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**10TH ANNUAL
REPORT**
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“TOGETHER WE EMPOWER
STUDENTS OF ALL NATIONS”

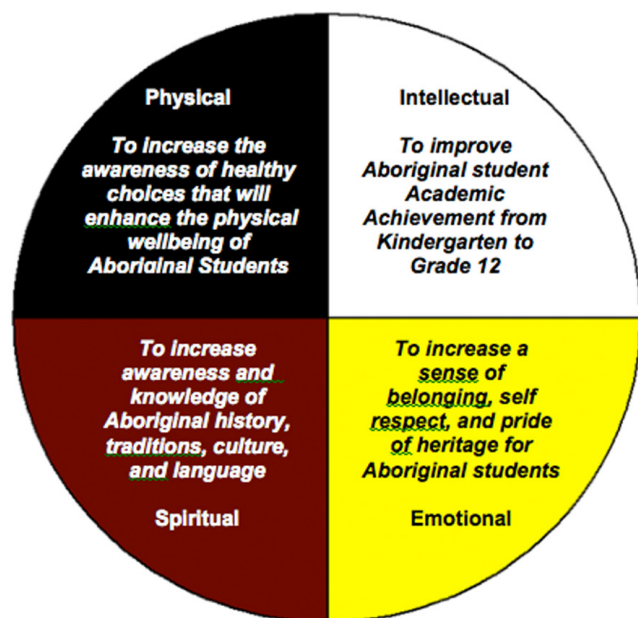


ABORIGINAL EDUCATION
CENTRAL OKANAGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT - 2013



10th Annual Report

The 10th Annual Report will address the four goals of the Central Okanagan School District's first Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement and the progress that our students have made towards meeting these goals.



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Central Okanagan School District

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thank you to the Aboriginal students, parents and families. Sincere thanks to the Aboriginal Education Council, District staff, and community partners and members who gave so freely of their time to continue to provide support to enhance the success of all of our Aboriginal students Kindergarten through grade 12.

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DISTRICT PRINCIPAL - ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

JOANNE DE GUEVARA

Way', ǵast sǵlǵalt,

I would like to acknowledge the traditional territory of the Okanagan Nation in which I have the honour of working as the District Principal of the Aboriginal Education Program, Central Okanagan School District.

It is a pleasure to work with an Aboriginal Education Program that has a caring, dedicated staff who is supported by Aboriginal community partners, School District leaders, our 42 school teams, and an Aboriginal Education Council. Thank you to our parents and Elders for the knowledge and expertise they share as this is an integral part on the path to success for our students of Aboriginal ancestry.

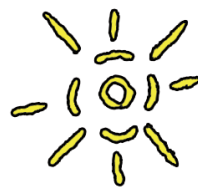
We continue to grow in our commitment to our Aboriginal students and foster their success in school as well as living a well-balanced life. I am proud to be a part of what it is now and what it is yet to become.

It is my pleasure to present the Central Okanagan School District, Aboriginal Education Program, Special Edition, 10th Annual Report! I would like to thank all those who put an amazing amount of time and effort in the creating, editing and publishing of this report. Enjoy!!

Way' limlǝmt,

Joanne De Guevara
District Principal – Aboriginal Education





INTRODUCTION

The Central Okanagan School District and the Aboriginal Education Council acknowledge and honour the traditional territory and history of the Okanagan (Syilx) People and Westbank First Nation as our host band. We also acknowledge the traditional teachings of our Elders and the wisdom of their Aboriginal culture.

In partnership, we will build on the success of Aboriginal students who self-identify as First Nation, Métis and Inuit. We continue to foster cultural awareness, cultural pride and improved student achievement for our Aboriginal learners. Our program continues to evolve to meet the needs of Aboriginal students, families and communities.

The Central Okanagan School District is a diverse learning community with a student population of 21,353 in the 2012/2013 school year, making us the fifth largest district in British Columbia. Nearly 10% (2,289) of these students are of Aboriginal ancestry.





TO INCREASE A SENSE OF BELONGING, SELF RESPECT,
AND PRIDE OF HERITAGE FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

RATIONALE

We believe that a student’s sense of belonging is fundamental to their school success and overall well-being. District data indicates that absences and tardiness are significantly higher for Aboriginal students than the general population in both elementary and secondary schools. Therefore, we are committed to implementing initiatives that increase a student’s sense of belonging.

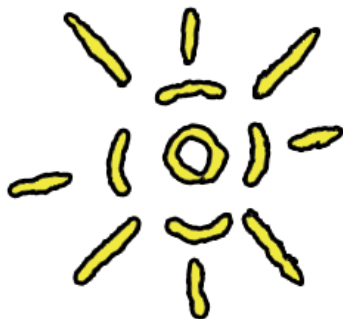


Ashley Alec
Mount Boucherie Secondary School

The attendance rate is reflective of students who are either at school or have been excused from school.

Our goal has been to ensure students are at school at least 95% of the time. For tracking purposes, we count students as absent from school if they are marked absent because reasons are either unknown or unexcused.

While we are approaching our attendance goal, we know that there is a long way to go in order to exceed our goal.



ATTENDANCE RATE

2012/2013	94.51%
2011/2012	94.23%
2010/2011	93.82%
2009/2010	95.56%
2008/2009	95.60%
2002/2003	91.79%



STUDENT RECOGNITION

We believe that we need to recognize our Aboriginal students' successes. We have students who are excelling at every level in and out of school. They are setting the bar higher for the rest of our students, and we wish that level of excellence for all of our students.

We have implemented a series of local recognition awards at the school and District level.

PROUD MOMENTS FOR OUR STUDENTS



Braeden Severied
Dr. Knox Middle
School
Soaring Eagle Award



Matt Browman
Rutland Senior
Secondary School
Valedictorian



Jade Cowen
École Kelowna
Secondary School
Emotional Award



Courtney Wheeler
Mount Boucherie
Secondary School
Valedictorian



Teghen Braun
École Kelowna
Secondary School
Spiritual Award



Austin Caissie
Chief Tomat
Elementary School
UBCO Science Fair
Award Winner



Kassidy O'Flynn
Okanagan Mission
Secondary School
Valedictorian

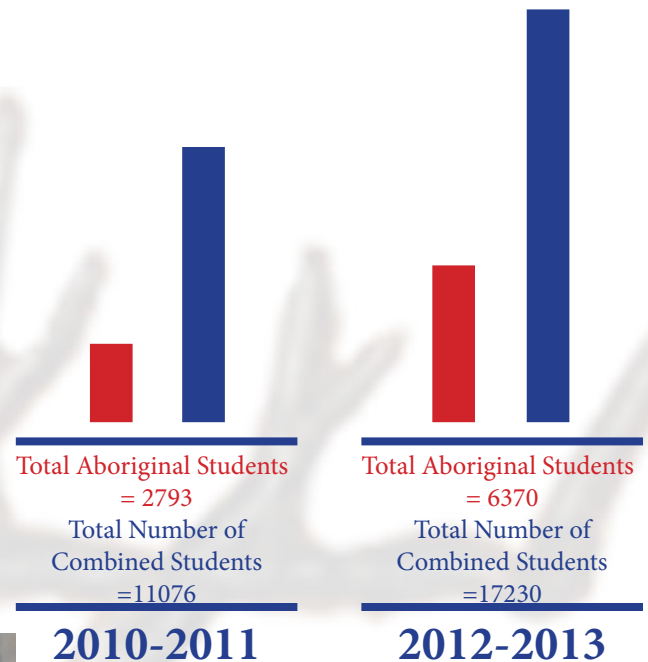


Sophia Kaiser
Watson Road
Elementary School
Kindergarten
Recognition

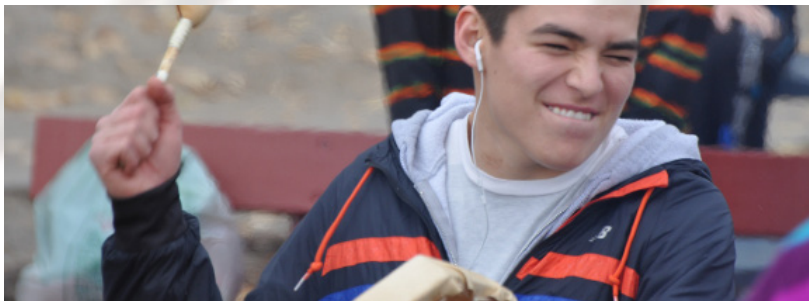


TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF ABORIGINAL HISTORY, TRADITIONS, CULTURE AND LANGUAGE.

Our commitment to increasing participation and exposure to Okanagan Language (nsyilxcen) as well as offering more school based and District cultural activities is evident in that our data indicates an overall improvement for both Aboriginal as well as non-Aboriginal students.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES



While the Aboriginal Education Program is in its infancy on collecting data regarding cultural connections with students, it is clear that students are getting significantly more cultural connections in 2013 than in 2011.

Canoeing CareerFair **Okanagan** Métis Siya

UBCO OkanaganCollege **Empower** Language
HarmonyDay **Leadership** Drumming **UnityStaff** Traditional

Graduation **Sports** Medicine **HoopDancing** StickGames

WinterGathering DrumMaking Ethnobotany

MedicineWheel **Protocols** CulturalBelonging **Smudging**

Drum-a-thon **PaddleTeam** EagleStaff

Powwow AboriginalDay Singing Workshops **Elders**



Academy of Indigenous Studies

Our goals for the academy are improved self-confidence, increased cultural awareness, academic achievement, and an increased connection to the school.

Currently, Mount Boucherie Secondary School offers First Peoples English 10-12, First Nations Studies 12, Aboriginal Leadership 10-12, and First Nations Art Studio as part of the Academy.



Work Ethic

A letter of Recommendation is awarded to a student who has made the Work Ethic List of Distinction in Academy courses. (20 credits)

Honour Roll

A certificate is presented to a student who has achieved Honour Roll in all Academy courses. (excluding final exams totaling 20 credits)



ACADEMY OF INDIGENOUS STUDIES

							Credits
Grade 10	Intro to Okanagan Language	Leadership	R' Native Voice	English 10 First Peoples			Possible 16
Grade 11	Okanagan Language 11	Leadership	R' Native Voice	English 11 First Peoples	First Nations Studies 12	First Nations Art Studio	Possible 24
Grade 12	Okanagan Language 11	Leadership	R' Native Voice	English 12 First Peoples	First Nations Studies 12	First Nations Art Studio	Possible 24

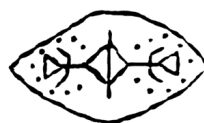


Principals List

A medallion is presented to a student who has achieved Honour Roll in each of the Academy courses. (20 credits)

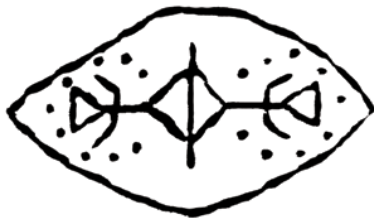
Award of Excellence

An honour drum is awarded to a student who has achieved a 4.0 GPA in Academy courses. (20 credits)



The Academy of Indigenous Studies is a full 30 credit program that can be taken by all secondary students throughout grades 10 through 12. While a broad focus of British Columbia First Nations culture is examined, students will experience a more holistic approach with the local Okanagan culture. Students will participate in authentic, hands-on Aboriginal activities aimed at enriching their understanding of the local culture while making a positive contribution to the community. This is a unique and innovative opportunity for students to gain a greater sense of how their interaction with local First Nation culture has an effect on future generations of British Columbians.

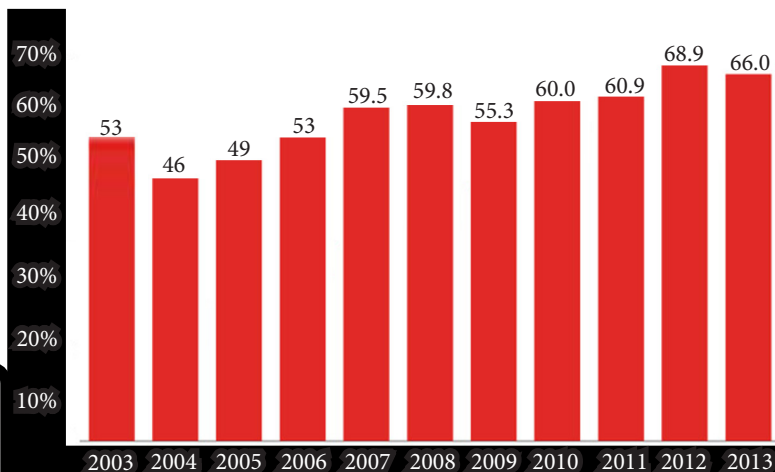
TO IMPROVE ABORIGINAL STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12.



Naneek Larete with Jordin Tootoo at the 2013 Aboriginal Grad Retreat



CENTRAL OKANAGAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SIX-YEAR COMPLETION RATE ABORIGINAL STUDENTS



The School District has continued to focus on meeting the goals of the Enhancement Agreement which has also had a positive impact on our Six-Year Completion Rate. The average graduation rate from 2003 to 2005 was 48% compared to the average of 65% achieved over the past three years.

INTERVENTIONS AND PROGRAMS

- Ongoing Advocate support at all school levels (K-12)
- Dedicated teacher tutorial support at all middle and secondary levels
- Academic support at all elementary and middle schools
- The implementation of Indigenous curriculum (K-12)
- The continuation of Girl Power, Teen Groups, the Paddle Team, Leadership Groups
- The Introduction of the Academy of Indigenous Study
- Culturally appropriate transition events

- Grade-specific Cultural gatherings
- Annual community forums
- Ongoing parental meetings in Aboriginal communities
- A District Resource teacher to coordinate and implement Indigenous curriculum (K-12)
- An Okanagan Language Instructor and Teacher providing Okanagan language teaching K-12
- A recently hired Aboriginal Youth and Family Counselor to support middle school youth and families

Noah Kaiser with PowWow dancers at the 2013 Primary Gathering





**WE BELIEVE STUDENTS MEETING AND/OR EXCEEDING GRADE LEVEL
EXPECTATIONS IN READING, WRITING, AND NUMERACY
WILL GRADUATE WITH A DOGWOOD CERTIFICATE
AND BE FULLY PREPARED FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION.**

Academic Grade Readiness is defined as a measure of the number of students successfully transitioning to the next grade level in all five core courses - Mathematics, Social Studies, English, Science, and Physical Education.

ACADEMIC GRADE READINESS

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Grade 7	86.3	89.9	92.8	96.8	97.5
Grade 8	77.3	85.6	85.0	86.8	95.2
Grade 9	80.6	70.0	83.2	80.5	88.1
Grade 10	56.3	59.5	61.2	58.8	63.9
Grade 11	49.6	62.5	58.3	58.5	73.0

Course completion has a direct correlation with success in transitioning to the next grade. We are currently tracking information about the number of students who have not successfully completed all five of their core courses from grades 4-12, and we are using this data as a major focus for intervention. The District's Data Warehouse is being used to track readiness intervention to support at-risk students and those working below their potential.



DISTRICT SNAPSHOT

Data Source	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
Early Learning Profile (Reduction of at-risk students)	K	33%	K	28%	K	35%	K	23%	K	n/a
	Gr. 1	27%	Gr. 1	34%	Gr. 1	30%	Gr. 1	29%	Gr. 1	n/a
	Gr. 2	18%	Gr. 2	24%	Gr. 2	20%	Gr. 2	20%	Gr. 2	n/a
	Gr. 3	17%	Gr. 3	16%	Gr. 3	15%	Gr. 3	14%	Gr. 3	14%
Math 10 Final Marks (C+ or better)	n/a		n/a		47%		44%		54%	
English 10 Final Marks (C+ or better)	54%		52%		48%		54%		63%	
Science 10 Final Marks (C+ or better)	49%		51%		53%		53%		66%	
Social Studies 11 Final Marks	48%		47%		44%		52%		53%	



PHYSICAL GOAL



Josh Dubrett
École KLO Middle
School
Provincial Lacrosse Team

Summer De Guevara
École Kelowna Secondary
Representing BC at 2014
North American Indigenous
Games U14 Girls Basketball



Aboriginal Education Program staff provide opportunities for students to receive healthy snacks, breakfast and lunches each day at school. Promotion of making healthy choices and living a healthy lifestyle is emphasized. Aboriginal Student Advocates also assist many families to access the local food bank and may also provide families with food hampers.

We have seen an increase in participation in physical activity including team sports in and out of school. School teams and traditional cultural activities were incorporated to increase participation in physical activity.



Payton Prince
Constable Neil Bruce
Middle School Girls
Basketball

Lenasia Ned
Mount Boucherie
Secondary School 2013
Athlete of the Year





ABORIGINAL STUDENTS WILL MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES THAT WILL ENHANCE THEIR WELL-BEING.



Mathew and Nicholas Alcorn
École Kelowna Secondary School
Mathew plays for the Burnaby Mountain Selects
Nicholas hopes to play Lacrosse in University while
studying Health Sciences

École Peter Greer Elementary Aboriginal Day
Powwow. This is a yearly event for students and
community members.



Jae Steinhauer Plays for the
Aboriginal Provincial Under 16 team and the
École Kelowna Secondary School Owls.





ABORIGINAL GRADUATION RETREAT

Annual Graduation Retreats

On November 16, 2012 and February 28, 2013 we celebrated two all day sessions with our graduates. Both events took place at Green Bay Camp and were a great success with a record number of graduates attending each session.



At the November event, we were honoured to invite NHL hockey player, Jordin Tootoo, who shared his life experiences and encouraged all of the students to work towards success, and overcome any barriers that stand in the way of their health and well-being. Jordin's speech was inspirational, and the students made a great connection with him. The students also made necklaces and enjoyed time by the fire outside.



In February, we gathered once again for a drum making workshop. The students worked alongside Emery and Bill Robins, Marlene Squakin and the Aboriginal Education staff to learn about drum protocols. The teachings included caring for the drum along with self-care. It was a great day and students left with a sense of pride and commitment to continuing their personal journey of learning their history, traditions and culture.





OUR FUTURE VISION FOR ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

GOALS OF OUR SECOND ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT

Our goals reflect the teachings of the Medicine Wheel and support the 40 Developmental Assets®



EMOTIONAL

Aboriginal students and families will attain a sense of belonging, self-respect, and pride of heritage.

SPIRITUAL

Aboriginal students will actively participate in Aboriginal teachings, traditions, culture and language.

PHYSICAL

Aboriginal students will make healthy choices that will enhance their physical well-being.

INTELLECTUAL

Aboriginal students will achieve high academic standards from K-12.



The Journey - Eagle Staff & Unity Staff

In Partnership with Westbank First Nation, Artist Chad Paul and Elder Delphine Derickson, the District Aboriginal Education Program and our Aboriginal Youth were honoured to receive two very significant Staffs. Carver Chad Paul, created a Unity Staff and an Eagle Staff to represent all Aboriginal Youth across Canada. The Eagle staff is one of the highest honours in the Okanagan territory, and it also carries the most power. Chad Paul presented the staff to Westbank First Nation Youth Quentin Scott, Lenasia Ned and Saige-Taylor Werstuik, who are now the carriers of the Eagle staff for the District.



Meeting at the Westbank First Nation Boardroom



Dipping the staff into Okanagan Lake



Quentin, Lenasia, Saige

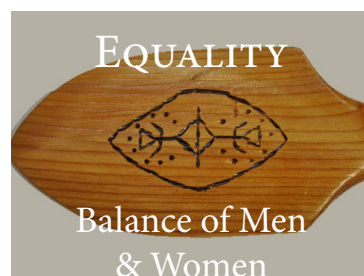
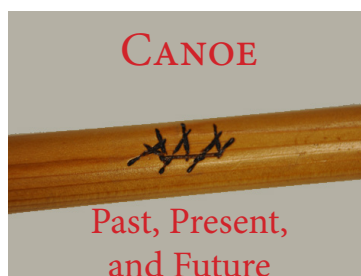


Ceremony at Mission Creek



St. John's Newfoundland

The Unity Staff is just as important, but it has a different purpose. It is meant to bring about cultural awareness and unite all youth together. Both of the staffs were part of a ceremony on the traditional Okanagan Syilx territory, on Okanagan Lake and at Mission Creek with the District School Board and the Honourable Minister of Education, Peter Fassbender present. The Staffs have since made their way from Westbank First Nation territory to St. John's Newfoundland to Halifax to Prince Edward Island and back to the Okanagan. The staffs were carried with pride by Quentin Scott, Lenasia Ned, and Saige-Taylor Werstuik to the Canadian Student Leadership Conference in Montague PEI, and they will open the 2014 Canadian Student Leadership Conference in 2014 Kelowna, BC. The plan in 2014 is to run the Unity Staff to all 43 schools in the Okanagan School District before they open the conference and Unity all of Canada at the conference.





COMMENTS FROM THE ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COUNCIL CHAIR

Message from Lorrie Hogaboam Councillor, Westbank First Nation



Over the past 11 years, the Aboriginal Education Council was comprised of members from Westbank First Nation, Okanagan Indian Band, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society, Kelowna Métis Association, Lake Country Native Association, Aboriginal Parent & Education Council, and the Central Okanagan School District Board of Education, and the Aboriginal Education Council has been a progressive Council that has been mindful of the overall betterment of education for the Aboriginal students within the Central Okanagan School District. We strive to be the catalyst of initiatives, progression, assessment, delivery of programs and achievement in a manner that benefits our students, culture awareness, and academic standings that increase successful completion, development and self identity.

Aboriginal Education Council

Moyra Baxter	Chairperson, Board of Education, Central Okanagan School District
Terry Beaudry	Assistant Superintendent, Central Okanagan School District
Ann Bell	Project Director, Lake Country Native Association
Mollie Bono	Councillor, Okanagan Indian Band
Deb Butler	Board of Education, Central Okanagan School District
Denise Clough	Education Coordinator, Westbank First Nation
James Coble	Okanagan Nation Alliance
Kevin Cutting	Kelowna Métis Association
Joanne De Guevara	District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Central Okanagan School District
Raf De Guevara	Westbank First Nation
Delphine Derickson	Elder Westbank First Nation
Roberta Robin Dods	Board Member Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
Hugh Gloster	Superintendent, Central Okanagan School District
Lorrie Hogaboam	Councillor, Westbank First Nation
Margaret Morton	Parent Representative, Aboriginal Parent and Family Education Council
Michelle Price	Parent Representative, Aboriginal Parent and Family Education Council
Val Richards	Kelowna Métis Association
Edna Terbasket	Executive Director, Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society
Joyce Brinkerhoff	Board of Education, Central Okanagan School District (Alternate)
Julia Fraser	Board of Education, Central Okanagan School District (Alternate)



Message from Moyra Baxter, Chairperson, Board of Education, Central Okanagan School District

“Our mission is to educate students to value learning, possess knowledge and skills, strive for personal excellence and physical health and well-being, experience success, exhibit responsible citizenship, enjoy life and meet challenges of change through a variety of defined programs and technologies, strong parent and community involvement and an effective, caring staff.”



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION PHOTO GALLERY

"TOGETHER, WE EMPOWER ABORIGINAL STUDENTS OF ALL NATIONS"



Grade 7 Stick Game Champions



Primary Winter Gathering



Grade 8 Gathering



Grade 8 Gathering Team Building



Peter Greer Aboriginal Day



Peter Greer Aboriginal Day



Grade 8 Gathering Drumming



Advocate Drum Making



Primary Winter Gathering



Peter Greer Aboriginal Day



Kelowna Museum



7 GENERATIONS STATUE

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVORS MONUMENT



The 7 Generations Statue / Residential School Survivor monument was commissioned by the Elders committee of Westbank First Nation to be a commemoration for residential school survivors, dedicated to the survivors themselves, but also includes each and every First Nation and Métis person past, present, and future. The statue depicts the images of 7 different people representing 7 generations with the Elder as the focal point as a symbol of our traditional knowledge system and the passing of knowledge from generation to generation. The figures are positioned on top of a drum, the heartbeat of our lives and symbol of resiliency.

“ Limlāmt, (Thank you) to Westbank First Nation Elders for permission to use this beautiful watermark “



Access our Second Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement and our Annual Reports on our website at
<http://www.sd23.bc.ca/ProgramsServices/AboriginalEducation>