

# Indigenous Education Advisory Council

5 & 6 February 2026

## Activity Report

The Indigenous Education Advisory Committee (IEAC) met in person in Vancouver on February 5 and 6, 2026, to advance its work in supporting Indigenous education and Truth and Reconciliation.

With trustee elections approaching, the committee discussed the importance of strong communication between IEAC representatives, branch presidents, and local boards. Trustees are encouraged to ensure IEAC Activity Reports are shared at board meetings and branch gatherings.

Discussion emphasized the importance of comprehensive trustee orientation, particularly for new trustees. Orientation should include clarity of governance roles and responsibilities, legislative context, relationships with local Indigenous Nations, and alignment with district strategic priorities. Trustees are encouraged to ensure that local orientations include meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities.

The committee reviewed a draft of the Knowledge Keeper Guidelines provided by the BCSTA Board of Directors. Members emphasized the importance of respecting Elders and cultural authority, ensuring clarity of purpose, and avoiding tokenistic approaches.

Further review and feedback will occur at a future virtual meeting yet to be determined.

Truth and Reconciliation remain a central focus of IEAC's work. The committee discussed the impact of residential school denialism on students, staff, and communities and emphasized education as the appropriate response.

Updates were provided on the IEAC Knowledge Series, including revisions to the Learning on the Land and Indigenous Student Leadership documents. Development is underway on a new Knowledge Series resource titled "Truth and Reconciliation as an Educational Journey." This resource will address historical realities, including Residential Schools, the Sixties Scoop (Family & Child Services), Boarding Homes, Indian Hospitals, and Indian Day Schools, to support informed dialogue and understanding across school communities.

The committee also discussed student attendance trends, FSA participation, land-based learning programs, and Ministry attendance coding practices. Members emphasized the importance of recognizing traditional land-based learning as instructional time and acknowledging traditional Indigenous cultural leave, including end-of-life ceremonies, as appropriately coded attendance. Mental health and the integration of Indigenous

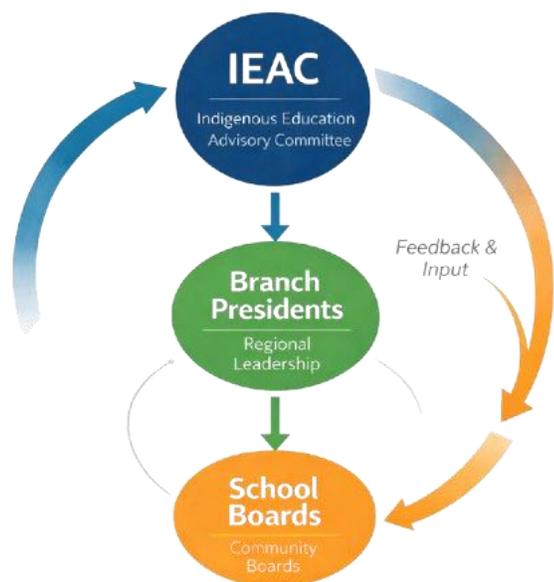


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Worldviews within district practices were highlighted as ongoing priorities.

The IEAC remains committed to supporting trustees in advancing Indigenous education and strengthening Truth and Reconciliation efforts throughout the province. Please share this report with your Board.

## Report Distribution & Feedback Cycle



## 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.

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**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?**



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**Have you heard of the IEAC Knowledge Series?**

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

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

**How can the Indigenous Education Advisory Council support you as a trustee?**

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**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 Liaison (Peace River South)

Dave Christie (Nechako Lakes)

Randy Cairns (Mission)

Larry Ransom (Pacific Rim)

Janice Gladish (Campbell River)

Winnie Morven-Hansen (Nisga'a)

