

FEBRUARY IS I LOVE TO READ MONTH

It's time to grab your favourite book and let the reading commence! I Love to Read Month is a month-long celebration that is held each year to encourage reading, writing, and sharing in the joy of literacy.



This year's theme is *Joyful Reading in a New World*. This theme encourages readers to try new book formats and to take part in engaging activities that are adapted to work with our current situation during a pandemic. As such, this theme was also chosen to help inspire and encourage students during these difficult times, to reach out, step up and stay positive!

Schools across Manitoba will be finding creative and fun ways to participate in the event. For information and ideas visit the Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg's [website](#) to view their month long [idea calendar](#).

TREATY EDUCATION VIRTUAL CLASSROOM

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, the TRCM has adjusted the delivery methods of its Treaty Education K-12 initiative. The Treaty Education Virtual Classroom now offers resources and training opportunities in a blended (classroom and virtual learning) environment.



It is not too late to [register](#) for the upcoming sessions which include:

- School Administrators/Education Directors/Catalyst Teacher Training February 3 & 4
- French Language session February 24 & 25 and
- Open K-12 Regional Treaty Education Training March 3 & 4

Visit the [TRCM website](#) for details.

DATA PRIVACY WEEK

The pandemic (and potentially those to follow) has presented our public institutions with an immense challenge. It's not about whether or not we need to pick up the pieces, it's about how we do it. Whether it be managing the economic impact or responding to the new expectations of citizens, organizations need to start thinking. The Public Service Information Community Connection (PSICC) 2021 Data Privacy Week (Feb. 1-4) promises to provide expert commentary, leading international



perspectives, and professional opinion on the various challenges the greater community of Public Sector Information Professionals will face. The 2021 Data Privacy Week will be held over 4 half days and is dedicated to discussing the most current and pressing issues facing our public institutions today as they transform at unprecedented rates!

All registrations include complimentary access to the program on February 2. A promo code for February 3 and 4 was included in the January 6 divisional mail to the MSBA membership. To register visit www.dataprivacyweek.ca.

DIVERSE MINDS WRITING CONTEST

The [Diverse Minds Creative Writing Competition](#) presented by B'nai Brith Canada invites high school students to reflect

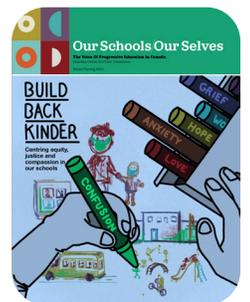


on the values of diversity and inclusion by writing and illustrating a story for elementary school students (K-5). Through peer-to-peer learning, students lead the way in creating communities where everyone is valued. The goal of Diverse Minds is to empower our youth to become role models for each other and understand that their impact reaches beyond their classrooms.

The winning entry will be published as a hardcover, full-colour book and distributed to all elementary schools and public libraries in the respective region. Imagine being a published author and illustrator before you graduate from high school! For more information visit [B'nai Brith, Diverse Minds Manitoba](#).

BUILD BACK KINDER

What have post-pandemic school reopening policies revealed about provincial priorities, and how have public education advocates, parents, students and communities responded? Can we take this moment in time to effectively advocate for a vision of public education that is more responsive to student needs, more reflective of the diverse communities our schools must serve, and more aware of the role schools play as places of learning and places of work, particularly in the context of a global pandemic and a growing mental health crisis? Contributors to the [Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives winter/spring 2021 issue](#) of *Our Schools/Our Selves* explore these and other topics, with an eye to a future that is increasingly at odds with "normal" -- however we might define it.



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