

Indigenous Education in Peace River School Division

It is essential that First Nations, Métis and Inuit students see themselves and their cultures in the curriculum and school community, and that non-Indigenous students are taught the true history of Canada, including at times, the painful relationship between Canada and the First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

During the pandemic, schools have found creative ways to acknowledge residential school history on Orange Shirt Day, teach about the Métis during Métis week, and honour our local Indigenous veterans as a part of Remembrance Day activities. Grade one students have been learning some Cree, and plans are underway for a virtual Aboriginal Youth Career Workshop this spring, and a pandemic friendly way to acknowledge our Indigenous graduates with an Eagle Feather and the important teachings that accompany this high honor.

We have ensured professional development (PD) is available for staff on topics such as the legacy of residential schools history and how to incorporate Indigenous perspectives in the classroom. Our First Nations, Métis and Inuit Program Coordinator regularly meets with school staff to discuss how our Indigenous students are progressing academically and to explore further supports.

First Nations Métis and Inuit programs are supported by way of special funding from the Government of Alberta which is determined by self-declaration. For each student who declares to have Indigenous ancestry, schools receive an additional \$1178.00. Parents can declare their child's status on the school registration form that is completed every year.

Indigenous history is Canadian history and it is very important to us that all students learn about the important traditions, culture, and history of the first peoples of Canada. Thank you to our students, staff, families, Elders, community members and organizations for your important contributions and support.

Paul Bennett,
Superintendent of Schools
Peace River School Division