

Dear Parents/Guardians of Grade 10 students,

Please read an important message from the Ministry of Education below regarding a change to the British Columbia Graduation Program:

The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), is implementing a new graduation requirement.

Expected to take effect in the 2023-24 school year, this requirement will ensure all secondary students complete Indigenous-focused coursework before they graduate from B.C.'s K-12 education system.

"We are deeply committed to lasting and meaningful reconciliation in B.C. – guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples while working co-operatively with Indigenous Peoples across the province to address the knowledge gaps in our K-12 curriculum," said Jennifer Whiteside, Minister of Education." This new requirement will deepen students' understanding of the experiences, cultures, histories and knowledges of Indigenous Peoples. This will help us to understand the truths of our shared history, while also building knowledge so all students feel a sense of responsibility for our collective future."

Tyrone McNeil, president, FNESC, said: "For many years, FNESC, First Nations and our partners in the public education system have advocated for this important change to the B.C. graduation program. Building awareness and understanding of First Peoples' perspectives, cultures and histories among all B.C. students will serve as an important step toward reconciliation and an effective strategy to combat racism within the province to the benefit of all British Columbians."

To ensure our current grade 10 students and younger graduate with an understanding of the history, culture and ways of knowing of our Indigenous peoples we will be implementing the following:

1 – all current 10 students will take English First Peoples 11 in their **grade 11 2022/2023 school year**.

This course will meet the following graduation requirements:

- Indigenous Education Graduation Requirement (4 credits)
- English 11 Graduation Requirement (4 credits)

2 – in collaboration with district Indigenous Education staff and district staff, Mark Isfeld school staff will develop a long-term framework to ensure students develop an understanding of our Indigenous Peoples' history, culture, language, literature and residential schools to ensure they are knowledgeable participants in our local, provincial and national Truth and Reconciliation journey.

We will provide further information as we receive it from the Ministry.

For further current information please consult the following links:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022EDUC0007-000297>

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/support/graduation/indigenous_grad_requirement_detailed_overview.pdf

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/support/graduation/indigenous_grad_requirement_qa.pdf

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/support/graduation/indigenous_focused_grad_requirement_summary.pdf

Thank you for your continued support,

Isfeld Administration