



Indigenous Education Council

Greater Victoria School District No. 61

Final Version Submitted to the Ministry of Education and Childcare
June 27th, 2025

Terms of Reference

The IEC will acquire a Lekwungen Name and the IEC will update this TOR to reflect this name in the Fall (2025) Once the Language Teams of Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation have had the time to complete this work.

Indigenous Education Council Greater Victoria School District No.61

Preamble:

The Indigenous Education Council recognizes and acknowledges the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations as the traditional stewards of the lands on which Indigenous students within School District No.61 live and are educated. The Indigenous Education Council acknowledge all parents, families, and communities as the first educators of their children. The Indigenous Education Council acknowledge that all Indigenous Peoples have a long tradition of teaching and learning through sharing their connections with the land and sea, and through their cultures, stories, and lived experiences that are passed from generation to generation. The Indigenous Education Council recognizes and values the learning that all Indigenous children bring with them from their homes and communities into the classroom and school communities that they attend. Acknowledging that the 5R's of Indigenous Pedagogy; *Relevance, Relationships, Respect, Reciprocity, and Responsibility* are integral to the learning environments for all Indigenous learners.

Preamble Adapted from the Original Native Indian Education Council of Greater Victoria (May,1979).

Distinctions-based Approach:

The Province is committed to a distinctions-based approach. This requires that the Province's dealings with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples be conducted in a manner that acknowledges the specific rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of each, while respecting and acknowledging these distinct Peoples with unique cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments. Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, recognizes and affirms the rights of Aboriginal Peoples of Canada, while all Indigenous Peoples have human rights that are expressed in the UN Declaration. However, not all rights are uniform or the same among or between all Indigenous Peoples. In many cases, a distinctions-based approach may require that the Province's relationship and engagement with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples include different approaches or actions and result in different outcomes.

Article 14 of the Declaration Act affirms:

1. Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish and control their educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.
2. Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.
3. States shall, in conjunction with Indigenous Peoples, take effective measures, in order for Indigenous individuals, particularly children, including those living outside their communities, to have access, when possible, to an education in their own culture and provided in their own language.

Article 15 of the Declaration Act affirms:

1. Indigenous Peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous Peoples and all other segments of society.

Indigenous Education Council Guiding Statement

We honour the living Coast Salish Teachings of *Eyē? Sqâ'lewen* and *Na'tsa'maht* by working together with good hearts, good minds, and good feelings. Guided by these teachings we honour our Ancestors and offer thoughtful guidance and support that upholds Indigenous worldviews and prioritizes the success and well-being of all Indigenous students.

Indigenous Education Council Meetings

The Indigenous Education Council will meet (8) times per calendar school year in the following months; September, October, November, January, February, April, and May. The Indigenous Education Council also agrees that they can call additional meetings if and when required and/or cancel meetings if and when required. These actions will be done through consensus and made through the recording secretary so that a record can be kept of these actions.

Indigenous Education Council Meetings 2025/2026

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm (*Dinner to be Provided*)

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| August 28th, 2025 |
| September 25th, 2025 |
| October 30th, 2025 |
| November, 27th, 2025 |
| January 29th, 2026 |
| February, 26th, 2026 |
| April, 30th, 2026 |
| May, 28th, 2026 |

Location of the Indigenous Education Council Meetings:

556 Boleskine Rd
School Board Office
School District No.61

The Indigenous Education Council has agreed to proceed forward with the Indigenous Education Council meeting dates as scheduled and have agreed that it is the responsibility of the Indigenous Education Council member to inform the recording secretary and their alternate if they are not able to attend an Indigenous Education Council scheduled meeting.

The recording secretary for the Indigenous Education Council will distribute the Indigenous Education Council meeting minutes to the Indigenous Education Council membership and their alternates one week post an Indigenous Education Council meeting.

Indigenous Education Council Remuneration

Honoraria will be provided to the voting members of the Indigenous Education Council. The Honoraria rate will be \$500 and will be provided for attendance at meetings of the Indigenous Education Council. Indigenous Education Council Alternates will be provided the same Honoraria rate when they are asked to attend an Indigenous Education Council meeting for their alternate. Mileage Cost and Per Diem Reimbursement will be provided to Indigenous Education Council Members as per School District No.61 Board Policy. The recording secretary will arrange all payments for Indigenous Education Council Members and their alternates.

Indigenous Education Council Membership

Members of the Indigenous Education Council are appointed in accordance with the Act and Ministerial Order. Each Member may designate one alternate to attend the Indigenous Education Council Meeting to participate on behalf of that member.

Voting Members

- (2) Esquimalt First Nation Representatives (1) Alternates
- (2) Songhees First Nation Representatives (1) Alternates
- (1) Metis Nation Greater Victoria Representative (1) Alternate
- (1) Urban Indigenous Peoples House Representative (1) Alternate

6 Votes (4) Local First Nations (1) UPHIA (1) Métis

Non-Voting Members

Superintendent of Schools School District No.61

Director of Indigenous Education School District No.61

Recording Secretary

Elders, Parent/Guardian, Youth (\$250 Honoraria Rate as per School District Honoraria Rate)

***Please Note:** The Indigenous Education Council through consensus may call upon Board of Education Trustees, Senior Leadership and other GVSD Staff and Indigenous Community members to attend Indigenous Education Council (IEC) meetings at different times to support specific topics being discussed related to the work of the Indigenous Education Council. The co-chairs will seek clarity from the Indigenous Education Council members on whom should be invited to the Indigenous Education Council meetings when discussions are to include other participants and the co-chairs will work with the recording secretary to extend those invitations for the invited participants.*

Indigenous Education Council Member Resignation

Should an Indigenous Education Council member resign for any reason, that member will notify their respective house (*Songhees Nation, Esquimalt Nation, UPHIA, MNGV*) the Indigenous Education Secretariat and the co-chairs in writing as soon as possible so that the Board of Education can be informed and begin the process for re-appointment.

Indigenous Education Council Chair /Co-Chairs

Through consensus the Indigenous Education Council have appointed the Superintendent of Schools along with the Director of Indigenous Education to co-chair the Indigenous Education Council Meetings of the Greater Victoria School District No.61.

The Indigenous Education Council co-chairs will work with the Indigenous Education Council to select their Honorary Indigenous Education Council Chair(s) when a voting member of the Indigenous Education Council is required to attend Provincial Meetings and/or any other meetings that have been requested of the Indigenous Education Council.

Indigenous Education Decision Making Processes

The Indigenous Education Council will establish a decision-making process, including a mechanism to address a decision when consensus is not reached, and/or a vote is tied.

- a) Most matters will be decided through general discussion and consensus of the Indigenous Education Council.
- b) If the Indigenous Education Council cannot reach consensus and/or voting is tied, the Indigenous Education Council will table the motion for further discussion.
- c) The local First Nation representatives of the Indigenous Education Council may advise on their local First Nation languages, cultures, customs, protocols, traditions, practices, history, world views, and perspectives. This does not prevent the school district from engaging and seeking advice from other local Nation Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- d) Any Indigenous Education Council member may proxy their vote to another Indigenous Education Council member. A proxy form will be used to identify the date, duration, and purpose of the proxy.

Indigenous Education Council Process to Provide Information, Recommendations and/or Advice to the Board of Education

The Indigenous Education Council will work with the co-chairs of the Indigenous Education Council to provide information, recommendations or advice to the Board of Education. This may include a report, a letter, a request for a meeting and/or having representatives from the Indigenous Education Council attend Public Board meetings and/or committee meetings of the Board of Education. All written communication will be on letter head identifying the Indigenous Education Council and will have the electronic signatures of the Indigenous Education Council Members included.

Indigenous Education Council Dispute Resolution Process when Disputes and/or Conflict Arises

The Indigenous Education Council will use their guiding principles to assist in the work of the Indigenous Education Council and these principles will be included on each meeting agenda.

The Indigenous Education Council will seek the support and guidance of Elders if a dispute and/or conflict arises that cannot be resolved through the process of restorative practice methods and circle work.

Indigenous Education Council Conflict of Interest

The Indigenous Education Council as a collective has the responsibility to be transparent in these discussions when a potential conflict is perceived and/or potential for conflict might arise based on the matter being discussed.

Indigenous Education Council Cultural Safety, Confidentiality and Privacy

The Indigenous Education Council will practice cultural safety and culturally responsive leadership as part of their decision-making and consultation processes.

The Indigenous Education Council recognizes the importance of protecting sensitive information and individual privacy.

Indigenous Education Council Communication Process

The Indigenous Education Council would like to have an Indigenous Education Council group email that will also include each of the Indigenous Education Council members alternates. Each Indigenous Education Council member will work with their alternates on whom will provide responses if and when required. Group email and responses will remain confidential.

Indigenous Education Council Annual Review

The Indigenous Education Council shall conduct an annual review of this Terms of Reference at the start of each school year in the August meeting commencing August, 28th 2025

Indigenous Education Council Representatives 2025 -2026

ESQUIMALT NATION

Kalie Dyer, Director of Education
Indigenous Education Council

Sherry Thomas, Councillor
Indigenous Education Council

SONGHEES NATION

Erin Glasgow, Director of Education
Indigenous Education Council

Anevay Quocksister, Student Success Manager
Indigenous Education Council

MÉTIS NATION OF GREATER VICTORIA

Kristy McLeod, Director at Large
Indigenous Education Council

UPHIA / Urban Peoples House Indigenous Advisory

Ron Rice, Executive Director, Victoria Native Friendship Centre
Indigenous Education Council