

## Hinton Friendship Centre and Crescent Valley Elementary School Partner to Deepen and Expand Indigenous Language and Cultural Learning

**Immediate Release: June 21, 2021** - On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Superintendent Lewis, Grande Yellowhead Public School Division (GYPSD) is pleased to share that Rod Armstrong, Principal of Crescent Valley Elementary School, and Lisa Higgerty, Executive Director of the Hinton Friendship Centre Society, have partnered to have Indigenous culture and language recognized throughout the school. The Hinton Friendship Centre gifted Crescent Valley with a teepee which was unveiled at the school site at a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, June 18, 2021. The attendees learned about the significance of the teepee and enjoyed a dance performance from “Colors Dancing In.”



continued



**HEARD** - the logo for the partnership identifies the five principles and values shaping this important collaboration: Honesty, Equity, Awareness, Reconciliation, and Dedication.

Superintendent Lewis stated, “the gathering and dedication marks a commitment to Reconciliation for our communities, families, and students - a commitment that the Grande Yellowhead Public School Division takes seriously. We look forward to working shoulder to shoulder with our elected officials to prepare our next generation of leaders for a society that is inclusive and respectful of Indigenous ways of teaching and learning.”

The Honorable Rick Wilson Minister of Indigenous Relations, MLA Martin Long, Mayor Marcel Michaels and Hinton Friendship President Robert Oshanyk attended the gifting and the installation of the teepee. In attendance from GYPSD were Board Chair Brenda Rosadiuk and Hinton Trustees Ellen Aust and Shirley Caputo, Superintendent Carolyn Lewis, Chief Deputy Superintendent Constantine Kastornos, and Managing Director of Learning Services, Carra Aschenmeier.

