



## English Matters

would like to wish  
you and your family  
a very happy and healthy 2019!

Q: What is a cow's favourite holiday?

A: Moo Years' Eve!

## Canada is More Than English and French



Did you know that there are approximately 70 Indigenous languages in Canada?! That's a lot!

The languages are grouped into 10 language families. A language family is a group of languages that have the same ancestor. The different languages in a language family, share vocabulary and word structure.

Language families are found in specific areas of Canada. What are the language families found in different Canadian regions?

- East of Lake Winnipeg: Algonquian, Iroquoian
- Prairies: Algonquian, Dene, Siouan
- Subarctic: Dene, Algonquian, Eskimo-Aleut
- British Columbia: Salishan, Tsimshianic, Wakashan, Dene, Algonquian

In the latest census, the largest language family was Algonquian.

Why are many Indigenous languages in Canada endangered?

Historically, Europeans that settled in Canada wanted Indigenous people to become more like them. Governments created the Indian Act and residential schools that forced Indigenous people to stop speaking their native languages.

For example, students at the residential schools that were caught speaking their native language were punished. Even after the schools were closed, the fear of speaking Indigenous languages continued, which limited the passing of these languages on from one generation to the next.

In 2016, Statistics Canada reported that there are 500 or fewer speakers for 40 of the Indigenous languages.

In December of 2016, a law was passed to protect Indigenous languages in Canada.

As well, many organizations and schools have created programs for learning, teaching, and documenting Indigenous languages.

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## Things To Do

Get outside & embrace winter weather!  
**Try tobogganing!!**  
All you need is snow, a hill, a sled and some warm clothing.  
(And a thermos of hot chocolate!)  
Click for places to Go,Go,Go!!!



**Skate on**  
**The Bentway**  
A figure 8 trail under  
The Gardiner Expressway  
\*\* Open Daily \*\*  
Click for more about:  
♥ Skate Rentals  
♥ Drop-In Skating Lessons  
♥ MORE!



Visit the Canadian  
**Warplane Heritage Museum!**  
You'll see aircraft and  
displays of Canada's  
military aviation  
history in Hamilton from WWII to today!  
**Click the logo to learn more!**



## DID YOU KNOW...?

### Beginner

A nickname is a fun name.

Give a nickname to a  
person, pet or thing.

The Big  
Smoke



### Intermediate

Some of Toronto's  
nicknames are:

- The Six/6/6ix
- T.O./T-Dot
- The Big Smoke
- 416
- Hogtown
- Hollywood North
- Toronto the Good

You can look them up  
to find out why



### Advanced

The word nickname originated from the Middle English phrase **ekenname**. Middle English was used from about 1150-1500. Ekename came from the fusion of two Middle English words: **eke** which meant also and **name**, (also-name). Over time, the word mutated to nickname and is an alternative name, often casual, and sometimes entertaining name given to someone or something.

**FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup> IS GROUNDHOG DAY** – Thousands of years ago, people in Europe (where Germany is now), believed that the badger could predict when spring would arrive. This tradition was brought to Canada, and because there were no badgers in Canada, it became the groundhog that made the prediction. If “Wiarton Willie” sees his shadow on February 2<sup>nd</sup> there will be 6 more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow, there will be an early spring.



**FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> IS VALENTINE'S DAY** – We give cards and gifts to people we love. The cards are usually pink or red, and decorated with hearts, roses, teddy bears, etc. Common gifts are:

- ♥ Flowers, especially red roses
- ♥ Chocolates or candy
- ♥ Jewelry
- ♥ Cosmetics
- ♥ Clothing, especially fancy lingerie

Most importantly, don't forget your spouse! School children may have a party at school, make cards or presents for their families, and exchange little Valentine cards with their classmates. Your child's teacher will send you a note with plans for Valentine's Day in the classroom.



## ICE FISHING

**Winter fun on the lake!**  
Try the enjoyment of the Canadian pastime of ice fishing and come home with dinner! There are great places just one hour from Toronto for you and your friends. You can find a rental operator for an afternoon (fish are most active at dawn and dusk) that will provide you with a place, a warm hut, lines, bait and more!

Find some friends and book now!



## More Things To Do

**2019 CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL AUTOSHOW**  
At the Metro Toronto Convention Centre  
February 15-24, 2019  
[Click Here for Info](#)

**Quebec Winter Carnival**  
The largest winter festival in the world!  
February 8-17, 2019  
snow-sculpting, a free outdoor public banquet, parades, treats, dog sledding, snowshoeing, snowboarding, etc.  
[Click Here!](#)

**Try Ice Fishing**  
in a hut, with a group, at a Derby or as a spectator!  
**ONTARIO FAMILY FISHING EVENTS**

**ONTARIO PLACE**  
Fairy Lights  
Skating  
Bonfire  
Food  
Find out by Clicking

**Click here to see the website**  
**FEBRUARY 8-10, 2019**  
**INTERNATIONAL CENTRE**

### It's A Mystery!

Take a look at these pictures. Can you figure out what is in the pictures? Do you know what it is used for? Take a look at the video by clicking here:  
Now do you know what it is?  
The answer will be in the next newsletter!

**HINT:**

It is an antique!



Q: What do you call a snowman in August?

A: A puddle.

### Thank You, Students!

*The Christmas Season is not just for spending time with our friends and families. It is also about helping people that are less fortunate than us. English Matters was humbled to support Melanie and her family who were in need this year. Thank you to everyone involved! Look at all of the amazing donations from English Matters students!!*

And here's a "thank you":



Q: What did the snowman say to his customer?

A: Have an ice day!



*We welcome the newest member of one of the English Matters' families!*

**CUTE!**

### FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> IS FAMILY DAY

This holiday celebrates the importance of families. Schools and many businesses will be closed, so spend time with your family!!

### CANADIAN HISTORY & CULTURE CORNER

### LACROSSE

The ancient game of lacrosse is older than Canada! The game was given to the indigenous people by the creator and was originally played by warriors on a field that was more than a kilometre long!

Lacrosse kept men fit for hunting and war, helped with diplomacy and honoured the gods. European settlers to Canada were intrigued. They learned the game and brought it to Europe in 1867.



Lacrosse Champions - Mohawk Nation 1869



Modern Women's Lacrosse Game

Lacrosse is a team sport. The objective is to shoot the ball into the net of the other team. Each team has a goalie. Each player carries a lacrosse stick with a netted pouch at one end. The players use the stick to carry, pass, catch and shoot the ball.

One modern team, the *Iroquois Nationals*, represent the Haudenosaunee indigenous team on both sides of the Canada-US border. They even travel with their own Haudenosaunee passport when competing.