

Ann Whiteaker

Trustee Report

March 2022

I am grateful and honored to update the Board on the continuation of the Rogers School Indigenous Community Education Series.

Due to Covid restrictions the January 10<sup>th</sup> date was postponed until March 7, but this certainly did not diminish the enthusiasm to listen, to learn and to laugh together. Everyone participated in a good way with good energy in the making of drums to be gifted back to community - it was such an honor to be included in this work with amazing people.

I want to say a special thank you to Elder Mary Ann Thomas whose words have carried me and calmed me often over the past week. And to John Harris (District Elders & Indigenous Knowledge Facilitator) for sharing his learning with us and especially for making a drum with me.

I also want to thank Rogers School Vice Principal Jen Fahr, Teacher Kolette Cristante and Staff Sgt. Darrell Underwood for bringing us together to do this work and learn together.

It is not possible to thank and mention everyone who participated in the day, but I wish I could. I want to thank each and every one for sharing their day, their wisdom, and their good intentions with me. I left feeling more connected to my community and to everyone in the room. I would even say, I feel I have made some new friends and I am truly grateful for how being included in this learning has filled my heart.