

**Aboriginal Education**

**Policy No. 600.3**

The Board of Education, School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes), recognizes Aboriginal nations within the district. It serves a diverse population and is committed to making education meaningful for, responsive to and inclusive of Canada's cultural diversity. The Board believes a relevant and positive learning experience is necessary in order to maximize the educational success of Aboriginal students. The Board also believes that all students and district employees should learn about Aboriginal peoples, cultures, values, beliefs, languages, traditions and history using local resources whenever possible.

The Board of Education:

- Supports the development and delivery of Aboriginal programs and services that enhance and benefit the learning and development of all;
- Will involve the Aboriginal communities in the design and delivery of Aboriginal programs, services and curriculum;
- Acknowledges and values the role of the First Nations Education Council in representing the interests of Aboriginal students, parents, and community members served by School District No.91 (Nechako Lakes) and in advising the Board on any matter relating to Aboriginal Education; and,
- Acknowledges and respects the role of Elders and local experts in each of our communities.

The Board of Education believes that equity of opportunity should be realized by all students.

**Aboriginal Education**

**Policy No. 600.3R**

**REGULATIONS**

In order to create a positive learning environment for all learners, the First Nations Education Council (FNEC) will work to:

- Promote a holistic view of education from a First Nations/Indigenous perspective;
- Support the opportunities for learners to achieve their full potential;
- Ensure education initiatives are community-based and community-driven and focused on student achievement;
- Address and eliminate racism and prejudice;
- Practice the values of honesty, openness and respect;
- Ensure accountability and responsible use of targeted dollars in support of learners; and,
- Promote culturally appropriate policies and practices.

The Board of Education will work with the First Nations Education Council in a way that allows for the utilization and enhancements of each respective partner's expertise and resources while recognizing existing contracts, collective agreements, and educational staff rights, duties and responsibilities regarding all educational or workplace matters.

The District will implement and oversee programs and activities for Aboriginal students in conjunction with school based administration and First Nations communities. A review of goals and effectiveness of Aboriginal education programs will be conducted on a regular basis, facilitated by the District Principal of Aboriginal Education in conjunction with school staff, district staff, and FNEC.

All School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) employees share the responsibility for recognizing and honoring the rich contributions of Aboriginal peoples.

There shall be, at formal public meetings of the Board of Education, as well as at formal assemblies of students in the schools, an acknowledgement of the traditional territory of the people(s) where the event takes place.