and passed on June 21, 2021! (<https://parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/bill/S-211/first-reading>)***

***For MLD, remember to check your emails for all information regarding our central event of the IHLA Year.***

***This year, the MLD Book theme is 'My Heritage Language; from the past, today and looking towards the future'.***

***I look forward to us, together, continuing the good work that IHLA does via new and informative workshops for Teachers and Administrators, developing opportunities for schools, including the IHLA Mentorship Program, and Mother Language Day celebrating the incredible work done by IHLA Schools, among other events during our 2022/2023 Year.***



**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

1. Antonella Cortese - President
2. Krishna Gupta – Vice President
3. Anupama Deshpande - Treasurer
4. Sylvia Pozorek - Secretary
5. Jitka Storoschuk
6. Lilya Sukhy
7. Amit Aery
8. Krystyna Dembowski

● *My hope is that we continue to strengthen our relationships amongst our HL Schools and our government liaisons, recognizing the importance and necessity of supporting Heritage Languages Education in Alberta. As we move forward, I look forward to working with everyone at all Member Schools and encourage more active participation by all our Heritage Language Schools and Programs.*

*It goes without saying that activities IHLA undertakes with its Member Schools would not be possible without Member School Volunteership for its Casino Fundraising Event. In 2023, it will be at the Edmonton Casino on January 13-14, 2023. In order to pay for PDs, fund the Mentorship Program, provide Funding to Schools, and cover MLD expenses, participation is imperative. Please contact IHLA Program Coordinator, Grace Alarcon-Isla at [coordinator@ihla.ca](mailto:coordinator@ihla.ca) for available spots to participate.*

*As a means of keeping abreast of happenings at all our IHLA Schools, I sincerely encourage everyone to send in notices about events/happenings, or projects your schools are doing so that we may include them on the IHLA website ([www.ihla.ca](http://www.ihla.ca)), Facebook, Instagram and within this quarterly newsletter.*

*A good rest of the IHLA School Year to All,*

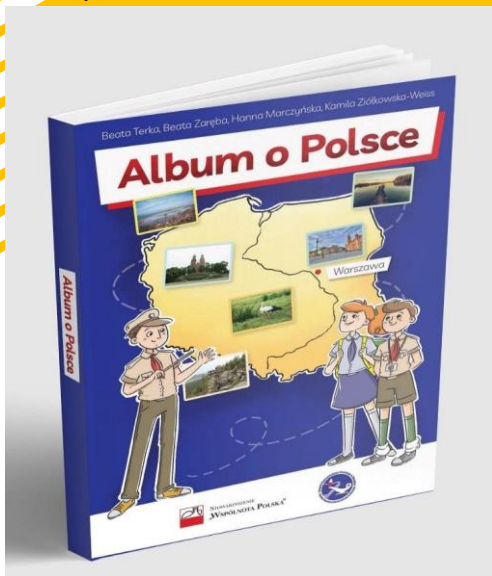
*Antonella Cortese*

**President**

## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

(Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School)

As part of the project of the "Polish Community" Association, an unusual guide "Album about Poland" was published in 2021. The book was specifically indented for Polish children living in Canada and it was created in cooperation and consultation with Polish educators from Canada. One of the people who gave their conceptual consultation while developing this extraordinary guide is Krystyna Dembowska, the Principal of Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School in Edmonton. The book is colorful and full of beautiful photos. The publication is written in an accessible language, thanks to which the young readers will be able to better learn about the country of their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. The tour guides of the book are young scouts Julka and Tomek, who came to Poland and together with their older friend Maciej, they set off on a journey around the homeland of their ancestors, they visit many interesting places, immortalizing them on films and photos. The album opens with a chapter: "Poland in the heart of Europe", which contains the most important information. What is the emblem of Poland? How many people live in Poland? How big is this country? The



readers will find the answers to these and other questions here.

The book is then divided into two parts. In the first part (chapters 2-22) together with Julka and Tomek, children will have the opportunity to discover the beauty of Polish cities and regions. The most interesting places have been selected for young readers.

Together with the young scouts, children will visit: Warsaw, Gniezno, Poznań, Wrocław, Trójmiasto, Łódź and Kraków. Young readers also will have the opportunity to get to know regions such as: Mazowsze, Upper Silesia, Pobrzeże, Warmia and Masuria, Podhale, Podlasie, Roztocze and many others. The authors of this unique book hope that this journey will inspire children to plan a trip to Poland in the future.



Na Rynku Starego Miasta w Warszawie można zobaczyć jeden z pomników warszawskiej Syrenki – symbolu walczącej stolicy. Są tu piękne, kolorowe kamienice, magiczne uliczki i romantyczne kawiarnie z pyszną kawą i deserami. Cała Starówka stolicy Polski trafiła na listę światowego dziedzictwa UNESCO. Pod koniec II wojny światowej zarówno Starówka, jak i cała stolica zostały zburzone. Po wojnie Warszawa w 85% została odbudowana.

The second part (chapters 23-31) contains various interesting facts about Poland. The readers will find out which monuments are on the UNESCO World Heritage List, and they will get to know the most beautiful manors, palaces, and unusual monuments. Together with Julka and Tomek, children will visit the most interesting amusement parks and places where they can discover the fascinating world of science. They will be able to read about the most important holidays and customs, as well as get familiar with the most

popular Polish legends. Scout Maciej will show the readers what delights we can eat in Poland.

In addition, readers will get to know the profile of the Polish Pope John Paul II and the place at the map of Poland associated with it. In the chapter 32 a surprise awaits the readers of the guide, the game "Memories from Poland". Through this game children can earn the title of Expert of Knowledge about Poland!

At the end of each chapter, everyone will find three questions. After the trip, the readers can check what they managed to remember about Poland from the guide.

The book "Album about Poland" offers an unforgettable experience for Polish children living in Canada and all over the world. This guide shows how to perfectly combine historical, cultural, and geographic content in an attractive and unique way.

Written by Barbara Naletlich,  
Grade 9 teacher at Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School

No Lubelszczyźnie, cenniejsze wspomnienia przetrwały, niezmienione na obchodach i kulinariach. W dniu świątecznym, tradycyjnie, w domu rodzinnym. Ciasteczka pochodzą z kuchni żydowskiej. Ma formę spłaszczonego, okrągłego ciasta, smażonego w oleju. Wskazuje się na nie, mówiąc: "Ciasteczko żydowskie".

Jedną z tradycyjnych potraw w centralnej Polsce jest zraz. Wskazuje się na niego, mówiąc: "Zraz". Zraz to jest mięso, głównie wędzone, które w Polsce jest bardzo popularne. Wskazuje się na niego, mówiąc: "Zraz".

Popularne w polskiej kuchni jest ciasto drożdżowe. Wskazuje się na nie, mówiąc: "Ciasto drożdżowe". Ciasto drożdżowe jest ciastem, które w Polsce jest bardzo popularne. Wskazuje się na nie, mówiąc: "Ciasto drożdżowe".

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Pręgiński regionalnie | Album o Polsce

Z kolei stolik wiatykowski. Wskazuje się na niego, mówiąc: "Wiatykowski". Wskazuje się na niego, mówiąc: "Wiatykowski".



Mazowsze | Album o Polsce

Mazowsze to też piękne i stare lasy. Amatorzy natury i długich spacerów muszą wybrać się do Puszczy Kampinowskiej. Wskazuje się na nią, mówiąc: "Puszcza Kampinowska". Wskazuje się na nią, mówiąc: "Puszcza Kampinowska".

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Osoby, które mają problemy ze zdrowiem, mogą się udać do popularnego uzdrowiska Konstancin-Jeziorna. Wskazuje się na nie, mówiąc: "Konstancin-Jeziorna". Wskazuje się na nie, mówiąc: "Konstancin-Jeziorna".

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## Educational Field Trips at Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School

So far, the 2022-2023 school year for the students of Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School has been busy and full of excitement thanks to the amazing countless learning opportunities across the city of Edmonton and surrounding area.

On September 24th, 2022, grades 2, 3 and 5 visited the Alberta Botanic Gardens. It was a beautiful day full of activities and sightseeing.

On October 1st, 2022 grades 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 visited the Alberta Legislature Grounds. On this field trip students had the opportunity to learn about the importance of various statues and monuments for the Polish-Canadian community in Alberta.

On October 23rd, 2022 students from grades 4, 6 and 9 of Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School visited the Royal Alberta Museum. Lots to discover about our province at this wonderful location!





On October 29th, 2022 various classes visited the Beechwood cemetery in Edmonton to pay their respects and learn about Polish traditions surrounding All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Students surprised us as they burst into social action and cleaned off some of the forgotten tombstones out of their own initiative. It was a reflective and memorable experience

On November 13th, 2022 students from the school placed wreaths, folk danced and recited poems to commemorate Polish Independence Day at the Polish hall together with other organizations in the Polish community. The importance of learning the history of our country and respecting the legacy of those who have fought valiantly for our country's freedom is near and dear for the staff and students of our school.



On November 19th, 2022 students from our school had a wonderful learning opportunity during our annual Day of Reflection at Holy Rosary church. With a focus on celebrating and growing in our Catholic faith, students celebrated mass and took part in countless fun activities led by Sister Rafala.

We are immensely grateful for the opportunities from which we have been able to learn from thus far and look forward to more exciting educational trips planned in the near future.



Written by Sylvia Pozorek  
Grade 5 teacher  
Henryk Sienkiewicz Polish School

## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS

(The Czech Heritage Language Society of Edmonton)

The Czech Heritage Language Society of Edmonton alias Czech school has started its fourth year. We run classes every Saturday and for a 2022/2023 school year we opened new programs. We started a new class for 3- and 4-year-old children. Small kids learn the best through play and games, by singing songs, saying rhymes, while they move and have fun and that is exactly what we do at our school.



We also decided to have one lesson a month only for children who are fluent in Czech so they can develop their knowledge of Czech language, grammar, history, and geography.

But fun and learning for children and families from our Czech school started already in late summer with two big events.

**Czech camp** – organized by SVU Edmonton (Czech and Slovak Society of arts and sciences) for Czech families. For 5 nights we stayed at a beautiful facility of Van-Es Camp and Conference Centre in the heart of Beaver Mountains. Children learnt about the Czech national symbols and created their own family cote



of arms explaining family roots and background. While listening to the classic music of famous Czech composers, we expressed our feelings that the music brought to us by painting. Together we baked super popular Czech buns called “rohlíky”. We went swimming every afternoon, we played outside a lot and we finished our stay with a bonfire, roasted sausages, marshmallows and song singing.

**Pohádkový les (Enchanted forest)** – this was a fun event planned for last Sunday in August where children could meet characters from famous Czech cartoons, movies and fairy tales. The characters were adults dressed in homemade costumes. Children walked down the trail, met, and greeted a fairy tale character, and played a game that was ready at the station. A picnic and bonfire followed.



~ Christmas recipe ~

### ***Vanilla almond crescent cookies***

#### **Ingredients: (makes about 70 pieces)**

210 g good quality unsalted butter, room temperature

70 g powder sugar

280 g all purpose flour

100 g ground almonds (you can grind regular almonds in a blender)

1 tsp real vanilla extract

2 tbsp brown rum (optional, it is added for taste, alcohol evaporates)

Powder sugar and vanilla sugar for coating

#### **Instructions:**

Put all the ingredients in a bowl and mix them well together by using your hands. It takes about 6 minutes. Make a big ball, wrap it in a plastic wrap and put it in the fridge for several hours or overnight. Take it out of the fridge one hour before you start making crescents.

Prepare a baking sheet covered with baking paper. Start your oven for 355 F. From a dough, take a small piece, shape a ball of a walnut size, roll it among your hands to create a “rope” and then shape into a small roll. It needs some practice to have a nice shape, but the cookies don’t have to be perfect. When a baking sheet is full, put it in the hot oven and bake for about 10 to 12 minutes until they are slightly golden brown.

Let them cool completely. Mix powdered sugar with vanilla sugar and coat the crescents. Work carefully as the fresh baked crescents are very fragile. Put them in a covered box and let them sit for at least 5 days, they taste better with time.

Veselé Vánoce! Merry Christmas!





## NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOLS (Edmonton Marathi Shala)

### *Diwali Celebration at Edmonton Marathi Shala*

Each festival has its own special features. Diwali is the most special and popular festival in India. Edmonton Marathi Shala students have celebrated this festival with a very unique way. On this special festival hands on activities such as Lantern making, and Diya (Earthen lamp) decoration were conducted. Children have experienced the making of Lantern. Lantern symbolizes happiness, hope, positivity, and uniqueness. Teachers have discussed about Diwali festival in Marathi. Importance, mythological stories of Diwali, special things like rangoli, sweets, diyas, etc., were the key elements of the discussion. Children have made paper lanterns. Maitri, Drishti, Kaushalya, Naipunya all four sections of Edmonton Marathi Shala enjoyed this activity.



*First Conference on Filipino Language and Culture*



Teachers from the Filipino Language and Culture School of Edmonton attended the First Conference on Filipino Language and Culture on October 15 -16, 2022 at the Philippine Cultural Centre Foundation, Calgary, Alberta. The conference objectives were:

1. Updating on knowledge of the Filipino Language enhancement instructional and teaching methodology
2. Enhancement of effective educational resources for Filipino language training
3. Importance of culture in learning the Filipino mother tongue/language

The conference guest speaker, Dr. Jayson Petras, from the Filipino Department of the University of the

Philippines was invited by the Philippine Consulate General in Calgary and the Philippines National Commission for Culture and the Arts sponsored his delegation to the First conference on Filipino Language and Culture. Dr. Jayson Petras is an Associate Professor in the Department of Filipino and Philippine Literature at the University of the Philippines Diliman and an Affiliate Faculty of the Faculty of Education, UP Open University.

Educators and advocates of the Filipino Language and culture program in Alberta and surrounding provinces were invited to the conference where they learned about new research findings on heritage language learning and the behaviours of heritage language learners towards their ancestral heritage.

They also collaborated on how the Filipino Language and Culture program in Alberta and surrounding

provinces can advocate for more schools and community-based programs to adapt the formal teachings of the Filipino Heritage. During the discussion at the Panel of Experts portion of the conference, IHLA coordinator, Grace Alarcon-Isla was a moderator in a discussion on the current and future endeavors of the Filipino Language and Culture program. The panel consisted of Dr. Jason Petras (Guest speaker), Dr. Josephine Pallard (Filipino Language and Culture School of Edmonton), Aurora Dacanay (Philippine Cultural centre foundation – Calgary), Consular General Zaldy Patron (Philippine Consulate General Calgary) and Henry Zondervan (Alberta Education representative-Private schools lead).

At the end of the informative conference, the call to form a national teacher association summed up the success of the conference. The Filipino Association for Cultural Educators or FACE was formed. The



association will partner with other Filipino schools and community based Filipino heritage language program across Canada and continue to collaborate with the University of the Philippines and the Philippine National Commission of Culture and Arts for more conferences and resource acquisition for the Filipino Language and Culture programs in Canada.

### [2022 Community-Based Heritage Language Schools Conference](#)



October 7 & 8, 2022—Washington, DC  
**The Power and Sustainability of Multilingualism**

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, IHLA President Antonella Cortese was invited to participate and discuss the “International Guidelines for Professional Practices in Community-Based Heritage Language Schools.” This document was a collaborative effort including IHLA Board Academic Advisor Nina Paulovicova, PhD (Slovak Heritage Language School, Founder/Principal) and Trudie Aberdeen, PhD (IHLA Coordinator 2016-2021) as co-authors alongside colleagues from Australia, Iceland, the Netherlands, Canada, and the US.

The panel discussion focused on the utility and adaptiveness of the Standards written given the different realities of HL Schools internationally. For IHLA’s part, Antonella presented the results and comments provided by IHLA Schools having responded to the following questions:

- (1) Which Core Values address your current concerns for the effective running of your HL School?;
- (2) Which Core Values are the most useful in creating a more effective HL School?; and
- (3) What is your opinion of the creation of Professional Standards for HL Schools?

Panel discussants all presented their findings resulting in what is now a “living” document that reflects the changes and perspectives of the different cultural and linguistic lived realities when addressing the challenges and celebrations of our heritage language communities and our dedication to keeping them thriving and always vibrant.

Please check the website for the complete panel discussion online at

[Dropbox – 2022 Presentations – Simplify your life](#)

On personal level, it was gratifying and was so honoured to present to our international partners the work our IHLA Schools do everyday to create ever growing and evolving HL Schools and Communities. Thank you all for your dedication and continued efforts for heritage languages in our Region and our Province.

## 2022 Community-Based Heritage Language School Conference

([National Coalition of Community-Based Language Schools \(heritagelanguageschools.org\)](https://www.heritagelanguageschools.org))

The conference is for program directors and administrators of community-based heritage language schools; members of the language communities involved in these schools; and directors and leaders in public, private, and charter schools who are interested in working with community-based heritage language schools.

There will be opportunities to connect and converse with leaders of national language organizations in the United States and other countries, to connect with colleagues working with community-based schools, and participate in workshops on the following topics:

- Promoting Your School and Holding Funding Events
- Working With Parents and Engaging Students
- Using Technology Tools and Platforms in Instruction
- Using Inquiry-based, Problem-based, and Project-based Learning with Diverse Learners
- Guiding Learners Through Pathways to Increased Language Proficiency
- Maximizing Learner Opportunities with Language Proficiency


One important topic of the conference was on the **Translanguaging Pedagogy in Community-Based**

**Language Schools.** To

listen to the talk, please follow

the link below.

[Translanguaging  
Community-Based  
American University](#)



The Filipino Language and Culture School and the Filipino Canadian Saranay association of Alberta invites you to join them at their concert fundraiser Gala, ECHOES from the ROOTS - part 2, on Dec 10, 2022 at 7pm at the ACCA Centre, 3530-91 St. Doors open at 6pm. There will be an auction fundraiser and a light snack pack will be served. Tickets are \$30. For more information or ticket purchases, please email [filcan.saranay@gmail.com](mailto:filcan.saranay@gmail.com).

[Pedagogy in  
Language Schools -](#)



~ Professional  
Development 2022-2023  
and important dates ~

*(Please check our website  
[www.ihla.ca](http://www.ihla.ca) for updates as  
well as our Facebook page)*

*\*\* Please make sure to register for workshops so that you are able to have access to that PD session\*\**

- **December 5, 2022 (6:30 pm- In person ) - Karen Wikkerin: Supporting Students with Autism in the Classroom Setting**

This session will provide an introduction to autism and how students with diverse learning needs may present their strengths, and areas of need in the classroom setting. Through an emotional regulation perspective, attendees will leave with a toolbox of strategies that focus on changes to the environment and adult interactions to support autistic learners.

Bio: Karen has 18 years of experience in education, with 11 of those years working specifically with children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She joined the team at Children’s Autism Services of Edmonton in 2018. Karen has a passion for working with trans disciplinary teams, expanding her knowledge as she implements strategies and supports classroom teams to effectively include all children in their learning environment. Karen received her Bachelor of Education from The King’s University (Edmonton) and her Master of Education in Special Needs and Early Childhood Education from Dordt University (Iowa).

- **January 13 & 14, 2023 – IHLA CASINO** (please check our website for more details, [International and Heritage Languages Association in Edmonton, Alberta \(ihla.ca\)](http://www.ihla.ca) – Casino section)

We are currently scheduled at the Pure Casino Edmonton (7055 Argyll Road) in Edmonton for January 13 (Friday) and 14 (Saturday), 2023. Please take a moment to review the available positions and indicate your preferences. Positions will be filled on a first come, first availability basis.

Each member school will provide at least 2 volunteer representatives from their school to receive credit towards funding. Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Grace Alarcon-Isla by phone or email.  
Email: [coordinator@ihla.ca](mailto:coordinator@ihla.ca)  
phone: (780) 760-0700

- **January 17, 2022 – Charlotte Ross: Indigenous Language Revitalization, Adult Cree Silent Speakers, Historical Trauma Impacts on Indigenous Languages, Learning Cree as a Second Language**

Date & Time – TBC, details will be sent by email at a later date

- **January 25 - Henry Zondervan/ Stephen Wright (2-part PD) – Locally Developed Curriculum**

Date & Time – TBC, details will be sent by email at a later date.

## ~ Mother Language Day 2023 ~

**(Save the Date!)**



### **Theme:**

*My Heritage Language; from the past, today and looking towards the future*

### **Date & Location:**

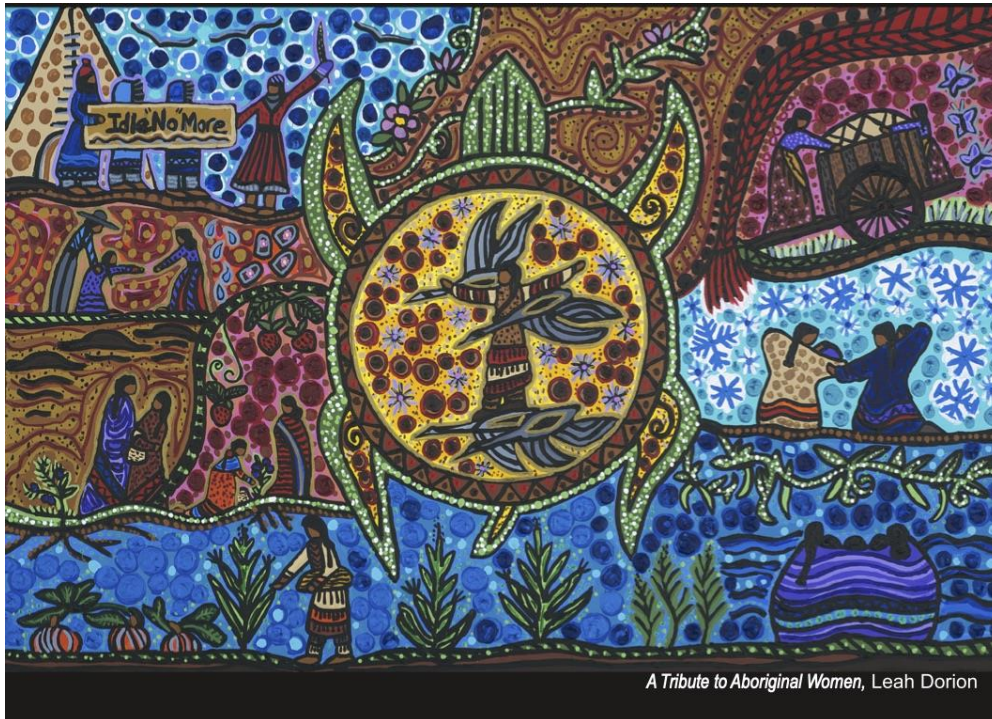
*February 25, 2023, Polish Hall*

All schools are invited to create content for either:

- 1.) The MLD Book
- 2.) The MLD Celebration through a performance.

**\*\* An email will follow with more information about preparation for this event \*\***

## ~Free Indigenous Courses at University of Alberta~



Subtitles: Arabic, French,  
Portuguese (European),  
Italian, Vietnamese,  
German, Russian, English,  
Spanish

Indigenous Canada is a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) from the Faculty of Native Studies that explores Indigenous histories and contemporary issues in Canada. From an Indigenous perspective, this course explores key issues facing Indigenous peoples today from a historical and critical perspective highlighting national and local Indigenous-settler relations. Topics for the 12 lessons include the fur trade and other exchange relationships, land claims and environmental impacts, legal systems and rights, political conflicts and alliances, Indigenous political activism, and contemporary Indigenous life, art and its expressions. (University of Alberta website) For more information about the course and to enrol, please follow the link below: [Indigenous Canada | Coursera](#).

[Indigenous Canada | Coursera](#)





~Being a member in good standing~

*To be an IHLA member in good standing your school needs to:*

- a) complete a registration form, b) pay IHLA membership fees,*
- c) participate at MLD through a table (and a book or presentation),*
- d) volunteer at IHLA fundraising events, and e) participate in at least 3 IHLA sponsored professional development sessions.*

~Follow us on social media~

Please follow us on our Instagram @edmontonihla and International Heritage Language Association our Facebook page for more updates



International Heritage Language Association @edmontonihla

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