

Our Commitment to Student Success

Responding to the B.C. Tripartite Education Agreement

“I-I he’ nem’q’uahin’tul = let’s walk together.”

Joe Thorne, BCSTA Elder and Knowledge Keeper (Hul’q’umi’num)

The Indigenous Education Committee represents boards’ interests in Indigenous education - at the same time, developing ideas and recommendations for the vital work of improving Indigenous student achievement.

The committee continually seeks to heighten knowledge, awareness and understanding of Indigenous values, cultures and perspectives in the education system to enhance learning. In keeping with this role, the committee disseminates information to foster an atmosphere that will promote dialogue at the local level between boards of education and Indigenous communities.

THE B.C. TRIPARTITE EDUCATION AGREEMENT (BCTEA): SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS STUDENT SUCCESS

Signed in 2018, the BCTEA is intended to promote systemic shifts and collective efforts to support improved educational outcomes for all First Nations students in British Columbia, regardless of where they live or go to school. Boards across the province are in varying stages of implementation of the BCTEA.

B.C.’S BCTEA COMMITMENTS

- Administer the federal transportation fund.
- Support the negotiation and implementation of Local Education Agreements (LEAs).
- Improved accountability and reporting.
- Enriching First Nations Student Data.

First Nations students, at all education levels, must have access to educational opportunities that:

- Ensure that they are confident in their self-identity, their families, their communities and traditional values, languages and cultures;
- Give them the skills they need to thrive in contemporary society, including 21st century technological skills; and
- Prepare them to access any opportunities they choose for higher learning, employment and life choices.



B.C. DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ACT

In November 2019, British Columbia passed the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA), becoming the first province in Canada to pass legislation implementing the United Nations *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration). This legislation recognizes the inherent rights of Indigenous peoples and requires the alignment of provincial laws with the internationally recognized standards of the UN Declaration. In the spirit of collaborative partnership and the government-to-government relationship between the Province and First Nations, work is underway to significantly improve outcomes for First Nation students.

Indigenous peoples include the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

Areas being considered include:

- Recognizing and honouring traditional territories
 - Establishing structures and processes for shared decision-making
 - Maintaining an active Indigenous Education Council in each school district
 - Signing and implementing effective Local Education Agreements (LEAs)
 - Implementing Language Programs in partnership with First Nations
 - Creating locally-developed Board Authorized courses in partnership with First Nations
 - Incorporating First Nations culture into school ceremonies in partnership with local First Nations
- (BCTEA Progress Update June 2020)

For more information contact Gordon Li, Director Education Services, gli@bcsta.org

Resources of interest include:
BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA)

B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)



Indigenous Education Committee