



Vancouver Board of Education

School District No. 39

LEARNING SERVICES

1580 West Broadway

Vancouver, B.C. V6J 5K8

Telephone: 604-713-5000

Fax: 604-713-5244



September 4, 2018

Indigenous Education – 2018/19

Dear Parent/Guardian/Caregiver:

My name is Chas Desjarlais-Smith and I am a member of the nehiyaw/Metis nations, a member of the Cold Lake First Nations and a Treaty Six member. I am also a mother to two beautiful daughters Paige Smith (age 13) and Kaylyn Smith (age 6). I am honoured to continue in the role of District Vice Principal of Indigenous Education. I have been a classroom educator for 14 years and part of the Indigenous Education Department as both an Indigenous Education Teacher and Indigenous Education Consultant for the last 4 years. I look forward to building both a positive and meaningful relationship with yourself and your children.

The goal of the Indigenous Education department is to ensure that Indigenous children and youth in the school district receive the best education possible that honors and respects their intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual development and well-being.

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (AEEA)

The Vancouver Board of Education, the Aboriginal Communities, Ministry of Education and the school communities continue to work together to improve the educational experiences for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students. Together we have created the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (AEEA) that embodies the shared visions and commitment of all participating parties to the success of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in the following areas:

- Belonging
- Mastery of Skills
- Culture and Community

The complete Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (AEEA) can be viewed at www.vsb.bc.ca.

The district honors the intent of the AEEA by monitoring the success of each student who has self-identified or has had parent/guardians identify them as having Aboriginal ancestry on the school registration form. The purpose of this practice is to ensure students receive enhanced academic and cultural supports on their path to graduation, from Kindergarten to Grade 12.

If you have any questions about the enhanced academic and cultural opportunities provided by our department, please contact me directly at 604-713-5682.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'C. Desjarlais-Smith'.

District Vice Principal, Indigenous Education