

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPORT

25-26 August 2025

IEAC Activity Report

The Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC) met on August 25 & 26, 2025, at the Xá:ytem Longhouse Interpretive Centre in Mission, BC. Members, trustees, and guests gathered to discuss Indigenous education priorities, cultural knowledge, and future planning. The gathering included representatives from multiple Stó:lō Nation communities, sharing perspectives and reinforcing the importance of local voices in education.

The Mission School District shared a presentation on its Indigenous Education initiatives, grounded in the legacy of St. Mary's Residential School. The presentation highlighted the locally developed course *Téméxw te í: The Land of this Place* and the creation of a Cultural Safety Protocol designed to strengthen respect and understanding throughout the district. The IEAC recognized the value of this work and emphasized the opportunity to share Mission's model more broadly across the Association.

Honourable Steven Point and Dr. Gwen Point shared reflections on Indigenous education, drawing on their experiences to highlight both

the progress that has been made and the challenges that remain. Dr. Point spoke to the ongoing barriers faced at all levels of education, encouraging members to ask themselves, "*What can I do?*" Hon. Point reminded the Council of the importance of continuing this work with persistence and care, affirming that meaningful progress is possible when efforts are sustained.

The IEAC discussed succession planning for Knowledge Keepers, supporting the inclusion of both a male and female Knowledge Keeper to walk alongside the committee in keeping with cultural traditions, with names to be brought forward in the coming months.

Work is also continuing on the Trustee Knowledge Series (Volume II), which will highlight Land-Based Learning, Bill 40 and related success stories, Indigenous student leadership, Local Education Agreement best practices, and the inclusion of denialism and historical truths, such as residential schools, day schools, and the Sixties Scoop, within curriculum and trustee learning resources.

Looking ahead, the IEAC will dedicate its Spring 2026 in-person meeting to update the Strategic Plan, developing protocols to honour long-standing members at the Academy, and piloting new approaches such as live polling to gather trustee feedback.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPORT

Call Out Questions

We invite BCSTA Trustees to participate in a brief survey to gather insights on Indigenous Education initiatives.

Your responses will help guide the Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC) in better understanding and addressing the needs of Indigenous students and communities. Thank you for your valuable input.



Scan the code to begin the survey.

What is your district doing for Indigenous Education?

What would you like to learn about as a BCSTA Trustee regarding First Nations, Metis, and Inuit education?

Have you heard of the IEC Knowledge Series?

What would you like to see put into the next Knowledge Series publications?

Share an example of something your district is doing for Reconciliation.

How can the Indigenous Education Committee support you as a trustee?

Committee Members:

Diane Jules / Co-Chair (Kamloops-Thompson)
Vanessa Mitchell / Co-Chair (Vernon)
Joe Thorne / Knowledge Keeper (Cowichan Valley)
Erica McLean / BoD Liaison (Prince George)
Roxanne Gulick / BoD (Peace River South)
Dave Christie (Nechako Lakes)
Randy Cairns (Mission)
Larry Ransom (Pacific Rim)
Janice Gladish (Campbell River)
Winnie Morven-Hansen (Nisga'a)