

Biography – Raun Rainbow – Champion for Early Learning, Equity, and Systemic Innovation

Raun Rainbow is an experienced educational leader who has devoted much of his career to advancing early learning, child care, and inclusive education systems. With over 15 years of experience in teaching and school leadership, Raun brings deep expertise in early childhood development, community collaboration, and systems-level change.

Most recently serving as District Principal of Early Learning, Child Care, and School Nutrition in the qathet School District, Raun has led the development and implementation of early years programs across the region. His leadership has supported initiatives such as StrongStart, Seamless Day, and JustB4 preschool, as well as school-based childcare. Raun's work has included aligning licensing, budgeting, registration, and staffing systems while building sustainable and culturally responsive programs rooted in community voice and parent engagement.

He has collaborated extensively with Indigenous partners to enhance early learning transitions and ensure programming reflects local context and the First Peoples Principles of Learning. His approach is grounded in compassionate systems leadership—one that builds trusting relationships and uses data and feedback to improve equity and access for all learners.

Raun holds a Master of Education in Educational Research – Leadership from the University of Calgary and both a Bachelor of Education and a Bachelor of Tourism Management from Vancouver Island University. His professional path also includes roles as Vice-Principal and Assistant Principal, and as a Project Coordinator with the BC Ministry of Education, where he supported policy development in SOGI, anti-racism education, and Feeding Futures.

Raun began his teaching career in the Comox Valley with his first practicum at Huband Park Elementary and his second one at Airport Elementary. He is grateful to return to the lands of the K'ómoks First Nation, where he grew up in the village of Sayward. With family roots tracing back five generations in Canada and ancestry from Britain and Eastern Europe, Raun holds deep respect for the people and lands that have shaped his learning. He is honoured to continue his journey in the Comox Valley, committed to fostering inclusive, relationship-based learning communities where all children and families are seen, supported, and inspired to thrive.