

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 7, 2000

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Dossdall, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Edmonton Aboriginal Youth Committee

RESOURCE

STAFF: Phyllis Cardinal, Donna Leask, Marion Stone

INFORMATION

On February 12, 1999, the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Secretary of State (Children and Youth) and Member of Parliament for Western Arctic, on behalf of Minister of Heritage Sheila Copps, announced \$100 million in funding over a five-year period for the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centres Initiative.

Ms. Blondin-Andrew said: "The challenges facing Aboriginal youth living in Canada's urban centres are serious and require immediate action. The federal government's Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centres Initiatives respond to those challenges. The Initiative will be designed, managed and implemented by Aboriginal people, in particular Aboriginal youth. It will give Aboriginal youth the skills and tools they need to contribute to building strong Aboriginal communities and participate fully in all aspects of Canadian society."

The Edmonton Aboriginal Youth Committee works to support the mandate established by this initiative. Since 1999, the Committee has worked to focus on activities that encourage school completion, by increasing effective participation in employment, skill development, career counselling and training. Further, the program focuses on improving self-esteem and life skills by increasing participation in health, cultural and recreation programs. This Committee also provides alternatives to offset negative and destructive social behavior. As part of its work, this Committee continues to review proposals for funding of local projects and make appropriate recommendations.

Edmonton Public Schools was very pleased that the Edmonton Aboriginal Youth Committee supported and established a Contribution Agreement with Edmonton Public Schools and Amiskwacy Academy for funding to support activities within the school.

Edmonton Public Schools is pleased to be able to acknowledge this important contribution to our district. Amiskwaciy Academy is a new opportunity for the district to help improve the achievement and high school completion of Aboriginal students. It is therefore important that community groups such as the Edmonton Aboriginal Youth Committee be recognized for its commitment and support.

The board of trustees would like to thank the Edmonton Aboriginal Youth Committee for its support and sponsorship of Amiskwaciy Academy. Members of the Committee are in attendance at tonight's meeting and will be presented with a certificate of recognition from the board of trustees.

DL:wb