

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

BACKGROUND

**S.D. 62, SOOKE
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT**

Definition:

An Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement is an agreement between the local Aboriginal communities, the school district and the Ministry of Education.

Each Agreement is locally developed and unique to each district.

In S.D. 62, the Aboriginal communities include Pacheedaht First Nation (Port Renfrew), S'CIANEW First Nation (Beecher Bay) and T'Sou-ke First Nation (Sooke) as well as the Métis Nation of B.C., the Inuit and a large off-reserve population. It is an agreement to improve the educational outcomes of our nearly 900 Aboriginal students, over 80% of whom live off reserve.

History:

After a series of meetings between the then Vice-Principal of Aboriginal Education and the community groups the Aboriginal Education Council held its first meeting in February, 2005. At that time, letters of invitation were also sent to all bands, throughout the province, who had students attending school in S.D. 62.

In March, 2005 by a large public meeting to inform interested parties of the intent to develop an Enhancement Agreement was held at Edward Milne Community School. Participants were asked for feedback & suggestions.

The Education Council has met every month, except during the summer, to develop the Agreement.

Members of the Council include representatives from:

SC'IANEW First Nation	Pacheedaht First Nation	T'Sou-ke First Nation
Métis Nation of B.C.	Victoria Native Friendship Centre	
Métis Community Services	NIL/TU,O Family Services	
Hulitan Social Services	Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services	
M'akola Housing	Camosun College	University of Victoria
Principals and Vice-Principals Association		CUPE Local 459
Sooke Teacher's Association	Trustees S.D. 62	Students S.D. 62

The Education Council has worked continuously to develop this agreement. Although it has been difficult for some groups to have consistent representation at all of the meetings, there has been ongoing communication via e-mails and the posting of Education Council

minutes and agendas on the district website. In March 2008, the final draft of the Agreement was accepted by members of the council.

Beginning in April 2008, the draft was taken out to the participant groups for suggestions for implementation.

The accepted draft will then go to the Aboriginal Enhancements Branch for approval. It will then be forwarded to the Minister of Education with a recommendation to sign. It is hoped that we will be able to complete this process and sign off in October, 2008.

Important features:

The Education Council creating a definition of student success that is much broader than Graduation rates and test scores.

The Education Council created terms of references that included the responsibilities of all members.

Four goals were defined:

Sense of belonging – developing facilities and programming which helped students feel welcome in school.

Language – developing ways to increase awareness and use of Aboriginal languages.

Aboriginal Ways of Knowing- increasing the knowledge of all S.D.62 students and staff of Aboriginal history & culture.

Achievement- increasing student's success in academics, trades & life-skills. Helping students to make good educational choices.

Respectfully submitted:
Pam Richmond, Principal of Aboriginal Education
April, 2008

MEETINGS TO REVIEW AND ACCEPT
S.D. 62, SOOKE DRAFT
ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT

Aboriginal Education Council Recommends acceptance of Draft	March 12, 2008
C.U.P.E Local 459	April 14, 2008
Métis Community Services	April 17, 2008
Beecher Bay Chief & Council	April 21, 2008
Sooke Principals & Vice-Principals	May 1 & June 5, 2008
Sooke Teachers Association	May 7, 2008
Board of Education School District 62, Sooke	May 13, 2008
Pacheedaht First Nation Chief & Council	May 15, 2008
T'Sou-ke First Nation Chief & Council	May 14, 2008
Information Pamphlets sent to all families	May 14, 2008
Information Pamphlets sent to all CUPE & STA	May 22, 2008
Community Meeting- Milne's landing	June 2, 2008
Community Meeting – Langford	June 5, 2008
Community Meeting – Métis Families	June 10, 2008