



VOL 1 - No.1

Spring and Summer 2026

SEMESTERLY Reflection

The arrival of spring is a time of purification and renewal. This transition is honoured through fasting, sweat lodges, sacred fires and gratitude for the elements that sustain life. For some nations this represents a new year and a new start. What new beginning will you be bringing to this Spring and Summer?

Here are a few reflective questions to get you started:

QUESTIONS:

1. What wisdom from the past year has shaped your understanding of yourself, your relationships, and your connection to the land? How can this guide your intentions for the new year?
2. What moments of connection, whether with loved ones, the land, or ancestors, are you most grateful for lately? How have they shaped or strengthened you?
3. What story or teaching shared by a loved one or Elder has stayed with you? How does it influence your understanding of gratitude and connection?

Newsletter Highlights

Reflection Corner

New beginnings for spring and summer

Convocation

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Looking Back

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Spring & Summer teachings

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Academic Calendar

May 13, 2026	Last day to add course(s) for Session 1, 7S1 and 7S2
May 15, 2026	Last day to drop course(s) without receiving a grade and with a potential refund for Session 1 and 7S1
May 18, 2026	Victoria Day – holiday (Seneca closed)
May 20, 2026	Late tuition payment for Summer 2026 Term with financial penalty
Jun 10, 2026	New students (domestic) – Fall 2026 Term: tuition deposit due
Jun 5, 2026	Last day to drop 7S1 course(s) and receive a DNC (Did Not Complete) grade
June 20 - 25, 2026	Convocation: Saturday, June 20 to Thursday, June 25 for April 2026 graduates
June 22 - 26, 2026	Study Week (Seneca open)
Jul 1, 2026	Canada Day – holiday (Seneca closed)
Jul 2, 2026	2nd late tuition penalty or Summer 2026 term
Jul 3, 2026	Last day to add 7S2 course(s) – ELI courses only
Jul 8, 2026	Returning Students – Fall 2026 Term: tuition deposit due for 2026/2027 academic year (tuition deposit is due once per academic year)
Jul 10, 2026	Last day to drop 7S2 course(s) without receiving a grade and with a potential refund
Jul 10, 2026	Last day to drop Session 1 course(s) and receive a DNC (Did Not Complete) grade
Jul 31, 2026	Last day to submit requests for transfer credit for Fall 2026 Term
Jul 31, 2026	Last day to drop 7S2 course(s) and receive a DNC (Did Not Complete) grade
Aug. 3, 2026	Civic Day – holiday (Seneca closed)
Aug. 7, 2026	Open enrolment begins for Fall 2026 Term on Student Home
Aug. 14, 2026	Summer 2026 Term ends
Aug. 21, 2026	Final grades for Summer 2026 Term available on Student Home

Seneca Convocation

When: Saturday, June 20 to Tuesday, June 23

Where: Meridian Hall (1 Front St. E., Toronto)

Coming up in June is Convocation! This is your opportunity to cross the stage and celebrate your achievements at Seneca Polytechnic with family, friends and classmates.

If you are an Indigenous student graduating and would like to wear one of the Seneca Medallions across the stage, please reach out before June 17th to:

Leigh.simpson-ahwanaquot@senecapolytechnic.ca

The Medallion is picked up in the same place as your graduation gown before the ceremony. Please remember to return the Medallion after the ceremony.



Seneca Medallions

Why is it important Seneca has the Medallions?

Indigenous graduates wear a beaded medallion while crossing the stage at convocation. It symbolizes the relationship between the student and Seneca Polytechnic, and Seneca's ongoing commitment to Reconciliation. When students choose to wear the medallion, they accept this act of allyship and affirm the resilience of Indigenous peoples, demonstrating that they are still here and still matter.



Why is it important that the Medallions are returned?

By returning the medallion, the student becomes part of a community that has proudly worn it across the stage in the past, present, and future. They join all of our relations. Their story lives within the medallion as one bead among many. Individually, each bead is important, as it represents Indigenous knowledges, identities and experiences. Together, the beads form something larger and more significant, carrying collective memory and shared responsibility among the Indigenous community.





Upcoming events

Powwows are powerful and meaningful Indigenous gatherings where you'll find multiple generations coming together to enjoy food, honour traditions, forge a sense of community, and practice spiritual healing. Be present in the joyful reclamation of traditional dances and songs, and sense the pride of Indigenous dancers, drummers and singers.

SAT/SUN
MAY

23-24

Cultural Festival & Competition Powwow

Noon to 8 p.m.

1695 Queen Street E, Toronto, ON

SAT
JUNE

6

2-Spirit Powwow

Time TBC

5555 Steeles Ave E, Scarborough, ON

SAT
JUNE

12

Na-Me-Res Traditional Powwow

Time TBC

875 Dufferin Street, Toronto, ON

LOOKING

[Back](#)

Ice Fishing



Sugar Bush



Virtual Reality



Graduation Party



Red Dress Day

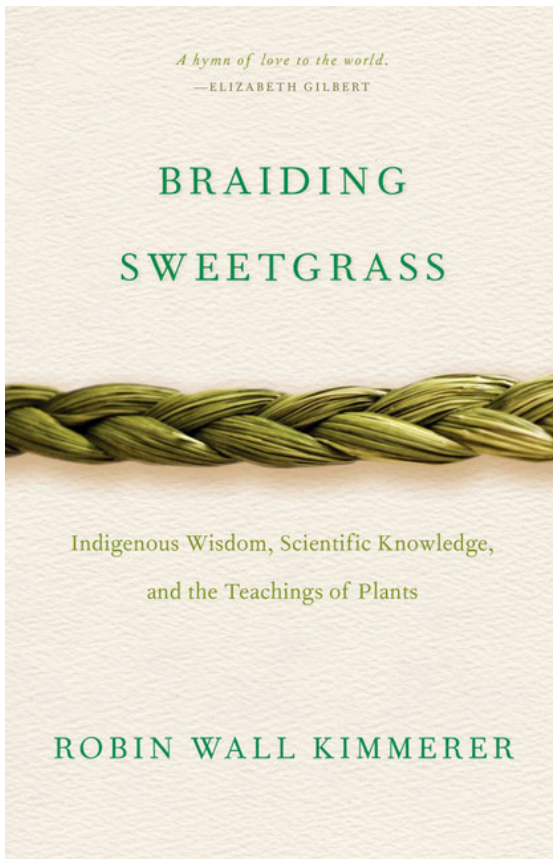


On May 5th, Red Dress Day is observed to honour Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people. Students and faculty were invited to plant red flowers in the Heart Garden outside Odeyto, offering a moment of reflection and a collective act of remembrance.

Blu's

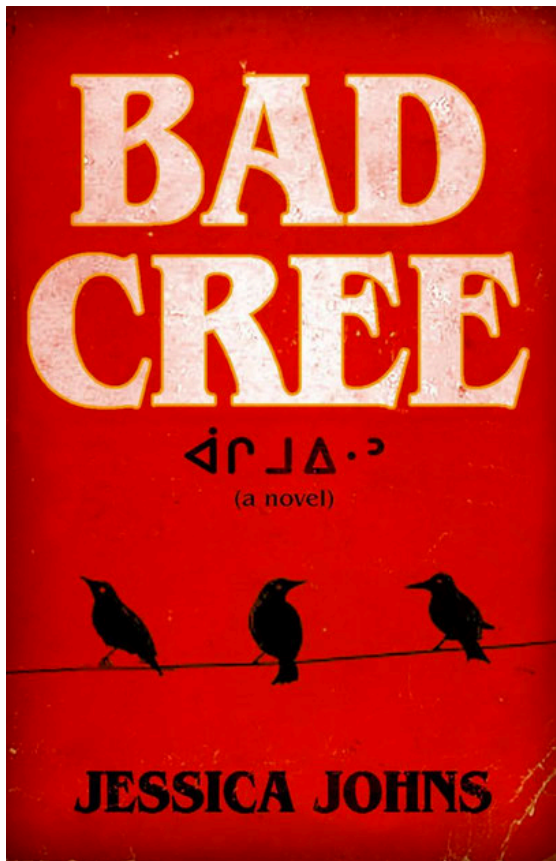


Book Reviews

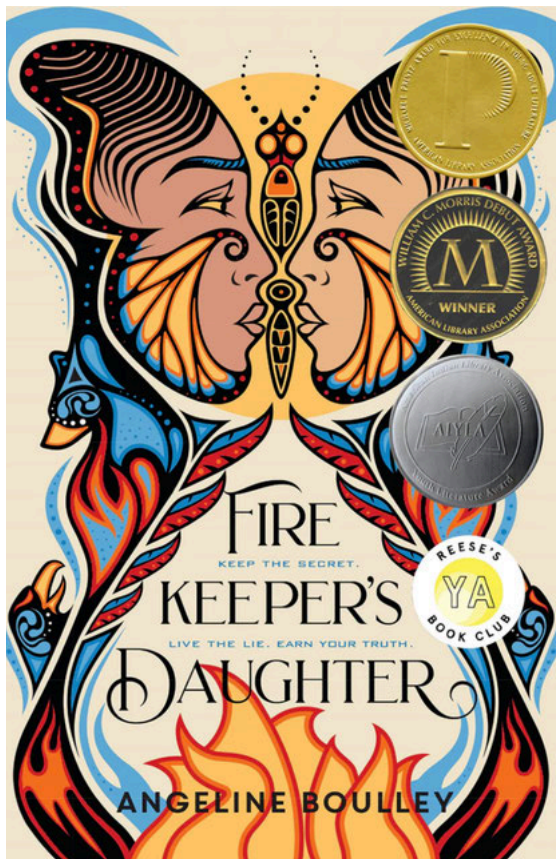


Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer is a beautifully written blend of Indigenous wisdom and ecological science that invites readers to see the natural world as a teacher. Kimmerer encourages us to reflect on our responsibilities to the land, emphasizing reciprocity, respect, and deeper connection through learning from Earth's gifts. It's an engaging read that's hard to put down, filled with lessons and reflections that stay with you long after you finish.





Bad Cree by Jessica Johns is a horror book set between Vancouver and rural Alberta. The book follows a young Cree woman whose nightmares about her dead sister begin to manifest physically. Grounded in Cree understandings of dreams as real, as well as reflecting the realities of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People. This is a gripping novel that shows Indigenous knowledge as lived practice, and highlights how women support one another through ongoing violence.



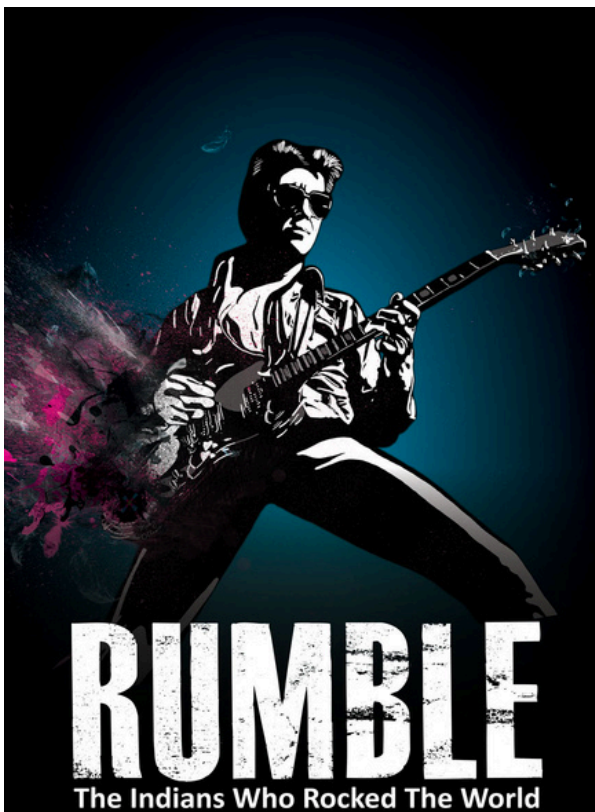
The Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley is a young adult novel about a mixed Ojibwe teen navigating identity, community, and justice. After witnessing a tragic death, she becomes involved with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and goes undercover to investigate drug activity threatening her community. Rooted in Ojibwe culture, it highlights traditional practices and community strength while addressing real issues. The book shows how reconnecting with culture helps youth resist violence and find their place.

SCREENING ROOM



EDGE OF THE KNIFE

Edge of the Knife is a unique, slow-burning drama set in Haida Gwaii and spoken entirely in the Haida language. Directed by Gwaai Edenshaw and Helen Haig-Brown, the film follows a man who tragically loses their nephew. Consumed by grief he retreats into the forest, transforming into the legendary wild man, Gaagiixiid. The film stands out for its breathtaking natural scenery and cultural significance, especially in supporting the revitalization of the Haida language.



RUMBLE

Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World, is a documentary directed by Catherine Bainbridge and Alfonso Maiorana. Named after the groundbreaking song Rumble by Link Wray, the film highlights how Indigenous artists have shaped rock and blues music despite being largely excluded from mainstream narratives.



LISTENING ROOM

Discover what the First peoples team has been listening to



Zhawenim
Digging Roots
Album



Trapline
Snotty Nose Rez Kids
Album



We are the Halluci-Nation
The Halluci-Nation
Album



Further From the Country
William Prince
Album



Dirt Roads
Tia Wood
Song



No Evil
Shawnee Kish
Song



Unreserved
CBC Indigenous
Podcast



Stolen
Connie Walker
Podcast



Indigenous Student SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Laila, our student spotlight! She will be graduating with honours this summer from the Social Service Worker program and will be coming back this fall for the Addictions and Mental Health program. Throughout her studies, she supported organizations such as Thunder Women Healing Lodge, the Royal Ontario Museum Youth Cabinet, and the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto. She served as the Vice President of the Social Service Work Club at Seneca and constantly worked to enhance student life and encouraged peer engagement.



Spring Teachings

Welcome to the season of spring.

A time where we enjoy all the beautiful colours and new growth.

A time where we plan for what we will care for and begin to plant food that will go on to sustain us.

A time to get out and enjoy the change of weather and see the beauty that surrounds us.

Summer Teachings

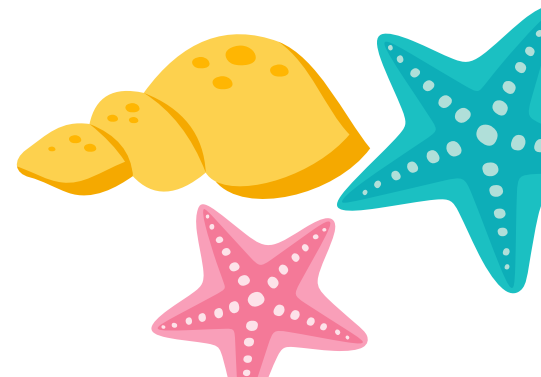
Welcome to the season of summer.

A time to enjoy the warm weather.

A time when we spend more time outside enjoying creation.

A time to appreciate the Summer solstice, the longest day of the year, arriving on June 21st.

June 21st is when we celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day.



SpringSummer

R N T E L R H Y U L X Z H H R
A S I H Y Z B N R E G A L I A
S J U Z R D E B M R Q I C L J
P P L M L E N D T X O J O F I
B O F Q M K E T Z J O J R M N
E W Q L Z E E S W J F J N C G
R W B U O N R T I K L P M A L
R O A E W W G S I S T E O N E
Y W N G R E E D O N T O O O D
M Q N H A O M R U L R E N E R
O F O S I L G F M I S Z R B E
O K C H N Z C M E O O T R S S
N F K N B G D A C A O Q I V S
T I W V O O R A X G D N S C C
S T R A W B E R R Y M O O N E

summer solstice

strawberry moon

three sisters

raspberry moon

flower moon

jingle dress

corn moon

regalia

bannock

rainbow

powwow

canoe