

# Professional Development Day

April 18, 2016

## Shape of the day

- Morning
- staffs to discuss key items related to curriculum implementation work from April 15<sup>th</sup>
  - staffs to discuss, explore, reflect on integrating Aboriginal knowledge and perspectives into learning
- Afternoon
- teachers to continue with curriculum implementation planning (individually or in a group)

## **Aboriginal Education – Integrating Aboriginal Knowledge and Perspectives into Learning**

The Ministry has designated one Pro-D Day this school year as a day for teachers to spend on topics related to Aboriginal Education. Rather than designate one day for this work, it has been decided that, like the Ministry's expectations regarding the integration of Aboriginal knowledge and perspectives into learning, this work should be embedded in the broad work of curriculum implementation, and not be seen as an "event". The Joint Pro-D Committee offers the following suggestions to teachers as ways to meaningfully engage in exploring this topic:

- Whole staff read and discuss the resource entitled *Aboriginal Worldviews and Perspectives in the Classroom – Moving Forward*. Hard copies have been provided. Electronic copies can be found at: [https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/awp\\_moving\\_forward.pdf](https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/awp_moving_forward.pdf)
- Review and discuss the resource entitled *Shared Learnings* (copies available in every school). This resource offers practical ideas for the integration of Aboriginal content into learning opportunities for students K-10. This resources is also available on-line at: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/shared.pdf>
- Head to the new curriculum website: <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum>. Once there, select a curriculum and grade (for example, grade 6 English Language Arts). At the bottom of the page you've selected, click on Aboriginal Education. Read and discuss.
- Visit the FNESC (First Nations Education Steering Committee) website at: <http://www.fnesc.ca/> This website offers varied and useful resources for teachers, such as *Teaching Math in a First People's Context - Grades 8 & 9, Indian Residential Schools*

and Reconciliation (grade 5), or In Our Own Words: Bringing Authentic First Peoples Content to the K-3 Classroom.

- Watch and discuss the powerful CBC produced 8<sup>th</sup> Fire series, available on-line at <http://www.cbc.ca/8thfire/> . Hosted by Wab Kinew, this documentary series focuses on the changing nature of Canada's relationship with its First Nations communities, and challenges that relationship between "us" and "them".
- Whole staff read and discuss the Aboriginal Principles of Learning, which can be found at [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/principles\\_of\\_learning.pdf](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/principles_of_learning.pdf) .
- Visit and discuss Project of Heart, a BCTF supported initiative in support of Aboriginal Day: <http://projectofheart.ca/bc/>
- Head to the BCTF website ([www.bctf.ca](http://www.bctf.ca)), and search the word 'aboriginal'. Here you'll find teaching resources, information on the Aboriginal Education Association, BCTF policy, information on creating racism-free schools, and lots more.
- Meet with teachers from other schools (grade groups, departments, etc) to review, discuss and plan the inclusion of Aboriginal content into learning experiences.
- Take time to learn more about Residential Schools and their legacy for Aboriginal people in our country. Google 'residential schools' to find a myriad of information that will help build understanding, compassion and empathy about this part of our history.
- Review and discuss the document entitled "Integrating Aboriginal Perspectives into Curricula: A Resource for Curriculum Developers, Teachers, and Administrators": [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/policy/abpersp/ab\\_persp.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/policy/abpersp/ab_persp.pdf) From Manitoba, it not only describes ways in which Aboriginal perspectives can be integrated into curricula, but also provides information about Aboriginal history/ways/traditions.
- Read and discuss an article from The Tyee called "Raising the Grade on What BC Kids Learn About Aboriginal People": <http://thetyee.ca/News/2012/09/10/BC-Aboriginal-Education/> . Look for links on the page to other interesting article on Aboriginal education.
- Visit and explore the Victoria School District Aboriginal Nations Education Division webpage: <https://aned.sd61.bc.ca/> Here you will find useful resources in support of integrating Aboriginal content, worldviews and perspectives into your program.
- The following site provides 10 easy ways to integrate Aboriginal content into your classroom: [http://sen.limestone.on.ca/student\\_engagement/3\\_4/files/10%20Things%20I%20Can%20Do%20booklet.pdf](http://sen.limestone.on.ca/student_engagement/3_4/files/10%20Things%20I%20Can%20Do%20booklet.pdf)
- Visit UBC's Indigenous Foundations website. This website provides detailed, accurate information on such topics as Aboriginal identity, government policies, residential schools, and global indigenous issues: <http://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/>