
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

REVELSTOKE SIGNS FIRST ABORIGINAL EDUCATION AGREEMENT

REVELSTOKE – The Ministry of Education, Revelstoke school district, and a local Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement Working Committee representing participating Aboriginal communities, signed their first Aboriginal education enhancement agreement announced Education Minister Margaret MacDiarmid today.

I'm delighted that Aboriginal communities are involved in the design of programs, services and curriculum delivery aimed at improving Aboriginal student achievement," said MacDiarmid. "Aboriginal education enhancement agreements support the integration of Aboriginal culture in our schools, which is essential to ensuring that each and every child has the best chance for success."

The agreement has four main goals:

- Increase Aboriginal students' knowledge and pride of their heritage and language.
- Increase every student's awareness of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal peoples.
- Increase Aboriginal students' successful completion of their secondary education.
- Increase the academic success of Aboriginal students with increased literacy, numeracy and technological competencies.

"The collaborative efforts of our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Working Committee, which is comprised of Elders, parents, students, teachers, administrators, trustees, Aboriginal community representatives and community service providers, will mean enhanced opportunities for student success," said District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Shan Jorgenson-Adam. "The process we undertook to complete this agreement and the agreement itself help focus on the commitment and resources necessary to continue to improve school outcomes for our Aboriginal students."

"This agreement builds on the framework for increased understanding and respect of Aboriginal peoples, their cultures and history," said school board superintendent Anne Cooper. "Our enhancement agreement will enhance the success for our more than 100 Aboriginal students."

To date, 49 B.C. school districts have signed Aboriginal education enhancement agreements. These agreements support the Province's Pacific Leadership Agenda to build new relationships with Aboriginal peoples, as well as help schools meet the needs of Aboriginal students.

Aboriginal education enhancement agreements are just one component of the collaborative process that the Province is undertaking to improve Aboriginal student achievement. Others include the B.C. First Nation Education Agreement and developing Aboriginal content for the K-12 curriculum.

The Province is investing \$61.5 million a year, or about \$1,160 per student, for Aboriginal education in 2010-11. The funds are used to support Aboriginal language and culture programs, Aboriginal support service programs and other local Aboriginal education programs. Aboriginal education enhancement agreements support the integration of Aboriginal culture in public schools, and ensure Aboriginal communities are involved in the design of programs, services and curriculum delivery aimed at improving Aboriginal student achievement.

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