

The Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement Renewal

The EA was signed in our School District in 2005. The signing ceremony was hosted on traditional Songhees and Esquimalt Nation lands in the Songhees Big House. For the past 4 years we have been working on addressing the 4 goals of the EA. The agreement is now up for renewal and will need to be revisited. Community discussions and focus groups will be held to review from whence we came, where we are today and where we need to go. Dave Pitre, School District Trustee, and, Joanne Mitchell, School District Aboriginal Counsellor, will facilitate these discussions and the Aboriginal Nations Education Council will provide guidance and feedback throughout the process.

The EA Goals are as follows:

- GOAL 1:** To increase Aboriginal students' sense of place, of caring, and of belonging in the public school system.
- GOAL 2:** To honour and improve relationships between the Greater Victoria School District and the Aboriginal community and parents.
- GOAL 3:** To increase awareness and understanding of Aboriginal history, traditions and culture.
- GOAL 4:** To increase success of all Aboriginal students.

Meetings will be scheduled with the respective focus groups (see list below) to discuss and receive input into the renewal of this agreement.

Focus Groups:

- ANED Staff
- Community Forum
- Esquimalt Nation
- Hulitan Community & Family Services
- Interagency Team
- Métis Community Services
- Métis Nation of Greater Victoria
- Parents
- Post Secondary: Camosun College/UVic
- School/District Based Admin.
- School Trustees
- Songhees Nation
- Students
- Support Staff/CUPE/ASA
- Surrounded By Cedar Child & Family Services
- Teachers/GVTA
- VCPAC
- Victoria Native Friendship Centre

For more information you can contact Dave Pitre at dpitre@sd61.bc.ca or Joanne Mitchell at jomitchell@sd61.bc.ca or the Aboriginal Nations Education office pbell@sd61.bc.ca