

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: June 1, 2022
TO: Education Committee
FROM: Don Balcombe, Assistant Superintendent
SUBJECT: Indigenous-focused Graduation Requirement

Overview

In March of this year, the Ministry of Education announced a proposed change to the British Columbia Graduation Program. This proposed change follows the government passing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act in 2019. The proposed change would require students to complete 4 credits of Indigenous-focused coursework in order to graduate. Students can successfully earn these credits by completing an existing Indigenous-focused course, completing a First Nations language course at the Grade 10 to Grade 12 level, or completing a locally-developed, Indigenous-focused course (BAA).

The ministry provincial courses include BC First Peoples 12, Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12, and English First Peoples Literary, New Media, Spoken Language, and Writing, at the grade 10 and 11 level, as well as English First Peoples 12. Hul'q'umi'num 12 and Introduction to Hul'q'umi'num 11 are approved First Nations Language Courses.

While the consultation process for the implementation of the changes is still ongoing, NLPS is supporting all of our students entering grade 10 in September of 2022 to meet the new graduation program through English First Peoples 10.

We are also excited for the opportunity in the coming years to collaborate with our local First Nations partners to build locally-developed (BAA) courses so that students will have multiple Indigenous-focused courses to engage in throughout the graduation program.