Policy Statement on Native Education

Introduced by Alberta's Minister of Education to the Alberta Legislative Assembly in 1987, the Policy Statement on Native Education in Alberta was significant because it was issued by the Government of Alberta. The policy stated that "Alberta Education would support the development and delivery of programs and services that would:

- provide enhanced and equal opportunities for Native students to acquire the quality of education traditional in Alberta;

- challenge Native students to learn and perform to the best of their ability;

- provide opportunities for Native students to study and experience their own and other Native cultures and lifestyles;

- provide opportunities for all students, Native and non-Native, in Alberta's schools to recognize and appreciate the various Native cultures and their many contributions to the province and society."

DID YOU KNOW ?

The 'Circle of Courage' is a positive behavior modelling exercise utilized within PWSD schools by the FNMI Coordinator and Liaison Workers.

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FNMI Liaison Workers at PWSD Schools:

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- Central Office, (780) 532-8133 or (780) 933-0502
- Bezanson School, (780) 532-6490
- Ridgevalley School, (780) 957-3995
- Teepee Creek School, (780) 568-2265

Barb Belcourt: barbbelcourt@pwsd76.ab.ca
Shirley Horseman: shirleyhorseman@pwsd76.ab.ca
Marlene Letendre: marleneletendre@pwsd76.ab.ca
- Hythe Regional School, (780) 356-3934

Glenda Ross: glendaross@pwsd76.ab.ca
- Penson School, (780) 532-6390
- Robert W. Zahara Public School, (780) 568-3823
- Sexsmith Secondary School, (780) 568-3642

Shirley Boomer: shirleyboomer@pwsd76.ab.ca
- Harry Balfour School, (780) 532-9276
- Rycroft School, (780) 765-3830
- Spirit River Regional Academy, (780) 864-3696

Connie Calliou: conniecalliou@pwsd76.ab.ca
- Beaverlodge Regional High School, (780) 354-2189

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- Beaverlodge Elementary School, (780) 354-2446
- Elmworth School, (780) 354-8375
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Shelly Logan: shellylogan@pwsd76.ab.ca
- Clairmont Community School, (780) 567-4698
- Peace Wapiti Academy, (780) 513-9504

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PWSD
FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS & INUIT PROGRAM

PEACE WAPITI PUBLIC SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 76
EDUCATING TODAY FOR SUCCESS TOMORROW
WWW.PWSD76.AB.CA

First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Education Program

The First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Program at Peace Wapiti Public School Division (PWSD) is designed to educate FNMI students while enhancing their self-esteem, encouraging them to pursue their dreams, and enabling them to work to their full potential. The high school completion rate of FNMI students at PWSD is significantly higher than the provincial average. Schools offering FNMI programming seek to form collaborative partnerships with leaders and communities to support student success by developing culturally relevant programs, resources and student supports.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The high school completion rate of FNMI students at PWSD is significantly higher than the provincial average.

How the FNMI Program works

In agreement with Alberta Learning, each FNMI student and parent(s) or guardian(s) will be asked to sign a declaration of FNMI status so that Alberta Learning may monitor the number of FNMI students throughout PWSD and the province of Alberta. PWSD employs FNMI Liaison Workers to service 17 schools within the Division. When a student self-identifies as FNMI and returns the signed declaration to the school, he or she is paired with the school's FNMI Liaison Worker.

FNMI Liaison Workers

- Meet with students on a regular basis during school hours to support their social and academic needs.
- Seek to establish and maintain a trust relationship with FNMI students and their families to assist with school-related issues.
- Improve communication and increase interaction between students, parents, communities and schools.
- Increase the knowledge and understanding of FNMI history, Treaty and Aboriginal rights, lands, cultures and languages; and to provide referral services for FNMI students and families to appropriate agencies.

Contact information for FNMI Liaison Workers is included on the back panel of this brochure.

OUR VISION

Peace Wapiti Public School Division inspires all learners to become confident, collaborative and ethical citizens motivated with a passion to achieve a sustainable future.

Aboriginal Summer Job Shadowing Program

FNMI students may apply for a week of classroom training at Grande Prairie Regional College (GPRC) followed by six weeks of job shadowing. Students are housed at GPRC's residence facilities and receive a training allowance of $400 per week. Thanks to partnerships between PWSD, GPRC and local businesses, this program is eligible for high school credit. FNMI students will be exposed to possible career prospects and receive insights into the path required to achieve future goals.

New FNMI-focused initiatives at PWSD

- Cree Language and Aboriginal Studies courses are offered at Beaverlodge Regional High School and Hythe Regional School.
- Additional support for specialized classes or projects focusing on FNMI student success.
- $1,000 FNMI post-secondary scholarship.
- 'Circle of Courage' positive behaviour modelling.
- Increased FNMI content in classrooms and libraries.

Success stories: The FNMI school tour guest speaker series

Past guest speakers have included **Lorne Cardinal**, actor from CTV's Corner Gas; **Ashley Callingbull**, Miss Universe finalist 2010; **J.R. LaRose** of the BC Lions and **Jed Roberts**, former member of the Edmonton Eskimos; and **Linsay Willier**, Canada's Next Top Model finalist.

FNMI Program Goal: Educate FNMI students while enhancing their self-esteem and encouraging them to pursue their dreams and work to their full potential.