
Campbell River Aboriginal Education
Enhancement Agreement 2004-2009



Submitted by Stella Bates,
District Vice-Principal
of First Nations Education

School District 72
Campbell River, B.C.



Preamble



The Aboriginal Education Advisory Council (AEAC) is a partnership between the Cape Mudge First Nation, Campbell River First Nation, Xwémalhkwu First Nation, Klahoose First Nation, Kwakiutl District Council, North Island Metis Association, Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council and the Campbell River School District 72.

This Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (AEEA) has been developed and will be implemented with the guidance and approval of the AEAC with the vision and spirit of improving the educational performance of all Aboriginal Learners within the School District's jurisdiction.

The AEAC and School District No. 72 acknowledge and honour the special relationship that exists with the First Nations in whose traditional territories they operate. They also recognize and honour the historical and critical importance original peoples place on the preservation of their language and culture.

Further, they recognize the primacy of each First Nation's language and culture within its traditional territory. This AEEA is inclusive of all people of Aboriginal Ancestry and honours the School District's special relationship with the:

- Laich-Kwil-Tach people and supports their commitment to the preservations of their language and culture. Further this AEEA acknowledges and honours Laich-Kwil-Tach as the principal language of this territory and School District No. 72, and will continue to support the development of its programs and curriculum;
- Xwémalhkwu people and support their commitment to the preservation of their language and culture. The AEAC and School District No. 72 are committed to supporting the development of Xwémalhkwu language program and curriculum;
- Klahoose people and supports their commitment to the preservation of their language and culture. The AEAC and School District No. 72 are committed to supporting the development of First Nations language programs and curriculum;



Principles of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

- Metis people and supports their commitment to the preservation of their language and culture. The AEAC and School District No. 72 are committed to supporting the development of First Nations language and programs and curriculum;
- Member Nations of the Kwakiutl District Council;
- Member Nations of the Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned obligations the Aboriginal Education Advisory Council acknowledges the collective responsibility for the success of all Aboriginal learners attending school in School District No. 72. In respect and honour of all Aboriginals we intend, with their participation and wisdom, to develop appropriate and meaningful educational programs for the benefit of all Aboriginal learners.

The Campbell River School District is committed to ensuring that Aboriginal students receive a quality education; one that prepares them to lead successful, productive and healthy lives while enhancing their Aboriginal identity through language and culture programs.

In 1999, in recognition of limited success in British Columbia schools for Aboriginal students, the Campbell River School District and local Aboriginal Communities developed one of the first Local Education Improvement Agreements (LEIA) in the province. This first, five-year agreement was aimed at closing the performance gap between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal students.

In this, the renewed AEEA, the aim will be to continue to build on the successes that resulted from the first LEIA by increasing the number of Aboriginal students who are achieving at or above expected levels.

The Campbell River School District will work in partnership with individual schools and Aboriginal Communities to ensure that strategies and structures are in place to address the need for increased academic success for Aboriginal students including:

- District Accountability Contract
- School Based Aboriginal Action Plans
- Aboriginal Education Assistants
- Aboriginal Education Support Teachers
- School Growth Plans
- Aboriginal Education Advisory Council
- Aboriginal Youth Support Workers
- Aboriginal Language & Culture Program



The first LEIA provided the education community with a unique opportunity to reduce the gap in performance levels between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

Significant gains were made in the areas of early and primary literacy. These gains were largely attributable to the efforts on the part of the Aboriginal Advisory Council, the Aboriginal Communities and School District to:

- Increase Aboriginal family involvement in the schools
- Research and implement programs and learning strategies that better met the needs of Aboriginal students
- Increase knowledge of and respect for Aboriginal histories, cultures and significance throughout the entire education community

In order to maintain the gains that have been realized at the primary level through the first LEIA, there needs to be a continued effort on the part of the Aboriginal Communities, families and educators to provide the services and support that are essential to building success for Aboriginal students at this foundational level.

School District No. 72 remains committed to maintaining the gains made in primary literacy and numeracy and these will be supported by the primary maintenance goal:

1. Provision of sustained and relevant early literacy & numeracy support for Aboriginal Learners
2. Increased awareness and identification of educational strategies and structures to support Aboriginal learner's needs
3. Increased knowledge and respect for Aboriginal histories and cultures throughout the district
4. Increased participation rates of Aboriginal parents, families and communities in education



Mother, Child and the Moon
by Stacia Goodman,
Grade 10 Carihi student, 2002-03

**Aboriginal
Enhancement
Agreement Goals for
Aboriginal Students**



1. Year by year improvement in Aboriginal student achievement in literacy and numeracy at the intermediate and middle school levels. (Grades 4-9)

Rationale for the Goal:

The need to improve the performance levels for our Aboriginal students at the intermediate and middle school levels is critical. Extra efforts must be made to ensure that personal, cultural and academic success is promoted through relevant, engaging and systematic strategies that promote successful learning at this challenging stage of development. Without continued academic and social progress in the intermediate and middle school grades, a graduation program can become out of reach, thus closing many doors to future opportunities.

2. Year by year improvement in the rates of Aboriginal students who graduate with a Dogwood Certificate.

Rationale for the Goal:

Graduation rates improved somewhat throughout the first LEIA but results were inconsistent and so the goal must be maintained. Ministry data shows that an important factor in graduation rates is the number of students successfully making the year-by-year transition from grade to grade. The greatest rate of drop off in transition rates happens at the secondary level. Data, collected locally, shows that there is a greater pattern of relocation for Aboriginal students, often due to economic, family and/or cultural reasons. The renewed AEEA will focus on transition rates as a means of improving graduation rates for Aboriginal students. Transitions present special challenges for Aboriginal students throughout their school careers, which become increasingly more difficult at the middle and secondary levels. It is often during these times of change, from grade-to-grade, school-to-school, district-to-district or level-to-level that Aboriginal students lose momentum in their social, cultural and academic development.

3. To increase the number of Aboriginal students who graduate having met post-secondary requirements aligned to personal career goals.

Rationale for the Goal:

Aboriginal students may graduate without a suitable range of post-secondary entrance requirements, and are frequently returning to school after graduation to “upgrade” to meet these requirements. Course selection and relevant skill development need to go hand in hand for Aboriginal students in order that their graduation programs reflect their skills, knowledge, passions and future goals. All too often a graduation program for an Aboriginal student includes Communications and Essentials Math in combination with a limited science and social studies background. Aboriginal students are often unaware of the wide range of post-secondary and career options available to them. The new graduation program in combination with the renewed AEEA, presents an opportunity to ensure that Aboriginal students are being targeted, supported and encouraged to include appropriate post-secondary prerequisites in their graduation programs.

4. Increase a positive sense of identity and self-acknowledgement for Aboriginal students.

Rationale for the Goal:

A positive sense of self-identity and self-acknowledgement are critical for Aboriginal students to experience academic and social success. Aboriginal students need greater access to learning opportunities that allow them to feel connected, capable and responsible and which support them in developing positive attitudes, attendance and achievement.

