

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

February 12, 2002

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: A. McBeath, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Aboriginal Education Services

ORIGINATOR: M. de Man, Department Head

RESOURCE

STAFF: Rosalie Cardinal, Edith Dalla Costa, Donna Leask, Lorna L'Hirondelle,
Hazel McKennitt, Marion Stone

INFORMATION

This report is intended to provide an overview of Aboriginal Education services. The district's inclusion of a commitment to strengthen programming for Aboriginal students within the priority document, communicates most strongly the district's commitment to supporting and improving Aboriginal student achievement.

Aboriginal Education today is the result of many changes that have occurred since the inception of the first Liaison Services provided in the district almost twenty years ago. Today, the Aboriginal Education staff are located in the Centre for Education and the number of staff members have increased. Aboriginal Liaisons provide a variety of services and supports to Aboriginal students and their families, as well as school and district staff. Aboriginal Education has worked to re-align its services to more effectively meet the needs of schools as they strive to improve the achievement of their Aboriginal students.

Aboriginal Education staff work together with other district staff and schools to better address the needs of Aboriginal students and schools. Aboriginal Liaisons are committed to providing programming assistance to teachers and schools, in addition to providing support to students and their families. Cultural presentations that support the curriculum, home visits, case conference mediation, participation at attendance board and expulsion hearings, and referrals to community agencies are just some of the many ways in which Aboriginal Education staff provide services and support to Aboriginal students, their families, and schools.

Aboriginal Education staff have as their focus a commitment to act as a resource to school and district staff. They review and recommend curricular resources, along with facilitating workshops aimed at meeting school and district staff development needs in becoming knowledgeable of and sensitive to issues in Aboriginal education.

Staff also participate in a variety of district initiatives, including Blueprints for Supporting Teaching and Learning. They have a leadership role on the Aboriginal Resource Collection Committee, which provides ongoing support and recommendations to schools in terms of appropriate, accurate Aboriginal resources.

Aboriginal Education staff continue to represent the district on a variety of community boards and committees that deal with issues impacting Aboriginal people. Maintaining such community affiliations is critical if we are to continue to build and enhance relationships with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations that provide services to our Aboriginal children and their families.

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