

ΧαΧasamaΘot
(empowerment)



**POWELL RIVER
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT
AGREEMENT**

1. PREAMBLE

Həʔyew yiXmet (ones who manage) is the representative body for all Aboriginal/Metis students attending school in School District No. 47 (Powell River). While həʔyew yiXmet respects and honors the special relationship that exists with Sliammon First Nations, in whose traditional territories we reside, we acknowledge the collective responsibility for promoting the success of all Aboriginal students within School District No. 47 (Powell River).

The Enhancement Agreement includes annual plans to improve student achievement for Aboriginal students, enhancement of cultural and traditional activities within the schools, and reporting achievement of all Aboriginal/Metis students based on data.

The Enhancement Agreement focuses in on the recognition and respect for Aboriginal language and culture to generate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the local Aboriginal community.

2. PURPOSE AND INTENT

The general intent of the Enhancement Agreement is to provide support and enhancement to the Aboriginal students as they, along with other students in the School District, seek to improve achievement in academic and social areas.

Haʔyew yiXmet recognizes the importance of enhancing and improving Aboriginal cultural and traditional activities in schools. Haʔyew yiXmet also recognizes the need for curriculum development that aligns with the Ministry of Education, Integrated Resource Packages (IRP) in infusing the Aboriginal curriculum, cultures and traditions into our educational system. Haʔyew yiXmet also recognizes the importance of traditional Aboriginal language development and opportunities for Aboriginal students to maintain their traditional language.

The purpose of this Enhancement Agreement is:

- i. to ensure all Aboriginal students achieve social and academic success
- ii. to enhance and improve the achievement levels of all Aboriginal students in the School District; and
- iii. to honour and actively support the cultures, governance, history and language of the First Nations, whose traditions and adopted territories are served by School District No.47 (Powell River).

Reliable data and informed, focused analysis will be the basis for choosing areas of enhancement and improvement. Data collected will be:

- i. tracked over time;

- ii. analyzed when making decisions for implementation activities;
- iii. disaggregated between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students;
- iv. related to Aboriginal student, parent, family and community satisfaction tracked over time;
- v. related to and aligned with the School District Accountability Contract and schools' improvement planning process.

3. PERFORMANCE GOALS/ TARGETS

Həʔyew yiXmet has identified three major goals in its Enhancement Agreement. In all performance areas an annual increase from the baseline targets will apply. Each year the Həʔyew yiXmet will analyze data and targets from the preceding year. These indicators will align with the District Accountability Contract for all students in improving performance. Həʔyew yiXmet will meet annually to assess the Enhancement Agreement for improvement of Aboriginal students, as well as the alignment of the district and schools' improvement planning process. An inventory of local Aboriginal/Metis material will be conducted by the School District.

GOAL I

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- a) Literacy - to improve student achievement in all areas of literacy performance indicators:
 - English 12 government examination results;
 - FSA Reading, Writing scores; Grades 4 and 7
 - Grades 1, 2 and 3 District Reading Assessments;
 - Participation and success in academic English courses in grades 11 and 12; and
 - Language Arts report card analysis.
- b) Numeracy - to improve student achievement in all areas of numeracy performance indicators:
 - Mathematics 12 government examination results;
 - Mathematics report card analysis;
 - FSA Numeracy Grades 4 and 7 scores;
 - Participation and success in all academic math courses in grades 11 and 12.
- c) Improve Dogwood completion rates;
- d) Improve School Completion rates;
- e) Improve Retention rates;
- f) Improve Transition rates.

Due to the relatively small sample of students, actual numbers will be measured in addition to percentages.

GOAL II

SOCIAL

Hə?yew yiXmet is committed to creating a strong Aboriginal presence in our schools. We want all our students to have a strong sense of themselves, their culture and community.

a) Social Responsibility - Performance indicators:

- Attendance;
- Parent and student satisfaction surveys;
- Suspensions;
- Social Responsibility Performance standards; and
- Number of Aboriginal Students on the Work Habits Honor Roll.

Targets

- Increase in attendance rates by 3%;
- A baseline target of 50% of students reporting “many times” or “all of the time” a strong Aboriginal presence in schools based upon the satisfaction survey;
- Decrease of suspensions by 3%;
- Create a baseline measure using social responsibility performance standards; and
- Increase number of Aboriginal students on the Work Habits Honor Roll by 3 %.

GOAL III

CULTURE & LANGUAGE

The Enhancement Agreement focuses in on the recognition and respect for Aboriginal language and culture to generate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the local Aboriginal community.

Culture and Language - Performance indicators:

- Number of students enrolled in the ay?ajuθəm program;

- Parent and student satisfaction survey;

Targets

- 3% increase in students enrolling in First Nations language programs;
- A baseline target of 50% of Aboriginal students reporting “many times” or “all of the time” that there is a strong presence of Aboriginal culture within the school based on the satisfaction survey.

Implementation

In order to meet or support these goals the following needs to be addressed:

- A minimum of one Aboriginal visual presence in every classroom;
- Visibility of Aboriginal culture and traditions incorporated into events within schools;
- Inclusion of Sliammon culture and history into the academic courses where applicable; and
- An annual report will be produced in the fall of each school year.
- This agreement will be implemented effective September 2005 to June 2010.

Revised/bw
June 20,2005