

Ministry of Education

Aboriginal Education Enhancements Branch

2009-2010

- ⊕ The Aboriginal Education Enhancements Branch is responsible for developing policies, procedures and initiatives related to the education of Aboriginal students in British Columbia.
- ⊕ The Branch is the Provincial Government's primary link with Aboriginal organizations, bands, tribal councils, First Nations, Métis and the Federal Government on matters concerning the education of Aboriginal students.

BRANCH STAFF:

Director:	Trish Rosborough
Director's Assistant:	Norma Ritchie
Field Director:	Ted Cadwallader
Administrative Coordinator:	Nancy Scott
Curriculum Coordinator:	Anne Hill
Enhancement Agreements Coordinator:	Victor Jim
Aboriginal Youth Intern	Vernie Clement

- Staff work with school districts and Aboriginal communities in the development and implementation of Enhancement Agreements;
- they participate in the review of curriculum and resources to ensure accurate integration of Aboriginal content and current views of Aboriginal peoples; and
- they work with other Ministry divisions on policies and activities related to Aboriginal education.

Goals of the Branch

The work of the Aboriginal Education Enhancements Branch is guided by four goals:

- To improve school success for all Aboriginal students
- To increase Aboriginal voice in the public education system
- To increase knowledge of Aboriginal language, culture and history within the public school system
- To increase Aboriginal communities involvement and satisfaction with the public school system

K-12 Enhanced Funding for Aboriginal Education

The Ministry of Education provides targeted funding for Aboriginal education at \$1,014 per student. The Ministry provides this additional annual funding on a per pupil basis to enable school districts to deliver enhanced education programs and services for Aboriginal students. Targeted Aboriginal Education funding requires the collaboration of school boards and local Aboriginal communities to develop and deliver Aboriginal Education programs and services that integrate academic achievement and Aboriginal culture and/or language.

For more information about the targeted funding policy, Aboriginal full day Kindergarten and programs and services offered to Aboriginal students, please visit: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/policy/policies/funding_abed.htm

Enhancement Agreements

In the last year the Branch has continued its work with Aboriginal communities and school districts on the development of Enhancement Agreements. Establishing goals and strategies for improving Aboriginal student success requires collaboration and dialogue among school district staff and all Aboriginal communities. Coming to an agreement as a community is cause for celebration, and most districts celebrate the signing of their agreements with a ceremony. Ministry staff participate in these ceremonies whenever possible.

As of July, 2008, there were 39 signed Enhancement Agreements.

Curriculum Cycle

The branch participates in the review of curriculum and resources to ensure accurate integration of Aboriginal content and current views of Aboriginal peoples. This year, the Branch participated in the review of Health & Career K-7, English Language Arts K-7, Science 8-10 and Social Studies K-7. Curriculum up for review this year includes:

- Math K – 7
- English Arts 8 – 12
- Home Economics 8 – 12
- Application of Physics 11 – 12

We invite and encourage participation of Aboriginal educators to review draft curriculum and provide feedback at the following website:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/irp/drafts

Performance Data Monitoring and Reporting

The Branch monitors the performance of Aboriginal students in the BC school system and communicates the results to Aboriginal communities and school districts to open dialogue and make recommendations that lead to quality improvements in the system and to improve results and success rates for students. The *How Are We Doing* report has been published since 1998 includes demographic and outcomes in both in a provincial and school district format. The Branch is pleased to help facilitate the use of Aboriginal data to both Aboriginal communities and school districts.

Accountability Framework

The accountability framework focuses on responsibility for the achievement of all students. Enhancement agreements, local education agreements, accountability contracts, district reviews, school planning councils, audits, data collection and monitoring are components of the accountability framework for public education in BC. As we move forward in our work with the accountability framework, we identify opportunities for deepening the inquiry, setting goals, and seeking solutions for continuing to improve Aboriginal student achievement.

We are continually looking for Aboriginal parents and educators to participate on district review teams. Training is in February and the reviews run from February to May each year. Please visit and fill out an application form:

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/review

Website for Aboriginal Education Enhancements Branch
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed