

Education Committee Meeting September 8, 2021

Board Goal: Truth and
Reconciliation





Bill 41 UNDRIP – United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)

A photograph showing several hands holding up various colorful paper shoes, likely a craft project. The shoes are made from different colored paper (orange, black, green, blue, yellow) and feature intricate designs, including patterns, cutouts, and small decorative elements like beads and sequins. The hands are positioned around the shoes, displaying them against a dark, textured background. A small white card with red text is visible in the lower right area of the image.

BC Tripartite Education Agreement Supporting First Nations Student Success 2018

No More
Stolen
Lives



Indigenous Language within NLPS

BCSTA Indigenous Education Committee – Knowledge Series



Our Commitment to Student Success

Responding to the B.C. Tripartite Education Agreement

"Tth'ele Mukw'ihwet – Heart of the People."

Joe Thorne, BCSTA Elder and Knowledge Keeper (Hal'q'um'num)

Indigenous students must have access to educational opportunities that ensure they are confident in their identity, their families, their communities and traditional values, languages and cultures.

The BCTEA:

- a. recognizes that all students, particularly those of Indigenous ancestry, should have the opportunity, when possible, to learn an Indigenous language with the support of the Indigenous community;
- b. commits to better understanding communities' needs for language revitalization initiatives, and how it can support initiatives, particularly those related to Indigenous language learning curriculum, program development, teacher training, professional development, and policy; and
- c. continues to ensure a collaborative, co-created process to support K-12 Indigenous language learning, including consultation with Indigenous language learning educators and experts, Indigenous communities, and school districts

B.C. is home to 34 Indigenous languages, half of Canada's Indigenous languages. Today, fewer than 4,200 people speak one of B.C.'s original languages.

Boards are working with local First Nations towards realizing the first principle outlined in the BCTEA: "Indigenous families and communities have the right to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child, and Indigenous peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning."

Districts are also working to add endangered languages to the provincial curriculum (such as SD57, 91 and 28, where the Dakeh language spoken by the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation in Prince George and by other communities in north central and northwest B.C.).

Indigenous members of our committee invite you to review resources from their districts:

School District 28 (Quesnel)
School District 79 (Cowichan Valley)

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The First Peoples' Language Map
Native Land

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Calls to Action are focused on addressing historical and ongoing damage caused by the residential school system.

Recommendation 13: "Language and culture - We call on the federal government to acknowledge that rights include Aboriginal language rights."

In 2018, B.C. made a historic \$50 million investment to support the First Peoples' Cultural Council's work to revitalize Indigenous communities language and culture. The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) is an Indigenous-led, provincial crown corporation that works in partnership with Indigenous communities to support their cultural revitalization goals. In 2019/20, FPCC provided \$15.68 million to communities and created 3,134 language immersion opportunities across B.C.

There are 18 First Nations languages with