

S.D. No. 62



Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement Report One

INTRODUCTION

This Aboriginal Education Agreement, signed April 2009, is the working document between School District #62 (Sooke), local First Nations, on and off reserve, other First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities and the Ministry of Education. This Aboriginal Education Agreement acknowledges the vital role that all Aboriginal communities play in the success of Aboriginal students. These Aboriginal communities, as well as School District #62, who form the Aboriginal Education Council, acknowledge and honour the First Nations in whose territories they work and study. We, as members of the Aboriginal Education Council, recognize and support the historical and contemporary importance Aboriginal peoples place on the preservation of their culture and language.

Agreement Goals

- ☪ Sense of Belonging
- ☪ Aboriginal Ways of Knowing
- ☪ Language
- ☪ Achievement

View the whole document at:

http://www.sd62.bc.ca/Aboriginal_Education



Aboriginal Education Council

Scia'new First Nation	NIL/TU,O Child & Family Services
Pacheedaht First Nation	Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services
T'Sou-ke First Nation	Hulitan Social Services
Métis Nation of B.C.	Makola Housing Society
Victoria Native Friendship Centre	Métis Community Services
University of Victoria	Aboriginal Students
Camosun College	CUPE Local 459
Sooke Teachers Association	School Trustees, Board of Education
Sooke Principals & Vice Principals Association	



2009 –2010 Aboriginal Context:

805	Aboriginal Students
129	On- Reserve
205	Métis Students
413	Elementary
182	Middle
210	Secondary
9%	of total school population



Framework for Success

- ☺ The cycle of Life is a contemporary design by artist Rande Cooke, commissioned for Sooke School District's Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement. Rande's grandfather taught him the essential elements of art and impressed upon him how art reflects and connects to the culture.
- ☺ This rich vibrant design symbolizes the diverse Aboriginal populations of Vancouver Island, British Columbia and Canada. The Aboriginal peoples of the West Coast, known as the salmon people, considered salmon as the givers of life. In the Cycle of Life salmon flow eternally, circling a salmon egg.
- ☺ In Rande's design, the salmon reflect the four colours of the Medicine Wheel, white, yellow, red and black. The medicine wheel which guides Aboriginal Ways of Knowing, represents the four races of the world; Caucasian, Asian, Aboriginal and African; the four aspects of the human body; the physical, the emotional, the spiritual and the intellectual and the four directions. It is also a significant number in Aboriginal Ways of Knowing, and in this case, relates to the four goals of the Sooke School District's Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement.
- ☺ Each one of the salmon exhibits design elements which echo the distinct styles of West Coast Aboriginal Art. The white salmon, to the north, represents the Aboriginal peoples of Northern B.C. Underneath it is the Inuk'shuk representing the Inuit. The yellow salmon, to the east, represents the Kwakwaka'wakw of North-Eastern Vancouver Island. The red salmon, to the south, represents the Coast Salish of Southern Vancouver Island. The Infinity Symbol represents the Métis. The black salmon, to the west, represents the Nuu-chah-nuulth of Western Vancouver Island.
- ☺ The salmon egg in the middle represents our most important commodity. Our treasures. Our future. Our children.
- ☺ As salmon eternally flow in the Cycle of Life it is anticipated that Sooke School District's Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement will eternal flow improving success and opportunities for Aboriginal learners.

District and School Programs

The Aboriginal Education Council met monthly to review and monitor initiatives within the district. A few initiatives are highlighted as indicators of change within the system in this document.

The Aboriginal Education Department hosts three district events: Family Fall Gathering, Celebrating Students Success and Aboriginal Graduation Recognition Ceremony.

Aboriginal Education Department includes 9 teachers; 16 support staff; 1 district principal. Included in the support staff is Halq'emeylen Language elder. In addition, the district supports a First Nation Grad program specifically designed for Aboriginal adults.

The number of schools with a goal in there school plans are 13 schools. In a district survey completed by principals and vice principals indicated that many schools were focusing on Aboriginal Ways of Knowing and Sense of Belonging; some school's focus was achievement; few schools language.



How Are We Doing Ministry of Education Report Indicators of Success 08/09 Meeting Expectations

- ☺ In 11 years students who self-identify as Aboriginal has increased by 5.6%; from 5.2% to 10.8%
- ☺ FSA Grade Four writing has increased by 2% in one year
- ☺ FSA Grade 7 reading has increased by 7% in one year; FSA Grade 7 writing has increased by 5 % in one year; FSA Grade 7 numeracy has increased by 2% in one year
- ☺ Applications of Math 10 increased by 21% in one year
- ☺ English 12 increased by 6 % in one year
- ☺ More Aboriginal students enroll in English 12 versus Communications 12 yearly
- ☺ Six Year Completion rate increased from 49% in 07/08 to 67% in 08/09; increase by 18%

School Board Office Welcoming Pole Raised:

- ☺ In collaboration with Scia's new First Nation a Coast Salish 8' pole was raised at the district office to welcome visitors to the district. Three schools assisted with the pole design; Belmont Secondary, FN Grad Program, and Spencer Middle School. The pole was completed over three years starting at FN Grad program, Westshore for Learning!

Monthly Report—Board of Trustees:

- ☺ After each Aboriginal Education Council Meeting a report was developed and presented at each monthly board meeting to raise the profile of Aboriginal student and/or community initiatives in the district.

Network of Performance Based Schools— Aboriginal Education Schools Network:

- ☺ Two schools, one elementary and one middle school, completed a project with the A.E.S.N. in the 2009-10 school year

District Inquiry

- ☺ One school completed with an Aboriginal focus

Island Leadership Coalition

- ☺ One school participated in the ILC featuring and Aboriginal Project.



Sense of Belonging Goal: To Increase Aboriginal students' sense of place, belonging and caring in School District #62 (Sooke).

Initiative	Initiative	Initiative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal Education ; Family Fall Gathering, Celebrating Student Success participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress of students entering grade 8 and transition to grad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease suspension rates
<p style="text-align: center;">Target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase participation of the two events to 300 participants 	<p style="text-align: center;">Target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase 67% to 74%; specifically increase male from 61% to 74% 	<p style="text-align: center;">Target</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decrease the number of suspensions at the secondary level by 5
<p style="text-align: center;">Indicator</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Indicator</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Indicator</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Results</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Results</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Results</p>

Family Fall Gathering

This year only 50 participants attending the Family Fall Gathering in October. The event generally is a light dinner with drumming and warm welcome back to the new school year for families. Next fall, a theme will be introduced to celebrate 'families' and a catered meal will be shared by all.

Celebrating Student Success

Schools and the Aboriginal Education staff collect student work to display in February. This year a committee chose a theme Naut'sa mawt—Together as One to celebrate an interactive evening featuring youth performances. Over 300 participants attended an exciting evening that engaged all ages from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in February. Community members commented on 'How great it was to connect with family in February' beating the Feb. blues!

Aboriginal Graduation Recognition Ceremony

See last page for details.

NEW ITEM—An annual survey will be completed next school year to track the number of school events Aboriginal students attend.

Suspension Rates: one out of three middle schools submitted suspension rates; all middle schools will submit suspension numbers monthly next school year. Secondary schools tracked 14 suspensions (no repeat names) in 09/10.



Aboriginal Ways of Knowing Goal: To Increase awareness and understanding of Aboriginal ways of knowing in both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

Initiative	Initiative	Initiative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Increase awareness of Aboriginal Culture and History utilizing community role models 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Increase participation rates in BC First Nation Studies 12 & First Peoples English 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Increase completion rates in BC First Nation Studies 12 & First Peoples English 12
Target	Target	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Increase school role models from 37 to 50 role model presentations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Increase BC First Nation Studies 12 participation from 18 students to 25 students ☺ Offer First Peoples English at larger secondary schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Increase BC First Nation Studies 12 C+ or better from 50% to 61% (at par with non-Aboriginal students) ☺ Offer First Peoples English at larger secondary schools
Indicator	Indicator	Indicator
Results	Results	Results

Role Model Program

All schools are entitled to utilizing a role model program throughout the year. Secondary provided 6 role model sessions in classrooms; middle provided 5; and, elementary offered 13. The district organized 18 role model sessions for various district level events. The total of role model events was 42 in total.

The Victoria Native Friendship Centre offered a program titled 'Treasure Box' in which many school provided school funds for the honorarium. Two middle school received an independent grant to complete a drum making project for many students at the middle school level. Numerous schools received extra funds from school P.A.C.s to support cultural events.

Ready, Set, Learn funds were provided for Port Renfrew Elementary, Zone events at SeaParc and the Westshore Mall, and Journey's of the Heart. A cultural component was featured at each event.

BC First Nation Studies 12—three secondary schools offer BC First Nation Studies 12 in both semesters.

First Peoples English 12— The only school offering First Peoples English 12 is Westshore Annex First Nation Grad Program. The Aboriginal Education Department secondary teacher will attend the First Peoples English 10/11/12 workshop in Kamloops to assist in promoting both courses to increase the number of schools from one to three in the next few years.



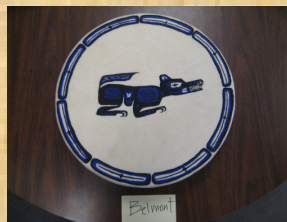
Language Goal: To Increase knowledge of Aboriginal languages by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

Initiative	Initiative	Initiative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halq'emeylem Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sencoten Language Awareness FDK in three Sooke Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ditidaht Language Awareness at Port Renfrew Elementary
Target	Target	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase 13 elementary students awareness of more than 10 words to 25 words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase baseline of 14 students awareness of 15 words to 25 words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase baseline of 15 students awareness of 8 words to 20 words
Indicator	Indicator	Indicator
Results	Results	Results

Scia'new First Nation elder has worked for numerous years teaching school children basic words in Halq'emeylem Language.

At this year's Celebrating Student Success, Hans Helgesen Elementary students demonstrated flash card recognition to a crowd of 300 people.

Halq'emeylem Language lessons are taught before school to elementary, middle and secondary students in the district. Lavina Charles has two students that have surpassed her language curriculum this year.



On-line Aboriginal Language

Sites: Port Renfrew and T'Sou-ke Nation utilize First Peoples Voices as a source for words and language awareness for Ditidaht Language and Sencoten Language.

New Item

T'Sou-ke Nation and SD #62 will collaborate curriculum developed at the early learning program Sum-SHA-Thut-Lellum for FDK classrooms in three Sooke Elementary Schools in 2010-11.

Achievement Goal:

To enhance the achievement and success of Aboriginal students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in academics as well as training for trades and life skills.

Initiative	Initiative	Initiative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Six Year Graduation rate ☺ Number of students graduating in a given year; including adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Increase the number of students entering the trades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Elementary report card meeting expectations in literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ FSA grade 4 & 7 reading ☺ D.A.R.T. grade 3 and grade 8
Target	Target	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Increase six year graduation rate from 67% to 70% ☺ Increase the number of graduates to 52 students from 47 (2009-10) or five more students graduating in 2010-11. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Increase the number of students from 8 students entering trades (including Camosun College) to 13 students entering the trades in 2010-11 school year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Increase elementary students meeting expectations in reading from 58% to 60% ☺ Increase all FSA grade 4 and grade 7 reading results by 5% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ D.A.R.T.—T.B.A.
Indicator	Indicator	Indicator
Results	Results	Results
Initiative	Initiative	Initiative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ English 10 & English 12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Math Principles 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Biology 11 or 12 ☺ Chemistry 11 or 12 ☺ Physics 11 or 12
Target	Target	Target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Eng. 10 enrolment increase from 57 to 62 students; Eng. 12 increased from 32 to 37 students ☺ Eng. 10 completion C+ or better from 28% to 33%; Eng. 12 C+ or better from 53% to 58% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ Math 10 enrolment increased from 16 students to 21 students; ☺ Eng. 12 completion C+ or better from 19% to 24% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☺ T.B.A.
Indicator	Indicator	Indicator
Results	Results	Results



Success Stories

Aboriginal Graduation Recognition Ceremony

- ☺ Graduates—In the 2009 2010 school year 61 students were enrolled in grade 12; a total of 47 were recognized at the Aboriginal graduation ceremony. Next fall, there will be approximately 64 students enrolled in grade 12.
- ☺ Dr. Taiaiake Alfred, UVIC was the keynote and spoke directly to students reflecting on culture and the future.

Pole Raising Ceremony, June 2010

- ☺ Building community with Scia'new First Nation enabled a pole to be raised at the district office June 15/10.

E.C.O.W.—Port Renfrew Elementary Community Celebration

- ☺ April 13th School District and Pacheedaht First Nation celebrated successes over the past ten years; including Port Renfrew Elementary building expansion and Westshore for Learning carpentry program.

Tri-District or South Island Aboriginal Science Fair, Victoria BC

- ☺ Ruth King Elementary had one team enter traditional fishing versus contemporary fishing project. All materials displayed from a traditional aspect were handmade.

Be Excited About Reading, B.E.A.R.

- ☺ Westshore Rotary and Aboriginal Education collaborated with Beecher Bay Outreach StrongStart to promote reading in the community from January to June. Schoolchildren received Aboriginal themed books for home.

Oral Language Lesson Plans

- ☺ Aboriginal Education Department developed oral language lesson plans piloted in five elementary schools classrooms.

Languages

- ☺ A survey completed with principals indicated an increase of language awareness as highlighted in this document's language goal page. A survey will be completed next year to indicate how many classrooms utilize on-line language programs regularly.

Early Learning Aboriginal Initiatives

- ☺ RSL Port Renfrew celebrating three successful events with consistent attendance of 20 participants at the following three themes; Celebrating Cedar, Elder Story Telling and trip to Botanical Beech, and Tzinquaw Dancers.
- ☺ RSL Ruth King Elem./ Journey's of the Heart celebrating Tzinquaw Dancers drew 70 early learning families to join in on a cultural presentation, RSL luncheon and early learning singing/story and play.
- ☺ Outreach StrongStart Beecher Bay and Port Renfrew Elementary gala openings were supported by the local bands in 2010 school year.

New Initiatives

- ☺ District Aboriginal Ways of Knowing Framework pilot to be introduced to schools to support the Aboriginal Ways of Knowing goal.
- ☺ Pilot 'Precision Reading' in three schools; elementary, middle, and/or secondary.