



School District No. 57 (Prince George)

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

#102 – 155 McDermid Drive, Prince George, B.C. V2M 4T8
Phone: 250-562-4843 • Fax: 250-561-2520



Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Revised: May 14, 2020

School District No.57 (Prince George) Policy 1230 – Indigenous Education states that *School District No.57 is fully committed to the delivery of Indigenous Education as mandated through the British Columbia Ministry of Education and rooted within the communities it serves. School District No.57 recognizes that the significance of the First Peoples Principles of Learning and Indigenous wisdom teachings to all learners.*

In accordance with The Board of Education School District No.57 (Prince George) policy 1230 Indigenous Education, the Board has directed that an Indigenous Education Committee be established.

The PREAMBLE in the policy states that:

The Board of Education recognizes that it serves a diverse population of learners and is committed to making education meaningful for, responsive to and inclusive of cultural diversity that characterizes our Canadian society. The Board of Education acknowledges the significant Indigenous student population within School District No.57 and is committed to transforming educational experiences and academic achievement for all learners.

The Board of Education:

- *Supports the development and delivery of Indigenous Education programs and services that enhance and benefit both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students as mandated by the British Columbia Ministry of Education.*
- *Supports meaningful consultation with the Indigenous community and the variety of methods used to achieve this throughout each school year.*
- *Acknowledges and values the role of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, Indigenous Elders Advisory Council, and the Local First Nations within School District No.57 boundaries in enhancing and supporting Indigenous student success.*

The Indigenous community has made known its understanding of Indigenous education as holistic. An education that is inclusive of Indigenous perspectives, including languages, cultures, knowledge and history.

The policy reflects the belief that education is a lifelong learning process that encompasses Indigenous students, parent/guardian(s) and the community. The Board of Education will work with all partners in the educational process to ensure that an education of high quality is provided, leading to academic achievement, social leadership, environmental stewardship, secured career pathways and full participation as local and global citizens.



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In the policy, Regulation 8. Mandate to Consult states that:

The Board of Education of School District No.57 has a mandate from the British Columbia Ministry of Education to consult on Indigenous Education Programs and Services. This mandate is defined in section(s) 2 and 3 of the audit requirements of Indigenous Education Targeted Funding from the British Columbia Ministry of Education and reads as follows:

- (2) Evidence that the parents or guardians of the student have been consulted.
Interpretation: consultation represents communications between the school and parent/guardian.*

- (3) Evidence that the Indigenous Education Programs and Services have involved the Indigenous communities in planning and delivery, either through direct involvement or through a process of informed consent.*

School District No. 57 meets this mandate to consult as defined by the British Columbia Ministry of Education through a variety of processes; Local Education Agreements, Indigenous community involvement, Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, Indigenous Elders Advisory Council and parental engagement.



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Section 1: PURPOSE OF THE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The role of the Indigenous Education Committee, in accordance with the policy, *is to support and advise the Indigenous Education Department on Indigenous Education Programs and Services as per the mandate from the Ministry of Education on Indigenous Education and to involve the Indigenous community where possible in Indigenous Education initiatives that support Indigenous students.*
 - 1.1 The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee accepts the responsibility inherent in the mission of the British Columbia Ministry of Education Policy on Indigenous Education. They acknowledge the ancestral lands of Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band and Simpcw First Nation on which School District No. 57 resides. The committee recognizes the importance of having all students achieve success in the context of intellectual, physical, emotional, and spiritual areas. They are committed to working collaboratively to support, enhance and increase the academic, social, and emotional success of all Indigenous students.
 - 1.2 It is a shared philosophy that Indigenous languages, cultures, knowledge, and history must form an integral part of School District No. 57.
 - 1.3 The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee recognizes the importance of working collaboratively with other First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities (FNMI) to support implementation of Local Education Agreements (LEA's) with the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and the McLeod Lake Indian Band.
 - 1.4 The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee will work collaboratively to support the Board of Education, the Indigenous Education Department and schools in communicating with Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band, and Simpcw First Nation.



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Section 2: THE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MANDATE

- 2.1 Honour and acknowledge traditional Indigenous teachings and ways of knowing as an integral part of School District No. 57.
- 2.2 Provide ongoing support for the Local Education Agreements.
- 2.3 Provide ongoing support for the activities and initiatives of the School District No. 57 Indigenous Education Department provided through BC Ministry of Education targeted funding and within the effective schools model.
- 2.4 Review School District No. 57 policy in relation to Indigenous Education and work collaboratively with the Indigenous Education Department and the Board of Education to recommend applicable changes to these policies if and when needed.
- 2.5 Annually review the culture, language, support programs and services being offered through Indigenous Education targeted funding for self-declared Indigenous students.
- 2.6 Annually review School District No. 57's Strategic Plan and Framework for Enhancing Student Learning as it relates to Indigenous Education.
- 2.7 Provide regular and ongoing representation as an educational partner group to the Board of Education through attendance at Standing Committee and other Ad Hoc Committee meetings as appropriate.
- 2.8 Annually review School District No. 57 targeted 1701 funding budget within a timeline that will allow community representatives adequate time to consult and gather feedback from their respective communities or organizations.
- 2.9 Provide recommendations and support around surplus dollars within the self-declared Indigenous student 1701 targeting funds budget.



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Section 3: THE INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The composition of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee is determined by the committee as a whole in collaboration with Senior Administration, and reviewed annually with the Terms of Reference.

3.1 Committee Membership

Committee Members will be appointed representatives / alternatives as follows:

Community member representatives:

1. Two representatives from Lheidli T'enneh First Nation.
2. Two representatives from McLeod Lake Indian Band.
3. Two representatives from the Simpcw First Nation.
4. Four parents / guardians representatives off reserve whose child(ren) are identified on the current school year's Indigenous student demographic list, (2 elementary, 2 secondary).
5. Two representative from the Métis community.
6. Two Elder representatives from the School District No. 57 Elders Advisory Council.
7. Two student representatives selected by District Student Advisory Council.
8. As agenda items are determined invitations may be extended to groups such as the College of New Caledonia (CNC) and the University of Northern BC (UNBC) for relevant input

School District member representatives:

1. A representative from the Office of the Superintendent
2. The Senior Leadership team from the Indigenous Education Department.
3. The Vice Chair, School District No. 57 Board of Education.
4. Two teachers selected by Prince George District Teachers Association (PGDTA) (one elementary, one secondary).
5. Minimum one, maximum two, members of Prince George Principal/Vice-Principal Association (PGPVPA) selected by the PGPVPA.
6. Two school-based Indigenous Education Workers selected by CUPE 3742 preferably with Indigenous ancestry (one elementary, one secondary).

3.2 Selection of the Committee Members

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation McLeod Lake Indian Band and Simpcw First Nation Representatives:

- Members representing Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band and Simpcw First Nation will be appointed by their respective First Nations and along with their alternate(s).



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Métis Community Representative:

- Member representing the Métis community will be appointed by their respective community along with their alternate.

Parent / Guardian Representative:

- Four Members representing the parents / guardians off-reserve will be done through a selection process as follows:
 1. The Indigenous Education Department will seek letters of interest for seats by May 1st by advertising in school newsletters, letter mail outs and Indigenous Education Department website.
 2. The Indigenous Education Department will then review these letters of interest to verify Indigenous ancestry linked to student demographics and the ability to meet the commitments of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee.
 3. The Indigenous Education Department will appoint the parent / guardian representatives to the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, two elementary and two secondary by May 31st.

Board of Education Representative:

- The Board of Education of School District No. 57 has appointed the Vice-Chairperson to the committee along with the alternate.

Elders Representative:

- Two members representing Elders will be selected from the School District No. 57 Indigenous Elders Advisory Council.

Post-Secondary Representative:

- Representatives (in an administrative role) from both post-secondary schools CNC and UNBC will be appointed by their respective departments



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Section 4: INDIGENOUS EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND STRUCTURE

4.1 Role of Chairperson

- a) A member of the Indigenous Advisory Committee will be selected as the chairperson by the committee at the first Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting for each school year.
- b) The chairperson is responsible for presiding over meetings and must perform other duties that may be assigned to them by the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee or the Indigenous Education Department.
- c) The chairperson and the vice-chairperson will work closely with the Director of Indigenous Education and the Indigenous Education Department in advance of each meeting to establish the agenda.
- d) The chairperson will ensure that minutes are taken during each meeting and distributed to committee members at least one week in advance of the next scheduled meeting.
- e) In the absence of the chairperson, the vice-chairperson will assume the responsibilities of the chair until the chairperson returns.

4.2 Role of Vice-Chairperson

- a) The vice-chairperson shall be selected by the committee at the first Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting for each school year.
- b) The vice-chairperson will assume duties of the chairperson as required.



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Section 5: MEETINGS

- 5.1 The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee will schedule meetings monthly from September to June to carry out the committee responsibilities. Additional meetings may be called as needed by the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Chairperson and/or the Indigenous Education Department.
- 5.2 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee members are expected to attend all committee meetings.
- 5.3 If an Indigenous Education Advisory Committee member misses two or more consecutive Indigenous Education Committee meetings without the alternate attending, the chairperson and the Indigenous Education Department will seek clarity of the absence and/or at which time may appoint the alternate as the new Indigenous Education Advisory Committee member.
- 5.4 The Indigenous Education Department of School District No. 57 will appoint a recording secretary to the Indigenous Education Committee to record minutes, record attendance and distribute the meeting minutes.
- 5.5 All meeting dates and times will be scheduled at the June meeting of the school calendar year and reviewed in October. No changes to meeting dates and times will occur unless discussed and communicated by the committee.
- 5.6 Meeting location for all Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meetings will be determined by the committee on an annual basis.
- 5.7 At the first meeting in October, all Indigenous Education Advisory Committee members will read, review, and sign the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. Any suggested changes to the terms of reference should follow the collaborative process outlined in 5.11.
- 5.8 At the first Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting of a new school year members will be selected to sit on School District No. 57 Standing Committees as appropriate. Representation to other School District No. 57 ad hoc committees and other committees may be required from time to time and will be discussed as opportunities arise.
- 5.9 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee meeting minutes will be approved at the next scheduled meeting of the committee.
- 5.10 This Terms of Reference is a living document that may be subject to revision from time to time through a cooperative process established by School District No. 57 senior administration in collaboration with the Director of Indigenous Education, and the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee.



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5.11 By signing the Terms of Reference Committee members agree to conduct Committee business within this context.

Name: _____

Date: _____

(Please print)

Signature: _____

Please circle the respective group you represent:

Lheidli T'enneh First Nation

McLeod Lake Indian Band

Simpcw First Nation

Métis Community

Parent / Guardian

Elders Advisory Council

School District No. 57. Staff/Trustee

School District No. 57 Students

University of Northern British Columbia

College of New Caledonia