



NEWS

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 57
2100 FERRY AVENUE
PRINCE GEORGE, B.C. V2L 4R5
TELEPHONE: (250) 561-6800

For Immediate Release

November 4, 2020

At the regular public meeting of the Board of Education for School District No.57 (Prince George) held on Wednesday, November 3rd the Board approved a motion to provide a letter of support to the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and the McLeod Lake Indian Band regarding the Nations request to the Government of British Columbia to allow for two additional elected trustees on the Board of Education.

Newly elected Chair, Trent Derrick, had this to say about the motion, "The Board of Education is proud to write a letter of support for the Lheidli T'enneh and McLeod Lake Indian Band to begin their process to request two elected Trustees from the Ministry of Education. This process is being led by the two communities in a Nation-to-Nation dialogue between senior levels of Government. The Board of Education does not have the jurisdiction to make the necessary changes to the *School Act*, *Election Act* or any other legislative process, as the final decision will need to be made by the Ministry of Education. The Board of Education supports the right of the two Nations to work in a government-to-government relationship as stated in Bill 41."

The approved motion from the meeting reads as follows:

That the Board of Education write a letter of support to the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band regarding their request for the addition of two Indigenous Trustees, one elected to represent the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the other elected to represent the Lheidli T'enneh Nation on the School District No. 57 (Prince George) Board of Education and that the Letter of Support include the following:

The Board recognizes the strong support received from a number of Indigenous and other community organizations regarding the joint request from Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band.

The Board acknowledges that it is not within the mandate of the Board of Education to change the School Act, BC Elections Act or any other legislative process. The Board recognizes that jurisdiction to make the requested changes lies with the Provincial Government.

The Board supports the Government-to-Government relationship between Indigenous First Nations and the Provincial Government as stated in Bill 41 and acknowledges the right of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band to move forward their request to the Provincial Government.

Further Information: Trent Derrick, Board Chair
Phone: 778-675-6833
Email: tderrick@sd57.bc.ca

Anita Richardson,
Superintendent of Schools
Phone 250-561-6800, Ext. 317
Email: arichardson@sd57.bc.ca