

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 12, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Recognition of National Aboriginal Day

ORIGINATOR D. Barrett, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Gloria Chalmers, Margaretha Ebbers, Lorna L'Hirondelle, Judy Toews

INFORMATION

At the Board meeting of May 22, the board approved a motion to celebrate National Aboriginal Day every year at the board meeting closest to National Aboriginal Day. This formally and symbolically recognizes the unique place Aboriginal peoples have in Canada.

The Governor General of Canada, in June 1995, proclaimed that June 21st as National Aboriginal Day. The day was chosen because it corresponds to summer solstice and because traditionally this has been a time for many Aboriginal groups to celebrate their culture and their heritage.

National Aboriginal Day is an opportunity for Canadians in all walks of life to celebrate, with pride, the diversity and cultural traditions of the first peoples of our country. It is a day of dancing, prayer, singing, feasting and celebration of many accomplishments, both traditional as well as contemporary. Schools in the district have chosen many ways to acknowledge the significance of this day, ranging from activities in classrooms, through school-wide events to clusters of schools getting together with the greater Aboriginal community. Some of these events are happening on the National Day, others in the days leading up to and after June 21.

This evening is the Board's first recognition of National Aboriginal Day. The district is proud to have the students from the Prince Charles Elementary choir *Awasisak Nikamowak* (translates into children singing) assist the board in marking this important occasion. The students will pay a special tribute through a collection of songs.

The following is the sequence of events (approximate time - 15 minutes)

Ka Kanatahk – O Canada
Sakihtowin
Ninaskamon
Gramma Easter's Lullaby
A.I.M. Honor Song

ES:ee