**The Office of First Nation Education Update**

**September 2017**

*A LARGE NUMBER OF EDUCATORS ACROSS NEW BRUNSWICK ACCESSED THE VIRTUAL FIRST NATION PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY ON SEPT 1st!!*

***Working toward Incorporating the TRC into School Practice* was very well received.**

The Office of First Nation Education has been conducting research in the area of First Nation Education and Multicultural Education to better inform practice. We are also working toward a First Nation data schedule to support all work. We continue to serve on 29 National and International Committees and to attend conferences addressing First Nation Education. The Office of First Nation Education continues to work with a variety of First Nation and non-First Nation educators, partners, stakeholders, cross-governmental agencies, organizations, Elders, and community members to develop and implement the best First Nation educational materials.

**Trades-related initiatives:**

There were two welding camps held this summer for First Nation middle school students. Both camps were a huge success and generated more interest than we could accommodate. Welding and other trades-related camps will be offered next summer.

* **Welding Stations** – For the training of students and adults, welding stations are being built on three First Nation communities. These are being established in partnership with the Canadian Welding Association and Richelieu Canada. One more community is in the tender phase for electrical upgrades to support welding stations.
* **Consultation-** We are currently in talks with representatives from various areas to expand our support for trades-related initiatives on communities.
* **The Tiny House project-** is almost complete. The house was presented to Oromocto First Nation Chief Shelley Sabattis during a ceremony on Friday, August 25. Many thanks to the teachers who volunteered their time to work on this valuable project.
* **Plans for another build,** on community, are under way. We are hoping to build a 3 bedroom bungalow in partnership with many organizations.
* **Electric Vehicles** –We are in discussions about a potential partnership which will provide training to First Nation automotive technicians to work on Electric Vehicles. We are hoping to provide training for journeymen mechanics and skilled-trades teachers, who will then provide shop class instruction and cooperative learning opportunities for students. Planning is ongoing.
* **Dual credit program**- We are in discussions about the potential for the establishment of some trades-related dual credit courses. First steps could include a high school pilot program. Courses could be completed as a portion of Cooperative Education 120 or Career Exploration 110.

**Curriculum and teacher capacity development:**

* **A provincial PL day** was hosted by our office on September 1st, 2017. Teachers worked their way through modules on Myths and Realities and/or Culturally Responsive Teaching, and Residential Schools. The response has been very positive.
* **The new portal site** <https://collabe.nbed.nb.ca/res/sa/fn/Pages/default.aspx>

is live! Kim Skilliter will be leading teachers through the site during a Lync call-in session at 3:45 pm on Sept. 27th. The portal will be updated regularly.

* **First Nation Art Lessons, 9-12,** will be available sometime this fall, and a few PowerPoint guides for each grade will made available. PL opportunities will follow.
* **Social Studies (grades 7, 8 and 9) and Native Studies 120 modules** have been developed, and are in the review stage. We hope to send these to schools early in 2018, and to offer PL opportunities for teachers in February, 2018.
* **We are developing a Virtual Book and Culture Club** which will highlight First Nation literature for all ages, and encourage collaboration among classes from different schools in various regions of the country as they discuss these works. We hope to release this in 2018 and to offer PL as it is launched.
* **One copy of the new anthology**, *Moving Forward: A Collection about Truth and Reconciliation*, along with a Teacher’s Guide, was sent to high schools through Literacy Coordinators in districts.
* ***Glooscap Tales*** supported with lesson plans for elementary, middle and high schools, will be sent to schools in November.
* **Orange Shirt Day**-EECD is encouraging every school to commemorate this day. A copy of *When We Were Alone* has been sent to every elementary school, along with a link to a video which was created for this project, featuring an elder and a young girl reading the book together. We have collaborated with educators in NS and PEI to create lesson plan ideas and other resources for K-12. These will be sent to schools and housed on the portal.
* ***Secret Path.*** Interested teachers will be offered a professional learning information and brainstorming session about the resource this fall.
* **The Day School Survivors film** is still in the very beginning stages but progress is being made as we try to tell these stories in a sensitive and responsible way. Our hope is to have a film and a book ready for NB schools in the next few years.

**Conferences:**

**Members of the Office of First Nation Education have attended the following:**

* ***WIPCE*** (World Indigenous Peoples’ Conference in Education) -held this July in Toronto.
* ***Promising Practices in Supporting Success for Indigenous Students*-** held in Edmonton in August.
* We have given presentations on ***Culturally Responsive Pedagogy*** and as part of a team including elder and teacher ***Education for Reconciliation*** at the Belonging Conference at UNB in August. The team will be presenting again at the NBTA’s Compass Conference in October.
* Upcoming- STU Conference on Truth and Reconciliation/Indspire Conference

If there is a First Nation directed conference you would like to attend, please send a message to our team. We can take a look at the content, see if it is relevant, and possibly fund your attendance. We would require a report on sessions attended and all supplementary documents.

**What has been happening in ASD-N?**

The ASD-N First Nation Education Team includes

Matthew Sweezey: Subject Area Coordinator- First Nation Education

Katrina Clair: First Nation Education Lead (Miramichi/Rexton)

Elizabeth Price: First Nation Education Lead (Miramichi/Rexton)

Patricia Miller Hachey: First Nation Education Lead (Bathurst/Dalhousie/Campbellton)

* ASD-N will now have Directorship support within the First Nation portfolio. A second Director of Schools has been hired to free up time for Craig Caldwell to dedicate to First Nation Education in ASD-N and to support the exciting work being done.

**Meeting/Collaborating/Supporting**

* Met with First Nation Enhancement Committees in the spring and summer to review available data and the enhancement education plans for each community.
* Worked collaboratively with First Nation Communities to staff positions connected to each community’s Enhancement education plans.
* Planning and preparing of the celebration of Orange Shirt Day on Sept 30th.
* Planning and preparing to support teachers and schools for Treaty Day/Mi'kmaq History Month.
* Partnering with First Nation communities to develop human resource documents to help support the management and support of enhancement employees.
* Planning and preparing for professional learning opportunities for Enhancement employees and teachers.
* Supported the September 1st Provincial Professional Learning Day for Teachers: *Focus on Indigenous Education: Working Toward Incorporating the TRC into School Practice*

**Work in ASD-W**

ASD-W welcomes a new First Nation Subject Coordinator- Kendra Broad! Kendra joins Donna White as part of the First Nation team supporting schools in the West.

* June was full of Aboriginal Day activities that included FN drumming, dancing, singing, storytelling, tree planting and Canada 150 grants to fund First Nation events in schools across the district.
* Helena Francis, a student from SMFN who attends school at GSMS, was selected as part of “Imagine a Canada”-the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation’s national art and essay competition. Helena received the “Imagine a Canada” award from His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, in Ottawa.
* There was on-going planning over the summer months for the Facilitator training of the Kairos Blanket Exercise for middle school staff and FN community Elders and members, (90 in total) on September 1st.
* There were ongoing planning/organization meetings regarding how to be inclusive of students from across the district in the Red Shawl Campaign over the summer break.

*If you have any questions or comments please contact the Office of First Nation Education at the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.*

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*Woliwon!*

*Wela’lioq!*

*Merci!*

*Thank you!*