

NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING**

INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: December 6, 2023
 TO: Education Committee
 FROM: Director of Instruction, Indigenous Learning – Ricki Bartlett
 SUBJECT: Truth and Reconciliation

Board Goal:

Truth and Reconciliation

District Operational Plan Objectives:

- Implement Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action #57
- Support innovative Indigenous educational and community partnerships
- Implementation of the Syeyutsus Reconciliation Framework in the school community

Strategies:

- Foster opportunities for school communities to learn about the local land, language and culture
- Creating structures strategies to decolonize the system
- Bridging relationships with rights holders and Indigenous partners with our school teams

Background

The Department of Learning Services is proud of the collective ownership NLPS continues to build around Truth and Reconciliation. As a district, we have come so far in deepening our knowledge and understanding of the truth of Canada’s history. Being part of a system that has hurt Indigenous people for the past 150 years, we are committed to creating systems, structures and environments of equity – where Indigenous students and families feel a true sense of belonging in the school setting, and strong connections to the people within them. The objectives and strategies outlined above are what keep us connected to and focused on accomplishing the goals of the Board, and the objectives within the Superintendent’s Operational Plan.

Overview

Nacu mat Tatulut



Supporting all the District’s operational plan objectives, Nacu mat Tatulut is a joint professional learning committee with various stakeholders committed to the learning of students within NLPs. Together with our Syeyutsus Knowledge Keepers, Nacu mat Tatulut is working to further deepen understandings of the Syeyutsus principles with the intention to create our own version of the local Coast Salish Principals of Learning document. This guiding document will act as a tool for EFP teachers and all teachers in classrooms across the District, to bring local Indigenous culture and values into teaching and learning.

1 learning with SYEYUTSUS

Learning with Syeyutsus Speaker Series is an Indigenous learning series featuring Canadian authors and thought leaders. In response to the board’s goal of Truth & Reconciliation and Canada’s TRC Call to Action #57, we have curated a speaker series over the past few years that has

covered a range of topics including true histories, pedagogies, self-determination, land resurgence, and stories to spark ideas for further exploration and deeper learning on your own, with your family and/or your work colleagues.

This year we are kicking off the final season with returning guest, Umeek, Dr. Richard Atleo. We will be filming the session at Wildwood Ecoforest on the traditional territory of the Stz’uminus First Nation. Indigenous students from across the District have been taught Nuuchahnulth and Coast Salish songs and will be welcoming Umeek and his family with song and traditional protocols that they have been taught leading up to this day, supported by Knowledge Keepers, Tsumquaton and George Seymour.

Tsumquaton and students have been extending traditional, in-person invites to guests for the day. After singing and protocols, students will be witnesses to the filming of Umeek’s teachings from Wildwood.

Following this will be a feast of traditional foods (clams, fish, etc) prepared by the students and Auntie Shirley and her family, of Snaw-Naw-As First Nation.

Tune in live on January 10 at 12:00pm! <https://trc57speakerseries.ca/>

TLE'SHATALUM

Learning With Syeyutsus
Speaker Series Season 4 Launch
with special guest
Umeek, Dr. Richard Atleo

- January 10, 2023
- 9:30 am - 3:30 pm
- Wildwood Homestead
- 2929 Crane Rd, Ladysmith



Transformative Reconciliation



Dr. Dustin Louie is a First Nations scholar from Nee Tahi Buhn and Nadleh Whut'en of the Dakelh Nation of central British Columbia. He is a member of the Beaver Clan. Dustin's education background includes a degree in Canadian history, a master's degree in international relations, and a PhD in educational research.

Dr. Louie is now the Director of NITEP and an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of British Columbia. He teaches courses related to Indigenous education, social justice, and educational philosophy; works closely with four school districts on decolonizing at the provincial and local level with government and private organizations, researches practical approaches to Indigenizing education, decolonizing education, Indigenous pedagogies, and critical theory.

Dr. Louie believes in an interactive and strengths-based approach, refusing to succumb to deficit-based approaches that offer no clear roadmap for change. Dr. Louie insists on a collaborative approach that will leave the participants excited to take on this work, with the tools necessary to be successful.



Be a good ancestor with your thoughts - thoughts become ideas; ideas become actions; actions become movements; MOVEMENTS BECOME CHANGE - Leona Prince



DATES:

SEPTEMBER:
21st - Principals
28th - Learning Leaders

OCTOBER:
TBD - PVP

NOVEMBER:
23rd - Learning Leaders
24th - PVP

JANUARY
23rd - Learning Leaders
24th - PVP

FEBRUARY
22nd - Learning Leaders
23rd - PVP

APRIL
25th - Learning Leaders
26th - PVP

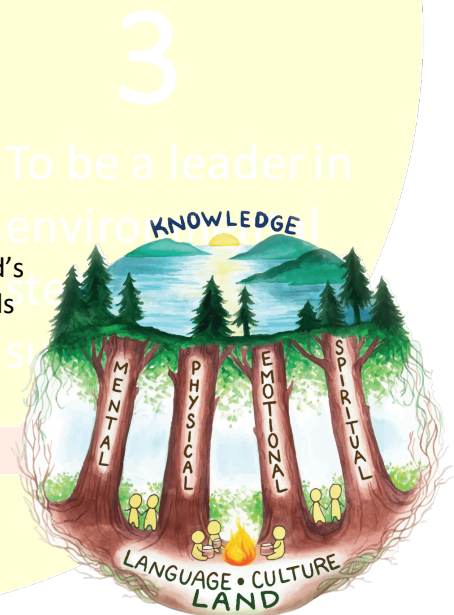
JUNE
6th - Learning Leaders
7th - PVP

Curriculum Implementation Day is a Professional Development Day focused on Truth and Reconciliation. The day is hosted by the Department of Learning Service. Last year we had Dr. Dustin Louie, Director of the Indigenous Teachers Education Program at UBC, come to speak about his research on Transformative Reconciliation. We were excited to hear the feedback that Dr. Louie's research and presentation on decolonized approaches to teaching and leading was so well received by the system. Since then we have been working with Dr. Louie on bringing his work into the District on a more intimate and intentional level. Currently he is working with our Secondary Principals and Vice-Principals, as well as the Learning Leader Teams in each school. This work will span over the year and include schools creating Transformative Reconciliation Action Plans to help lead the work of decolonizing school environments and classroom practice.

Together we will engage in deep learning to build our collective understanding around transformative reconciliation. We are on the same path, learning alongside one another to improve the learning and lives of students. This work is reflective, collaborative, inquiry-minded, courageous, and steeped in action.

Syeyutsus Dinner Gatherings

Over the past few years we have been hosting Syeyutsus Dinner Gatherings for various school and district staff to support the board's goal of Truth and Reconciliation. The dinners have hosted Principals and Vice-Principals, Senior and District Leaders, and English First People's teachers. This year in the spirit of the work that Dr. Louie is doing with secondary district learning leader teams, the Syeyutsus Family will host this group of teachers so that they have an opportunity to learn the Syeyutsus teachings from our Knowledge Keepers. The conversations that take place in this sacred circle further promote the implementation of the Syeyutsus Reconciliation Framework into the school communities.



Bill 40 – Amendment to the School Act by April 2024

https://www.leg.bc.ca/content/data%20-%20ldp/Pages/42nd4th/1st_read/PDF/gov40-1.pdf

Indigenous Educational and Community Partnerships

NLPS has a variety of innovative partnerships with nations and Indigenous organizations however it is the intention of staff and our partners to bring forward specific presentations over the school year to highlight and inform.

