



DATE: May 24, 2023

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Shawna Warren, Superintendent

ORIGINATOR: Kristin Lapierre, Acting Principal, Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy
Sherri Devolder, Principal, Sturgeon Composite High School
Alberta School Boards' Association

GOVERNANCE POLICY: [Policy 905 – Awards Policy - Students](#)

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE: Assurance Domain – [Local & Societal](#)

SUBJECT: Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) Honouring Spirit:
Indigenous Student Awards

PURPOSE:

For information.

BACKGROUND:

The Alberta School Boards' Association (ASBA) Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards are intended to recognize First Nations, Métis and Inuit students who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education paths and embrace their own gifts, strengths and potential while celebrating the ways of their people.

Sturgeon Public Virtual Academy (SPVA) school counsellor, Kristen Lapierre, nominated Grade 8 student, Sierra Balkwill for the 2022-2023 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards. “Sierra has modeled leadership qualities and empowers others to be their best and achieve their own dreams and goals”, states Ms. Lapierre in her Letter of Support. Although Ms. Balkwill was not a selected recipient of the award, she was recognized as an Honourable Mention. She will be publicly recognized at the SPVA Awards Ceremony in June. The Board Chair will also send a congratulatory letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Sturgeon Composite High School (SCHS) First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success Coach, John Valliere, nominated Grade 12 student, Tristan Poitras for the 2022-2023 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Awards. “All told, I believe Tristan is a young man of talent and character. He is growing to become a committed learner and a natural leader. I have every confidence that his future is very bright”, states Mr. Valliere in his Letter of Support. Although Mr. Poitras was not a selected recipient of the award, he was recognized as an Honourable Mention. He will be publicly recognized at the SCHS Fall Awards. The Board Chair will also send a congratulatory letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Administration is prepared to respond to questions at the May 24, 2023, Public Board meeting.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Not applicable.