



Indigenous Culture and Learning in GYPSD



Grande Yellowhead Public School Division is proud to collaborate with and learn from a number of partners to ensure that Indigenous perspectives, histories, languages, and cultures are appropriately included in our schools. Some of these partnerships include Alberta Education, local Friendship Centers, Edmonton Regional Learning Consortium, Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers, parents, teachers, community members, post-secondary institutions, the Palisades Stewardship Education Centre in Jasper National Park, the Aseniwuche Winewak Nation of Canada, and other community stakeholders and organizations. These essential relationships assist our Division to learn and understand the history and the legacy of residential schools, the Treaties, and the history of Indigenous peoples as part of GYPSD's commitment to the success of Indigenous students.

Indigenous Education Camp



The GYPSD Learning Services Team invites educators from across the province to attend the Division's Annual Indigenous Education Camp. In its 12th year, the camp, which focuses on building the knowledge and understanding of teachers to address Canada's history with its Indigenous Peoples, supports the integration of Indigenous culture, language, and ways of learning into classroom instruction.

Indigenous Pathways Newsletter



Each month, the Learning Services Team shares a newsletter to all lead teachers and school leaders. The goal of the newsletter is to provide supportive resources, and learning opportunities, and to connect each school's Indigenous Pathways Lead Teacher to their larger network.

Dr. Dwayne Donald - Canada's Research Chair



The Teaching Quality Standard and Leadership Quality Standard identify **Indigenous Foundational Knowledge** as an essential competency for Alberta's teachers and leaders and guide educators' daily work in their classrooms and schools.

Grande Yellowhead Public School Division's Learning Services team is collaborating with Dr. Dwayne Donald from the University of Alberta to provide professional development to teachers and instructional leaders as they work toward increasing Indigenous Foundational Knowledge that will inform teaching and leadership best practices.



Dr. Donald is a descendant of the amiskwaciyiniwak (Beaver Hills people) and the Papaschase Cree and works as a professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta. His work focuses on how Indigenous wisdom traditions can expand and enhance our understanding of curriculum and pedagogy. In June 2022, Dr. Donald was appointed Canada Research Chair to reimagine teacher education with Indigenous wisdom traditions.

Dr. Donald began working with the Division in 2021 and has presented at GYPSD's annual Indigenous Education Camp for the past two years. In June of 2022, Dr. Donald met with GYPSD's Indigenous Lead Teachers to begin their learning journey by examining personal and local Indigenous-Canadian relations theories.

The Indigenous Pathways' lead teachers participate in a course of study with Dr. Donald to inform personal and professional understandings of Indigenous Foundational Knowledge that support meeting and extending curricular outcomes, teacher pedagogy, and methodology at the community, school, and classroom levels.

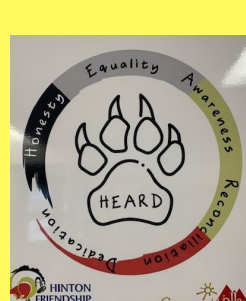
Public School Boards' Association of Alberta Special Recognition Award: Promoting and Advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action

The Division was very proud to be this year's recipient of the **PSBAA's 2022 Special Recognition Award for Promoting and Advancing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada** as it relates to education in Alberta!

The award is in recognition of the Indigenous Language and Culture Program partnership between Crescent Valley Elementary and the Hinton Friendship Centre.



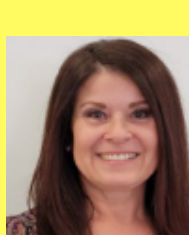
Yvonne Oshanyk, Executive Director of the Hinton Friendship Centre and Hinton School Board Trustee for GYPSD



Crescent Valley Principal **Rod Armstrong** and Indigenous Language and Culture Program teacher, **Landis Roan** of the Mountain Cree Camp



Metis language and culture teacher, **Sandra Davenport**, seen here with Indigenous Pathways' Team Coordinator Jennifer Albrecht, presented at the College of Alberta School Superintendents' 2023 First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Gathering



Language and Culture Alive in the Classroom.

Elementary students across GYPSD can access a Northern Cree and Michif language program taught by certificated teacher, **Ms. Sandra Davenport**, who has been teaching Plains Cree "Y" dialect for over 20 years in GYPSD. Currently, Wildwood School, Niton Central, Crescent Valley Elementary in Hinton, École Pine Grove Middle School in Edson, and both Sheldon Coates School and Summitview School in Grande Cache, welcome Ms. Davenport to work with their students from Grades 2 to 8. Ms. Davenport also works with self-identified Indigenous students at École Pine Grove to explore their culture through activities and story and collaborates with Grand Tunc instructors to address the learning outcomes in the grade 8 social studies curriculum. When not in the classroom, Ms. Davenport is a provincially recognized Métis language instructor, providing professional development through the **Rupertsland Institute**.

Originally from the historic Métis community of Ile-a-la-Croix, Saskatchewan, Sandra has called Edson home since 2002, teaching social studies and Métis language, while sharing her connection to her Métis culture. This educational opportunity is key to keeping Michif alive and well.

Ms. Davenport shows that language is related to all features of human life in society. And **comprehension of the culture informing the language is key to learning the language.** The language allows for the development and evolution of understanding and embracing Métis cultural values. "Language and culture are inextricably related. And you can't learn one without first knowing the other."