

For immediate release

23 September 2022

### **Comox Valley Schools to mark Truth and Reconciliation Week**

**COMOX VALLEY B.C.** – Schools throughout SD 71 will be holding a week of activities for Truth and Reconciliation Week from September 26 to 30. This will be a time for students and staff to recognize and remember the history of residential schools and honour survivors, their families and communities.

In December 2022, the Board for Comox Valley Schools passed a unanimous motion to make the last week of September Truth and Reconciliation Week in SD 71. This week will be an annual kickoff point to honour Orange Shirt Day, followed by the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Red Dress Campaign, and the Walk for Wenjack Secret Path week in October.

“All schools in SD 71 are hosting events to commemorate Truth and Reconciliation Week to revisit the truth of our history, honour residential school survivors, and learn from Indigenous knowledge keepers,” SD 71 Board Chair Tonia Frawley said. “It’s crucial that all students in SD 71 learn about the history of residential schools and understand their intergenerational impact – this recognition and commemoration are essential in working toward meaningful reconciliation.”

Queneesh Elementary and SD 71’s Indigenous Education program are assisting with sending two local residential school survivors to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Queneesh fundraised to send an elder and a support person and SD 71’s Indigenous Education program is also helping send another staff member who is a survivor to this important event.

Comox Valley Schools is committed to Truth and Reconciliation and recognizing this important week to help build awareness and understanding of the different experiences that have shaped both our past and our future. There are many different activities and learning opportunities happening in schools throughout SD 71 for Truth and Reconciliation week and there will be updates on Comox Valley Schools social media pages and website.

The Board of Education acknowledges that we are on the traditional territories of the K’ómoks First Nation. We would like to thank them for the privilege of living on their land and the gift of working with their children.

-End-

**A backgrounder with school activities and events follows.**

**Quick Facts:**

- Comox Valley Schools Indigenous Education Department team consists of 40+ staff who work alongside school-based staff to enhance educational services and outcomes for our 1600+ Indigenous students throughout SD 71. Indigenous students in SD 71 self identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit from all across Canada.

**Learn More:**

SD 71 Indigenous Education <https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/indigenous-education/>

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