



“OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER”

Aboriginal Education

District Administrator for Aboriginal Education

Thank you for the warm welcome to SD48. I am very excited about being part of your Aboriginal Education program and assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive and inclusive Enhancement Agreement.

My ancestral name, given to me by my grandmother, is Squli'qwana. It means a person who invites people to potlatches. I would like to invite you to be part of the Aboriginal Education journey.

I am a member of the Nuxalk Nation in Bella Coola, BC. I started my teaching career at Acwsalcta School, the band-operated school in Bella Coola. I worked in the intermediate grades and the highlights for me were

learning my culture and gaining wisdom from my elders, especially my grandmother.

From there, my journey in Aboriginal Education took me to Wickaninnish Community School in Tofino, BC. I joined the administrative team at SD70 (Alberni) and worked there for 5 years as a vice-principal. The school had 50% First Nations students, an excellent Aboriginal support staff and caring teachers.

During this time I completed my master of education in Administration and Leadership Studies at University of British Columbia. I completed a graduate paper entitled “Creating Meaningful and Relevant

Education for First Nations Students: An Examination of Alternative First Nations Schools in the Public School System.”

Before arriving here, I worked as a vice-principal at Ucluelet Elementary School. I have enjoyed my 9 years at SD70, but am looking forward to many new relationships and experiences here in the Howe Sound School District.

My husband, Danny Jewett, and my three sons join me making our new home here in Squamish.



Leaders in Aboriginal Education Pro-D Presentations

To support the goals of the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement, we were thrilled to host the following presenter on September 28, 2007 at Whistler Secondary.

Dr. Lee Brown, PhD Faculty Coordinator, First Nations EdD Programme

UBC, talked about his ground-breaking work using the Medicine Wheel to research the importance of emotional connections for Aboriginal Learners.

On February 15, 2008 Dr. Martin Brokenleg, PhD Center of Educational

Leadership UBC, will share his Circle of Courage presentation. He offers concrete strategies for creating environments in which all young people can grow and flourish.

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Special points of interest:

- Dr. Brokenleg will visit the district on February 15, 2007
- There are 487 Aboriginal students in the Howe Sound School District
- Provincial Aboriginal Education Conference is on November 22-24
- Pow-wow on Nov. 11 and Nov. 16-18 at Totem Hall

Number of Aboriginal Students

There are 487 Aboriginal students who self-identified in the district for the 2007-2008 school year.

Of the 487 Aboriginal students, 299 of them live on reserve. The number of Aboriginal students receiving an Aboriginal program is 481 (476 FTE).

In the south, there are 247 FTE, which is an increase of 30 students from 2006-07. We have seen a significant increase at Valleycliffe Elementary, they have went from 4 to 16 students. Several Squamish families are moving back to their home reserve and additional Aboriginal families are moving here from other places.

In the north, the number of Aboriginal students has declined slightly to 227 FTE

from 257. This decrease is happening at the high school and some of the reasons given were students are going to the band-operated school instead, they have moved, they have started a family or they are working full-time.

These numbers are based on the 1701 data collected in September for 2007-2008 school year.

The number of Aboriginal students receiving a program from each school in the district are:

Blackwater Creek	7
Brackendale Elementary	35
Don Ross Secondary	26
Garibaldi Highlands	2
Howe Sound Secondary	76

Mamquam	26
Pemberton Secondary	105
Signal Hill Elementary	117
Squamish Elementary	33
Stawamus Elementary	40
Valleycliffe Elementary	15



Provincial Aboriginal Education Conference

The 13th annual provincial conference on Aboriginal Education will be on November 22-24, 2007 at the Westin Bayshore, Vancouver, BC.

One of Canada's largest annual Aboriginal education conferences will host several hundred educators, a multitude of varied workshops and guest speakers and will explore the theme of Aboriginal Perspectives in Teaching & Learning.

Integrating Aboriginal culturally relevant perspectives in education has long been recognized to increase academic performance of Aboriginal students. This conference will provide the opportunity to share thoughts and practices on topics across this province and over a variety of grade levels.

"Aboriginal Perspectives in Teaching & Learning"
Provincial Aboriginal Conference
November 22-24, 2007

We will be sending a team of 6 people from the district and many of the First Nations support workers will be sponsored by their Nations to attend the conference.



Pow-Wows at Totem Hall

A Veterans traditional pow-wow gathering will be on November 11th at Stawamus Totem Hall at 12 noon.

This is the 6th annual Remembrance Day Celebration and admission is by donation. The MC of the day will be Swanamia of Wai wa kum Reserve. This event includes a complimentary traditional feast luncheon at 12 noon.

Bring your hand drums and regalia.

This day is to honour our past and present war veterans. Inquiries: Diana Billy at 604-848-1109.

During National Addiction Awareness Week the Squamish Nation will host a Pow-wow at Totem Hall on November 16-18th.

The host drummer will be Sage Hill, the area director will be Zack Cailing and the MC will be Ray Thunderchild.

Dates and times:

Nov. 16th 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Nov. 17th 12:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Nov. 18th 12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Dreamcatcher Conference 2007

Conservation and Protection Branch of Fisheries and Oceans Canada sponsored three students and an elder to attend the conference.

Three students from SD48 had the good fortune to attend the Dreamcatcher Aboriginal Youth Conference in Edmonton Alberta on October 12th to October 14th.

Mary Ellen Peters and Vallerie Peters from Pemberton Secondary School and Dalious McCullough from Howe Sound Secondary were selected to attend. Shirley Toman, an elder from Squamish Nation, was also invited to attend the conference.

The theme of this year's conference, "Grow Strong...Grow Together,"

encouraged Aboriginal Youth, between the ages of 14 to 17, to discover new ideas, meet new people, find new role models and celebrate Aboriginal culture as part of their journey

The goal of the Dreamcatcher conference was to help Aboriginal Youth grow stronger by providing learning opportunities that can assist them with obstacles that may be encountered on their journey.

The conference offered a variety of workshops and events that provided educational career options, enhancing cultural awareness, seeking youth leadership opportunities or tools to assist in the challenges faced on a day-to-day basis.

Many thanks to Dave Loop, from Fisheries Canada, for organizing and chaperoning this event.



*Dreamcatcher Aboriginal Youth Conference
Edmonton, Alberta*

"Shared Learnings"/Cultural Resource Committees

We have a teacher representative from each school to form the "Shared Learnings" Committee. There is a committee in the north and another one in the south.

The goal of these committees is to integrate local Aboriginal content into BC curriculum and make our classrooms an engaging place for our Aboriginal students.

We are inviting local Aboriginal people, who make up the Cultural Resource

Committee, from the community to join us to share their history, values, culture and beliefs.

We will also be exploring different ways teachers have made learning meaningful for Aboriginal students in the schools. Part of our goal is to put together a presentation about the local Aboriginal culture and share it with teachers on professional development days.

In the south, they are working on learning

the traditions and protocols of drum making/teaching and are preparing a professional development workshop for teachers on April 25, 2007.



Aboriginal Education Focus Group

On November 2, 2007 we had our first Aboriginal Education Focus Group meeting. We invited 20 people to be part of this dynamic group.

The focus is to involve specialists, i.e. Speech/Language Pathologist, Vulnerable Children Coordinator, school administrators, etc. in the district to help explore creative strategies to assist with some of the challenges that our Aboriginal chil-

dren and youth face in the public education system.

***FOCUS TOPICS: Support for
Aboriginal Students in Transition and
Aboriginal Families Comfort in
Schools.***

After lots of discussion and debate, together we determined our two focus areas, which are support for Aboriginal students in transition and Aboriginal families comfort in schools.

We will be examining these topics closely over the school year and exploring different way to communicate and implement strategies into the schools.



ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE:

Gwen Harry, Elder, Squamish Nation
 Shirley Toman, Elder, Squamish Nation
 Joy McCullough, Associate Direct of Education, Squamish Nation
 Dale Harry, Councilor, Squamish Nation Education Portfolio
 Jackie Williams, Parent Advisory Committee Rep, Squamish Nation
 Linda Williams, Parent Advisory Committee Rep, Squamish Nation
 Paul Wick, Squamish Nation Administrator, Squamish Valley
 Stuart Bent, Vice-Principal, Howe Sound Secondary
 Graeme Galloway, Teacher, Brackendale Elementary
 Angela Uren, Principal, Stawamus Elementary
 Seb Amenta, Principal, Valleycliffe Elementary
 Paul Lorette, Principal, Brackendale Elementary
 Georgina Nelson, Elder Rep, Board of Education, Mt Currie Band
 Shirley Wallace, Band Council Portfolio Rep, Mt Currie Band
 Priscilla Ritchie, Community Rep, Mt Currie Band
 Verna Stager, Board of Ed Admin, Xit'olacw Community School, Mt. Currie Band
 Veronica Bikadi, Support Worker Rep, Mt Currie Band
 Rebecca Barley, Councilor, N'Quatqua Band
 Katie Guthrie, Education Coordinator, N'Quatqua Band
 Ramona Linger, Education Coordinator, Xa'xtsa
 Lawrence Tarasoff, Principal, Pemberton Secondary
 Pat MacKenzie, Principal, Signal Hill Elementary
 Cindy Street, Teacher, Pemberton Secondary
 Alex Marshall, Enhancement Agreement Co-facilitator
 Rick Erickson, Superintendent of Schools, SD#48
 Mike Milner, School Board of Trustees, SD#48
 Gina Corpuz Marshall, Enhancement Agreement Co-facilitator,
 Juanita Coltman, District Administrator for Aboriginal Education

Aboriginal Education Focus Group

Paul Wick, Squamish Nation/Valley Administrator
 Joy McCullough, Squamish Nation Associate Director of Education
 Rose McKenzie, Director of Instruction
 Marilyn Caldwell, District V-P Student Support Services
 Magy Odorfer, Distict Principal
 Sue Brant, Speech/Language Pathologist/Language Development—Squamish
 Cheryl Dolan, School Psychologist Pemb/Whistler
 Rebecca Barley, N'Quatqua Councillor--Education Profolio
 Stuart Bent, VP Howe Sound Secondary
 Lawrence Tarasoff, Principal of Pemberton Secondary
 Angela Stott, Literacy Coordinator--Secondary
 April Lowe, Literacy Coordinator—Intermediate and Pro-d Chair for HSTA
 Brianne Cordingley, Howe Sound Teacher Association
 Eric Jones, Science and Health Coordinator
 Lynn Bouchard, Vulnerable Children Coordinator
 Maureen Baker, First Nations Support Worker
 Vera Douglas, First Nations Support Worker
 Lydia Williams, First Nations Support Worker
 Shawn Wallace, First Nations Support Worker
 Karen Farr, Speech/Language Pathologist--Pemberton
 Verna Stager, Administrator of Xit'olacw Community School
 Jackie Williams, Squamish Nation PAC

“Shared Learnings” Committee—South

Jeff Maynard, Squamish Elementary
 Becky L'Hirondelle, Valleycliffe Elementary
 Beth Walker, Stawamus Elementary
 Kathleen Riley, Don Ross Secondary
 Louise Wick, Brackendale Elementary
 Christine Fitzpatrick, Howe Sound Secondary
 Lynne Bouchard, Mamquam Elementary
 Brie Schulz, Mamquam Elementary

“Shared Learnings” Committee—North

Deann Palmer, Signal Hill Elementary
 Mandy Kinzel, Pemberton Secondary
 Sue Reed, Blackwater Creek

Cultural Resource Committee—North

Priscilla Richie	Rebecca Barley
Georgina Nelson	Sylvia Shanoss
Veronica Bikadi	Katie Guthrie
Michelle Beaugard	Shawn Wallace

Cultural Resource Committee—South

Art Harry	Charlene Williams
Diana Billy	Linda Williams
Joy McCullough	Dale Harry



Did you know? Soap berries mixed with water can be whipped into a frothy dessert that is sometimes referred to as: Indian ice cream.”