***First Nation Education Update***

***November, 2016***

***Prepared by the Office of First Nation Education***

***The next update will be in February, 2017.***

*It is important that we celebrate success as well as identify challenges.*

The Office of First Nation Education, in collaboration with ASD-W and ASD-N First Nation Subject Coordinators, will be sending periodic informational updates on what is happening in provincial schools for First Nation education. This update does not include the Francophone sector or the South and East districts as they do not have First Nation coordinators who track progress.

What has been happening at The Office of First Nation Education:

The Office of First Nation *Education* has a new name, a new Director, and a new Learning Specialist! Sacha DeWolfe accepted the position of Director in September, 2016- and Kim Skilliter was seconded from ASD-W, Fredericton High School, for the Learning Specialist position in October. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development has also committed to hiring a second Learning Specialist in January, 2017. This position will be posted in December, 2016.

At the office, we are developing a working model to accomplish goals identified in the 10 year education plan*, Everyone at their best*, and the Calls to Action by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. We are also very busy working in the areas of Curriculum and Professional Learning; we sit on several committees and attend conferences across the country, and we have a myriad of special projects underway.

*Curriculum*

* Native Studies – complete revision content and curriculum – draft ready Nov 23
* Art – K-12 – Wolastoqey and Mi’kmaq content has been added
* Music – K-12 – work is ongoing – incorporating Wolastoqey and Mi’kmaq content
* Social Studies/History – grades 8 and 9 – grade 9 (7 modules) have been piloted and feedback is now being added – grade 8 final draft (10 modules) will be ready for review Dec 1st.
* Literacy – K-12 incorporation of Wolastoqey and Mi’kmaq content (resources were sent to schools and professional learning was offered online)
* Language: Wolastoqey and Mi’Kmaq– both online and face- to -face – Intermediate and Introductory have been developed and Advanced is almost complete. Middle School level framework will be developed this fiscal. All resources have been created, both hard copy and online.

All curricula is developed and reviewed with FN educational professionals, Elders, and community members. The Office of First Nation Education will be sending an invitation for Band Operated School teachers to participate in curriculum development at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

*Professional Learning*

* Professional learning was offered Sept 28, 2016 for all language teachers.
* First Nation Informational Videos – approximately 30 videos have been created with FN communities across NB. These videos will be used for professional development as well as classroom practice. Videos are on a wide variety of First Nation topics; organizations, services, government, culture, history, perspectives, student and teacher experience, Residential School survivor experiences, Indian Day School, EECD’s role and responsibilities, BOS principals and much more. All videos will be uploaded to the portal. 15 are finalized and edited and will be added as soon as the portal site is migrated. Video interviews are again under way with one scheduled at MWC and Eel Ground First Nation in November.
* 14 Modules on a variety of First Nation topics, including Treaties, Residential Schools, The White Paper, Colonialism, Pop Culture, and First Nation Health have been designed with Stephen Dutcher (Historian, UNB) and Lisa Perley Dutcher (UNB Nursing – now Health Canada). Five are under development-one being the TRC.
* Professional learning was offered to high school literacy teachers on Oct. 6, 2016.

* Professional learning is being developed for implementation of FN Art Lessons. We will be visiting schools with the Art teacher who developed the lessons and creating photos and PowerPoints detailing the lessons to be archived on the portal for teachers.
* Professional learning is being developed for Wolastoqey and Mi’Kmaq Music implementation into classroom practice and will also be supported by a music lead and videos produced for the portal.
* Professional learning for Social Studies, grades 8/9 is being developed
* Professional learning for Native Studies is being developed
* Professional learning will also be offered in a two part series for all educational professionals on Strategies for Success in Culturally Diverse Classrooms and Challenges First Nation Youth Face as Students
* In collaboration with FN Coordinators, we are building District Enhancement staff capacity. Sessions on Instructional Coaching guidelines will be provided in the North and West.
* We are in the planning stages of developing professional learning on the TRC for Ed Group.

*Committees*

We take an active role on several committees:

* Elders Committee
* Language Committee
* Treaty Education Committee
* CMEC – TRC Committee
* Indigenous Education Committee
* PAEC
* ED GROUP
* OECD- Closing the Gap
* Branch Development meetings – curriculum
* Directors’ Meetings – awareness of cross branch work with FN students
* Team/FN Subject Coordinator Meetings
* BOS principal meetings

*Conferences*

So far this fall, we have attended:

* Vancouver – First Nation First Schools
* Ottawa – Launch of *Secret Path*
* Winnipeg – (OECD) Closing the Gap: Best Practices for Indigenous Education
* Toronto – JCHS
* UNB – Peace and Friendship Treaties
* Woodstock – resiliency Bill Morrison (sponsored attendees)

*Other projects/initiatives*

* Elders-in-Residence, both Wolastoqey and Mi’kmaq, have been secured to review, provide feedback, consult, and develop FN educational materials.
* Plaques recognizing Wolastoqey and Mi’kmaq territory with traditional maps are being created for each school in NB in collaboration with the SS branch.
* *Secret Path* resource kits with lesson plans are being developed for Music and Art – and will be developed for Literacy next fiscal year.
* Virtual Book Club is in the planning stages with literacy and tech coordinators for FN communities and provincial schools across Canada and beyond.
* Aboriginal Awareness course is being developed with AAS and UNB for employees across NB
* Portal Development – our goal is to have an amazing, interactive site with a database of all pertinent FN information for NB. This is currently being developed!
* Cultural Framework of Standards was developed in collaboration an Alaskan community and a professor at UNB. Professional learning is being developed and will be included in the CRT sessions.
* French translation of completed work being developed
* EPP work has begun

What has been happening in the districts:

First Nation education in ASD-W and ASD-N are led by First Nation Subject Coordinators Donna White and Matthew Sweezey. The districts also welcomed First Nation leads; Clyde Francis, Judy Kavanaugh-Piers, Elizabeth Price, Katrina Clair, Patricia Miller-Hachey, and Lorraine Clair.

*Work in ASD-N has included:*

* Reaching out to FN communities, BOS and provincial schools to explain roles and to offer support and PL opportunities.
* Conducting Blanket Exercises with a community Elder for school superintendents, subject coordinators and directors, school principals and staff.
* Offering repeat sessions of *First Nations Education and You; General Information for all Educators* during the opening days throughout ASD-N.
* Implementing a PL session for First Nation Enhancement employees
* Promoting Orange Shirt Day: Presenting to schools and providing an electronic copy of the presentation and other resources to schools that planned to deliver it themselves. Promoting the day on the newly created First Nations Education webpage: <http://asd-n.nbed.nb.ca/fne>.
* Setting up residential school displays
* Supporting leads and teachers in marking student independent writing samples.
* Collecting data on reading, writing and math.
* Developing and offering a presentation on Mi’kmaq History Month.
* Distributing Mi’kmaq History month posters to schools.
* Delivering and supporting lessons from the First Nation Literacy lessons.
* Attending N.E.A.T. meetings
* Creating N.E.A.T. at schools
* Initiating a book study across the district on *Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain, Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students* by Zaretta Hammond.
* Working with a grade 9 reading and writing class on a book study for the book *My* *Name Is Not Easy* by Debby Dahl Edwardson.
* Working on a Remembrance Day slide show for showcasing the First Nations veterans.
* Presenting with Exchange students; teaching and making dream catchers.
* Attending a sweat lodge ceremony with students.
* Planning a mini Pow Wow
* Meeting with Dance and Drum group leaders in our FN Schools and communities.
* Helping staff and students with a recent death in the community at a BOS

*Work in ASD-W has included:*

* Working with teachers to create strategies and meaningful learning experiences for the FN students.
* Having teacher’s job shadow, providing an opportunity to network, share ideas, strategies and materials.
* Attending NEAT meetings in ASD-W schools.
* Meeting with Enhancement employees to review job descriptions and contracts and, to welcome any new employee to the schools.
* Preparing for PL coming up in 2017 for District level employees and principals.
* Continuing the Fiddlehead Book Club. Members are reading *Decolonizing Education* by Marie Battiste as a follow up to the last book, *A Knock on the Door* by TRC.
* Attending the Peace and Friendship Treaty Education Days at UNB sponsored by the Office of First Nation Education.
* Attending two learning days in Ottawa for *Secret Path* release.
* Attending two days of discussion around the 10 year plan in Moncton.
* Meeting with FN Education Directors to review their Education Plans.
* Participating in the Red Shawl events hosted by UNB.
* Arranging laptops for FN staff.

*May the common goal of providing a better future for First Nation youth unite us.*