



The Board of Education – North Okanagan Shuswap #83
First Nations Program

FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION COUNCIL

The First Nations Education Council acknowledges the traditional Secwepemc territory on which we reside.

Terms of Reference

VISION STATEMENT: *“Nurturing our students through celebrating cultural identity, personal well being and academic achievement”*

BACKGROUND:

The First Nations Education Council (FNEC) was formed to work collaboratively with School District #83 to support education programs funded through the Provincial Ministry to enhance the learning experiences for all Aboriginal learners within the school district. The council includes the Secwepemc Bands, Métis representation, Urban Aboriginal representation and District representation including the Chief Superintendent or designate and the District Principal of Aboriginal Education.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the First Nations Education Council is to support relevant high quality learning experiences for Aboriginal learners in School District #83. The mission of the Council will represent Aboriginal interests in the design, implementation and assessment of Aboriginal programs and services.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP:

The Council voting membership will consist of one representative from each of the four (4) Secwepemc Bands associated with School District #83 Local Education Agreement. They are Adams Lake, Neskonlith, Little Shuswap Lake and Splat’sin First Nations. One representative from the off-reserve urban Aboriginal population and one representative from the local Métis Association affiliated with the provincial Métis Nation and one School District #83 Trustee designated representative. Non-voting members will include the District Principal of Aboriginal Education and the Superintendent of School District #83 or designate.

A list of Council representatives and alternates will be done formally through Band Council Resolution for band representatives and through the Board of Trustees for their representation and by appointment and letter from the local Métis Association. A cultural gift will be made as required on behalf of parents and Elders that may be invited to attend.

Note: A School Board Trustee will represent the urban Aboriginal population until an urban Aboriginal organization is established and a designate is chosen.



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- A current list of contact information will be circulated to all FNEC members and a schedule will be drawn up for regular meetings.
- If there is no quorum at a meeting, any items needed to be voted on or a decision made will be brought up at the next meeting. Quorum: Minimum of 4 representatives of which 2 must be Band Representatives.
- Notice of meetings: Date, time, location and meeting minutes to be emailed to all members and alternates one week prior to next meeting. Meetings will be held 5 times per year unless extra meetings are requested or required.
- Arrival and departure of those people in attendance will be recorded as part of the minutes.
- Meetings will be conducted by Robert Rules of order guidelines.

FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION COUNCIL

Adams Lake Band *

Little Shuswap Band *

Neskonlith Band *

Splatsin Band*

Board of Trustees *

Métis Association *

Urban Aboriginal *

District Principal of Aboriginal Education

Superintendent of School District #83

*Voting members

ROLE OF THE FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION COUNCIL

For the purpose of this document the First Nations Council has the responsibility to establish priorities and direction to the School District how the “targeted” Aboriginal dollars allocated to the School District #83 will be used. The Council will collaboratively work as a partner toward ensuring that each Aboriginal student will benefit from the programs and services offered through the school district.

Annually, School District #83 will provide revenue and expenditure statements to members of the First Nations Education Council for approval. The program funds are to support Secwepemc language, cultural programming, and to support social and academic achievement. The District Principal of Aboriginal Education will provide a preliminary budget for approval by the end of each school year for the upcoming school year. The principal will also provide an updated budget report at each FNEC meeting.



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Aboriginal funding is limited to:

- a) Existing Ministry of Education Aboriginal funding
- b) And other resources designed to support programs and services to students of Aboriginal ancestry.

MANDATE:

- To review School District policies and regulations as they relate to Aboriginal learners and to recommend appropriate changes.
- To ensure a consultation process is outlined and followed in respecting Secwepemc protocol in planning cultural program, research and activities.
- To ensure that the richness and diversity of Aboriginal languages, history, cultures and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canadian society are recognized and incorporated into the curriculum at all grade levels.
- To ensure that current topics in priority, such as Aboriginal Rights, Aboriginal self-government and local land claims be presented from a First Nations perspective.
- To make recommendations and share the decisions about how resources are allocated for Aboriginal education.
- To ensure that relevant Aboriginal student data is collected on student enrolment and achievement as stated in the local Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement and is included in reports to the Ministry of Education as required.
- To communicate with on and off reserve Aboriginal communities and parents on an ongoing basis.
- To ensure that the interests of all Aboriginal students within the School District are addressed, regardless of residency.
- To participate in the hiring of Aboriginal staff (professionals and paraprofessionals) within School District programs and services.
- To support research relevant to Aboriginal education.
- To promote cultural awareness within the administration, professional and paraprofessional staff sectors of School District #83.
- To support the activities of the First Nations Education Committees.
- To ensure a safe, positive school environment that reflects healthy Aboriginal communities, cultural resource people will be screened by FNEC.