

Policy 19

INDIGENOUS RECOGNITION AND INDIGENOUS VOICE

Land Recognition

The board directs that the following statement be read at the commencement of each board meeting:

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

Indigenous Education Council

The Board of Education, School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) recognizes that it operates on the traditional territory of the K’omoks First Nation.

Students of Indigenous ancestry must be provided with the opportunity to have an education that meets individual and community needs and includes their culture, heritage, language and self-government as Indigenous people.

The Indigenous community recognizes the importance of a shared responsibility for education between representatives of the Indigenous community, the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley), and the Ministry of Education.

The board recognizes the importance and right of people of Indigenous ancestry to participate in decisions affecting the educational programs of Indigenous children.

To support and acknowledge the importance of that shared responsibility, the school district will maintain an Indigenous Education Council (IEC).

In recognition of the shared responsibility to improve the quality of education of Indigenous students in School District No. 71 (Comox Valley), it is agreed that the terms and goals of the Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement (IEEA) will enhance the basis of Indigenous education, programs and services of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley).

The IEC will have Terms of Reference governing its meetings and affairs, including representation and processes for electing representatives. These terms shall be shared annually with the Board of Education.

The Indigenous Education Council may advise the board on any matter pertaining to the education of Indigenous students.

Legal Reference: Section 65, *School Act*

Adopted: September 2019