



Colette Trudeau
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Métis Nation British Columbia
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Monday, July 22, 2024

Greg Keller
Board of Education Chairperson
School District No. 68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith
395 Wakesiah Ave., Nanaimo, BC, V9R3K6

Taanishi Greg,

Subject: BC's Bill 40 - The School Amendment Act and the new Provincial Ministerial Order on IECs

I am writing you today regarding the Province's Bill 40 - The School Amendment Act, the new Ministerial Order on Indigenous Education Councils (IEC) and their implications for Métis families and students.

As you are aware, Bill 40 mandates the establishment of Indigenous Education Councils (IECs) across all school districts in our province. These councils are intended to influence and engage in decision-making processes that impact Indigenous students' educational experiences in the BC K-12 public system.

The Ministerial Order stipulates that, in establishing an IEC, a board must consider the distinctions and diversity among the Indigenous student population served by the board, ensuring that the composition of the IEC reasonably reflects the Indigenous student population. Several districts across British Columbia have Indigenous student populations that include Métis students, including SD68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith.

In previous conversations with your Indigenous Education department, we have been advised that you have **676 Métis students**. Our Citizenship Registry and Métis family connections program enrolment confirm a Métis student population.



If you are not already connected to the Métis Chartered Community in your area, the [Mid-Island Metis Nation Association](#), we would like to take this opportunity to connect you to them. Please reach out to their board at midislandcc@mNBC.ca, to identify a representative who will bring Métis perspectives to the IEC.

In the spirit of friendship and reconciliation, MNBC is committed to walking respectfully alongside Snuneymuxw Nation, Stz'uminus Nation, and Snaw-Naw-As Nation, The Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre, and SD68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith Board of Education for the benefit of all students. MNBC looks forward to connecting on this important matter to determine how we can grow our partnership and best support our children at these newly established IECs.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director, Ministry of Education (Early learning | K-12), at swedel@mNBC.ca

Pishshapmishko (Take Care),

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colette Trudeau". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Colette Trudeau
Chief Executive Officer
Métis Nation British Columbia

CC: Scott Saywell, Superintendent of Schools, SD68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith
Mark Walsh, Secretary Treasurer, SD68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith
Emily Magyar, District Principal, Indigenous Learning, SD68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith
Joy Bremner, President, Mid-Island Métis Nation Association
Sasha Hobbs, Chief Strategic Officer, MNBC
Sharlene Wedel, Executive Director, Ministry of Education (Early Learning | K-12), MNBC