



SD61 Indigenous Focused Professional Development Day of Learning



STORYTELLING

Save the Date - Friday May 16, 2025

Indigenous Storytelling through Authors, Films, Curriculum,
Cultural Safety, Land-Based Education,
Experiential Learning, Elders and Knowledge Keepers

MORNING SESSIONS

Explore our Morning
Sessions that run from:

9:00 am - 11:45 am

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

Explore our Afternoon
Sessions that run from:

1:00 pm - 2:45pm

ONLINE OPTIONS

Explore our Online
Sessions that have
AM and PM offerings

Registration OPENS Friday, April 25th at 8:00 am

An Email Will be Sent to All Users When the Registration Opens
If you have any Questions Please Contact the Indigenous Education Department (IED) at 250.475.4124



Welcome to this year's Indigenous Storytelling Festival (2025). Our Storytelling Festival is our way in School District No.61 to uphold our responsibility on having a focused Professional Development Day of Learning within Indigenous Education. In (2015) the Ministry of Education and Childcare and the BCTEA (2019) directed school boards to schedule at least one non-instructional day for the purpose of providing teachers and staff with an opportunity to participate in discussions and activities that focus their professional development on:

- Enhancing Indigenous Student Achievement and/or
- Integrating Indigenous World Views and Perspectives into Learning Environments

The District Framework Planning Committee (2025) for this day included Rightsholders, Elders, Representatives from the Indigenous Education Council (IEC), the Indigenous Education Department (IED), the GVTA, CUPE, PVP, and Exempt staff. All of whom helped to provide guidance and support throughout the committees work. The learning opportunities found within this year's Indigenous Storytelling Festival were selected with intent as they build upon the foundation for culturally responsive teaching practice, the 5Rs of Indigenous Pedagogy; *Relationships, Respect, Relevance, Responsibility and Reciprocity* and align with the TRC Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

This day also supports **Standard 9** of the Professional Standards for BC Teachers that was added in 2019 and reads:

Educators respect and value the history of First Nations, Inuit and Metis in Canada and the impact of the past on the present and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation, and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of the ways of knowing and being, histories, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis. Educators critically examine their own biases, attitudes, beliefs, values, and practices to facilitate change. Educators value and respect the languages, heritages, cultures, and ways of knowing and being of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis. Educators understand the power of focusing on connectedness and relationships to oneself, family, community, and the natural world. Educators integrate First Nations, Inuit and Metis worldviews and perspectives into learning environments.

We encourage your participation in this day be rooted in the values of *Eyē? Sqā'lewen* (a Lekwungen word that means working with "a good heart, a good mind, and good feelings"). By weaving together Indigenous Worldviews, Perspectives and Pedagogy for all learners we will improve the outcomes for Indigenous learners within our School District.

Forward We Go Together

DR. SHELLEY WILTON
DIRECTOR OF INDIGENOUS EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.61

