

Terms of Reference
Indigenous Education Committee
SD 36 (Surrey)

Section I: Preamble

The Indigenous Education Committee (IEC) and the Board of Education of School District 36 Surrey acknowledge a partnership and collective responsibility to achieve success of all Indigenous learners in Surrey Schools. It is our vision to have every Indigenous learner graduate with dignity, purpose and options. Indigenous Learning staff, together with other district departments, partner plan, develop and implement the Surrey Indigenous Education Equity Action plan.

Section II

The Indigenous Education Committee with membership from community, district, students and parents is established to develop and implement an action plan to enhance and support and advocate on behalf of the Indigenous learners. The Committee reviews programs and services to ensure an equitable school experience. The IEC works collaboratively with the Indigenous Leadership Council to create an equity action plan based on their advice, guidance, voice and vision. In addition, the IEC will monitor the implementation of the Indigenous Equity Action plan.

- review relevant data;
- acknowledge and honour the traditional territories of the Katzie, Semiahmoo and Kwantlen First Nations on which Surrey Schools reside;
- understanding a distinctions-based approach to the Métis families in Surrey;
- maintain mutual respect and strong relationships that recognize the cultural differences and diverse needs of Indigenous learners;
- develop a plan to communicate the Indigenous Equity Action plan with district employees;
- advocate for equity in hiring Indigenous educators in all departments and levels of Surrey Schools;
- review the budget related to Indigenous Learning as presented by the Director or designate.

The IEC recognizes and honours the unique qualities of all Indigenous peoples living in our diverse community, and strives to promote better understanding of, and appreciation for, the contributions of local, Canadian and American Indigenous cultures within our schools and community at large.

Section III: The Committee

Consensus decision making and voting members

We will strive to use consensus decision-making and vote when motions need to go to the Board of Education. Voting members consist of two representatives from the Indigenous Leadership Council that represent each of the five Indigenous communities and/or organizations; three parents of Indigenous ancestry; and six representatives from the Board of Education and its administration. Members must name an alternate.

Members include:

- two from the Indigenous Leadership Council or designate (Semiahmoo First Nation, Katzie First Nation, Metis Nation BC, FRAFCA);
- three parents of Indigenous ancestry, elected from the ad hoc Indigenous Parent Group;
- Board of Education (1 representative);
- Superintendent of Schools, or designate; (1 representative);
- Director of Indigenous Learning; (Chair);
- Principal, Indigenous Learning;
- Surrey Principals and Vice Principals Association (1 representative);
- Surrey Teacher's Association (1 representative);
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (1 representative);
- three students of Indigenous ancestry (non-voting).

Representatives from the Indigenous Leadership Council that represent each of the five Indigenous communities and/or organizations are invited and welcomed to attend Indigenous Committee meetings.

Structure and Function

The IEC shall meet at least five times during each school year, as determined by the Chair.

Guests attend meetings at the discretion of the chair.

The IEC shall be guided by Indigenous traditions regarding formal proceedings and will use Robert's Rules of Order for voting purposes.

The Committee will review its Terms of Reference annually.

The Committee will implement the Indigenous education equity action plan and strategies and structures.

The Board and Committee must approve any changes to the Voting members list.

Section IV: Sub-committees

Sub-committees will be established at the discretion of the Committee and will meet as often as required to do the work as directed by the Committee, as determined by the Chair.

School District 36 Commitment

The School District recognizes the financial costs involved in having a Committee for Indigenous education. It will commit to the following:

- a meeting place;
- a meal for each meeting;
- honoraria for Committee members not funded by their organization.