



**DATE:** November 23, 2022

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Shawna Warren, Superintendent

**ORIGINATOR:** Jonathan Konrad, Deputy Superintendent, Education Services  
Shannon Campbell Requa, Director, Educational Planning  
Taryn Donald, Lead Teacher, Indigenous Education

**GOVERNANCE POLICY:** [Policy 700 – Superintendent of Schools](#)  
Assurance Domains – [Student Growth & Achievement and Learning Supports](#)

**SUBJECT:** Indigenous Programming Update

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**PURPOSE:**

For information.

**BACKGROUND:****Vision**

Building on the excellent foundation created in our Division, the evolving vision for Indigenous Education is to **support equity and honor diversity** to create **optimal learning** for all students. Throughout their school experience, students will see themselves, and their culture, honored throughout their learning experiences. Students will feel nurtured and challenged developing a deep sense of belonging and possibility. The Division will exemplify “Ka miyo ohpikihitoyak” (Ka, mee- yo, oh-pee-gee-toe-yuck): raising each other’s children well - growing together in a good way). The work in this area will directly benefit all students in our care.

Ultimately, Sturgeon Public strives towards a reality where all students thrive through high expectations matched with effective support.

**Deliverables**

Through a balanced approach designed to provide support across the Division, learning spaces are thoughtfully designed to include representation, showcase resiliency, and honor Indigenous ways of learning, knowing, and being.

For the 2022-2023 school year:

- Create and curate comprehensive and age-appropriate Division resources focused and organized by month for ongoing and continuous work (moving away from one-off days);
- Provide professional development opportunities to administrators, educators, beginning teachers, and aspiring leaders;
- Design Division-wide, daily Truth and Reconciliation Week activities designed to promote active engagement and participation;

- Share Division resources with Central Office Staff grow foundational knowledge across the Division and to build awareness of the ongoing work in schools;
- Design Division-wide, age-appropriate Métis Week resources for all educators.
- Update and maintain [Website](#) to organize all resources;
- Maintain and strengthen our relationship and partnership with Alexander First Nation (attending Powwow, Fall Feast, Every Child Matters March, School Leadership Meetings, and Student Success Meetings);
- Deliver Every Child Matters Signs to every school site (with thanks to Lauren Walter for her support);
- Facilitate blanket exercises for all grade 4, 7, and 10 students Division-wide by December 2022;
- Offer facilitation of blanket exercises for the Board of Trustees and Central Office Staff;
- Facilitate outdoor learning experiences, including River Walks and Pioneer Trail North, for students and staff; and
- Ongoing examination of literature and learning materials in schools.

### Supporting Equity

Indigenous Education Cohort was established to provide deep learning experiences and provide support to school leads at every school site.

- Clear expectations for the role;
- Teach-to-learn capacity building through sharing at staff meetings and PD days;
- In-school point-person working elbow-to-elbow with staff;
- Experiential learning model – these lead teachers learn through doing;
- Paradigmatic shift within the structure of education to recognize Indigenous knowledge and pedagogy as best practice; and
- Approaching new curriculum implementation from an Indigenous lens.

### Honoring Diversity

There is no greater resource for this work than individuals who are willing to work within the system to lead great and lasting change. With this in mind, Sturgeon Public continues to maintain the staffing of Indigenous Professionals.

- Indigenous Education Lead Teacher - Taryn Donald, Teacher
  - Works alongside Director of Education Planning to engage Indigenous ways of knowing and being throughout the curriculum and professional development work;
  - Facilitate the Indigenous Education Cohort;
  - Creates and curates resources, housed on the Division website, accessible equally to all educators Division-wide;
  - Land-based learning lead. Facilitates River Walks and Pioneer Trail North learning experiences;
  - Provides professional development to Principals & Vice Principals, Learning Coaches, Learning Support Facilitators, aspiring leaders, Beginning Teachers, and Educational Assistants;
  - Provides consultation and coaching to school administrators and lead teachers around working with Indigenous partners, Elders, and knowledge keepers; and
  - Facilitates blanket exercises for all grade 4, 7, and 10 students Division-wide.

- Métis Learning Coach - Jerome Chabot, Teacher
  - Works directly with teachers to provide teachings, coaching, and model lessons;
  - Provides professional development to school leaders and educators;
  - Shares cultural information directly with students and classes; and
  - Creates and curates resources.
  
- Indigenous Counsellor - Katie Holubowich, Social Worker
  - Plans and supports the implementation of school-wide events and activities;
  - Provides counseling to Indigenous and non-Indigenous students;
  - Creates monthly newsletter communication shared Division-wide; and
  - Provides cultural advisement.

Additionally, Sturgeon Public maintained staffing of an Indigenous Student Success Coach - John Vallière, Teacher

- Works directly with Indigenous students at both high schools to provide academic support and guidance; and
- Meets regularly with teachers and counsellors working towards providing holistic, team-based support.

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the November 23, 2022, Public Board meeting.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

Not applicable.