



Dear GYPSD Community;

June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day, which is an opportunity for all members of Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) to recognize and celebrate First Nations, Metis and Inuit people – many whom are our students, professional colleagues, and families.

The Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day, now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day/Journée Nationale des Peuples Autochtone because, "generations of Indigenous Peoples have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year".

Each Indigenous group is beautifully unique as identified through language, culture, history and spiritual beliefs as a collective group. Using the Alberta Education Programs of Study, the GYPSD community is committed to developing foundational knowledge about First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples by understanding the historical, social, economic, and political implications identified in the Teacher Quality Standard that address:

- Treaties and agreements with First Nations;
- Legislation and agreements negotiated with Métis; and
- Residential schools and their legacy.

In addition, GYPSD students and staff can actively access Cree Language classes, attend Indigenous Leadership Camps held at the Palisades Centre, collaborate with the Indigenous Elders' Advisory Group and access knowledge and guidance from Indigenous stakeholders such as the Hinton Friendship Centre with whom GYPSD is blessed to have a rich and meaningful relationship.

This is a day of blessings.

kisê-manitow; kinanâskomitin kotak kîsikâw ê-miyiyan. nipakosêyimon anohc ta-miyiyan sîpêyihtamowin, kisêwâtisiwin, sipiyawêsiwin, mîna sâkihitowin.

sawêyimik kahkiyaw nitôtêmak mîna niwâhkômâkanak. hay hay.

PY L&D°: PaàndFN° dC' PY6° V FX5°x &<dYXJ° <= C FXXd° YVX"CJA°, PY4NYA°, YXXVA°, Fa YP"ADA°x YVXF' 6"PY° &DUL' Fa &4"dL6a'x "4" "4" Creator; I thank you for giving me another day.
I ask that today you grant me patience, kindness, tolerance, and love.
Bless all my friends and relatives.
Thank you.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Lewis