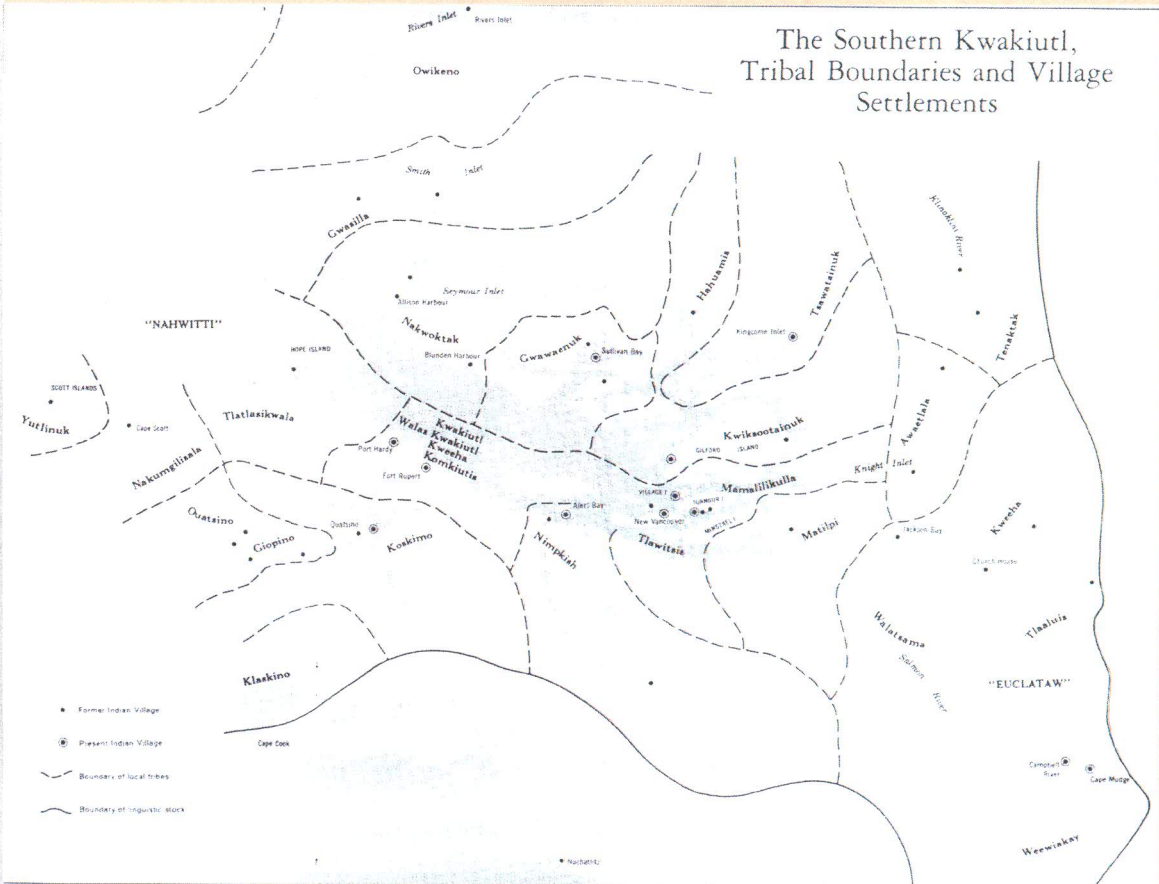


Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

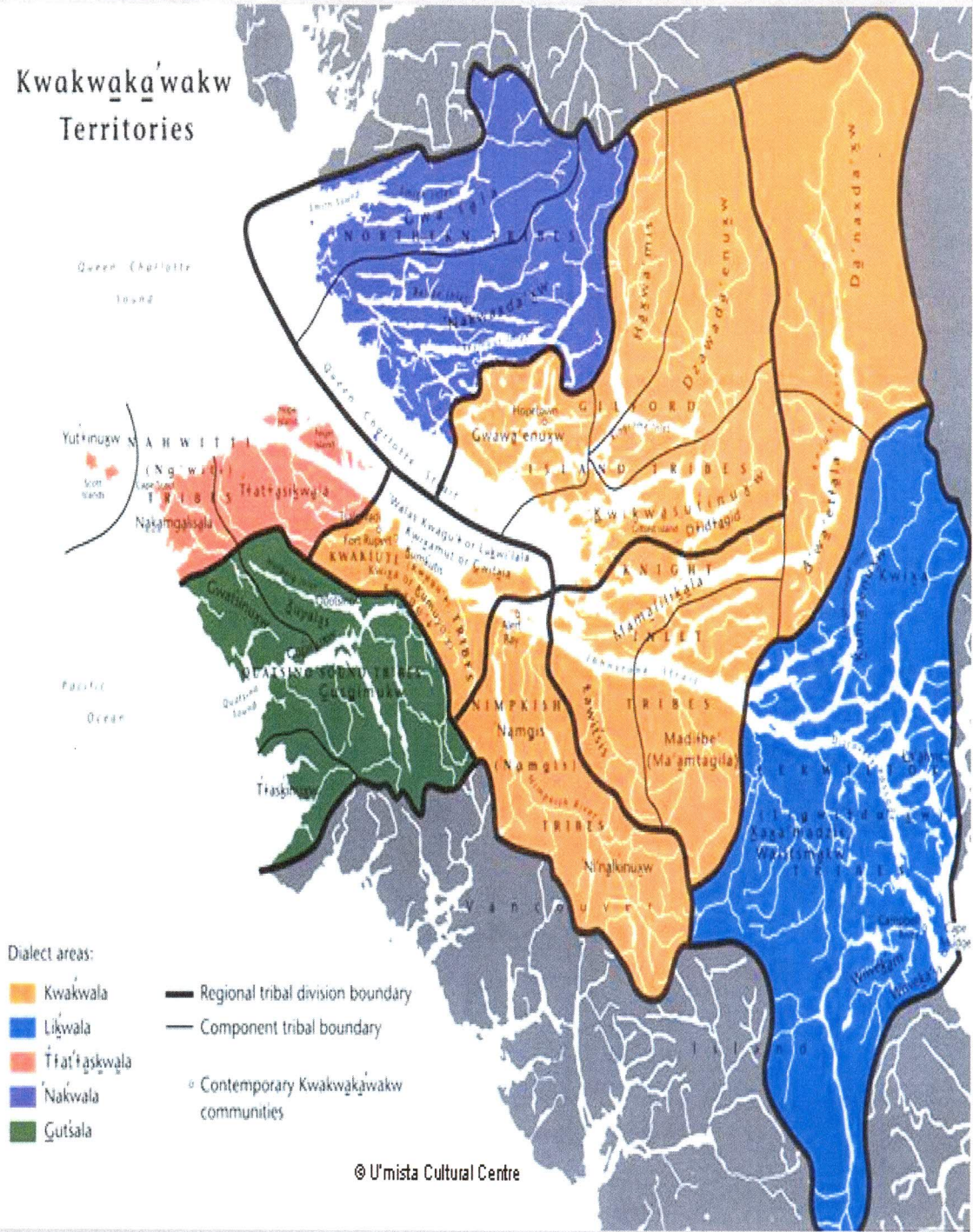


Vancouver Island North

School District

2005—2010

Kwakwaka'wakw Territories



- Dialect areas:
- Kwakwala
 - Likwala
 - Tfat'askwala
 - Nakwala
 - Gut'sala
- Regional tribal division boundary
 Component tribal boundary
 Contemporary Kwakwaka'wakw communities

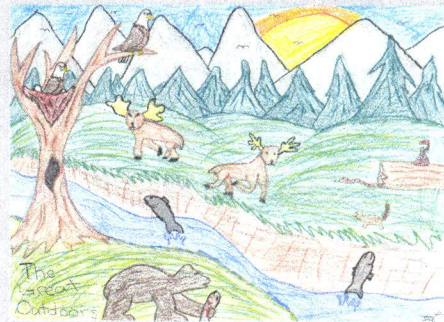
© U'mista Cultural Centre

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

Vancouver Island North and Kwakwaka'wakw Territories	1,2
Background Information	3
Purpose	4
Guiding Principals	4
Goals	5,6,7
Performance Targets and Implementation	5,6,7
Voices	8,9
Memorandum of Agreement	10

Background Information

SD#85 and First Nation Education Council initiated the Enhancement Agreement process. Twenty Aboriginal focus groups; elders, students, families, chiefs, band elected officials, Aboriginal off reserve representation and school staff, provided input on goal direction to improve the quality of education and achievement for all Aboriginal students. Community input meetings will continue.

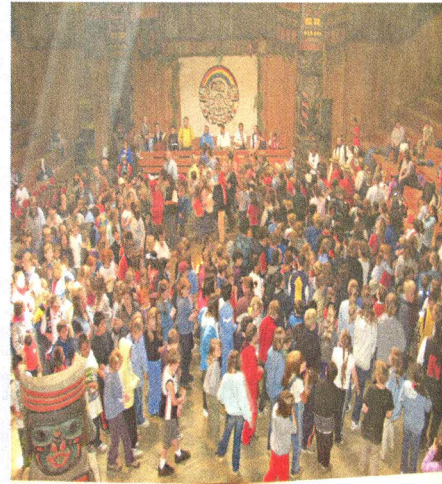


Joe Wilson

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

Purpose

Improve overall academic achievement of all Aboriginal students. Educate community members, parents and students on the value of education and the need for life long learning. Enhance language and cultural awareness within the school's environment. Connect the Enhancement Agreement within the SD#85 Accountability Contract.



Guiding Principles

- Honouring our territorial people and recognizing the importance of their leadership role in Aboriginal education.
- Educational programs and services that are based on research and best practice.
- A holistic educational approach to improve Aboriginal students' success.
- A commitment by School District No. 85 Aboriginal communities to encourage Aboriginal family involvement and engagement including strategies in goal areas.
- Recognizing Aboriginal families as a child's first educator.
- Increasing percentage of schools using British Columbia Ministry of Education Shared Learnings in all areas.

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

PREAMBLE:

Enhance school environment creating an atmosphere of success to increase level of trust and partnerships with parents and communities.



Russell Walkus

GOAL ONE:

The students will feel an increased sense of belonging & respect through their school experience.

Student Performance Indicators:

Increased provincial satisfaction survey percentages and results

Increased student attendance rates at the intermediate and secondary level

Increased results in School District No. 85 Student Survey Results in

the area of respect for diversity

Increased retention rates of Aboriginal student in all schools.



Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

PREAMBLE:

Maintain high standards for Aboriginal students in all areas of the students' school experience.



GOAL TWO:

Increase the number of ABORIGINAL students with academic success

Student Performance Indicators:

Increase number of Aboriginal students completing the BC graduation program with the BC Dogwood Diploma

Increased percentage of Aboriginal students successfully completing English 12

Increased percentage of Aboriginal students successfully completing Math 12

Increased Aboriginal student participation and success in senior academic courses

Increased year end grades at the secondary level in academic areas

Increased percentage of Aboriginal student participation and success in grade 11 science courses

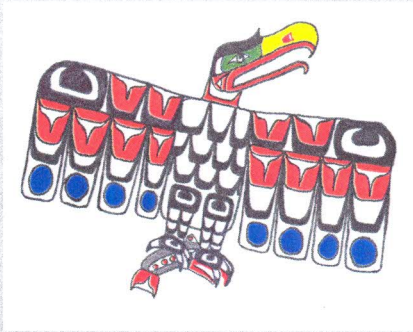
Increased Aboriginal grade 10 government exams from 2005 baselines

Increased percentage of Aboriginal students completing Principles Math 10

Increased Aboriginal intermediate level numeracy FSA results

Increased 'First Nation Early Literacy' level success rates of PM Benchmark assessments.

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement



George Hunt

PREAMBLE:

Acknowledge Aboriginal content in all curriculum areas which increases respect of Aboriginal cultures, values, history of our local communities and increases Aboriginal student sense of belonging.

GOAL THREE:

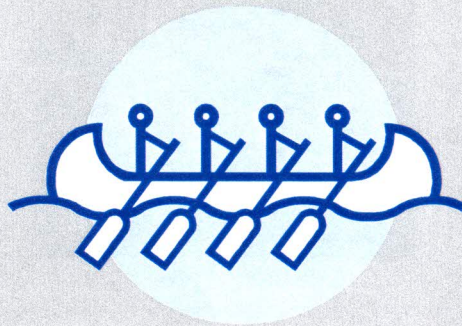
All students will experience an enhanced academic environment as a result of Aboriginal content at all levels of curriculum

Student Performance Indicators:

Increased BC First Nation Studies 12 participation rates for all students.

DART assessment results (performance standards) will demonstrate annual improvement of student achievement levels grades 4 to 9.

Increased PM Benchmark results at the primary level through the use of Aboriginal content reading materials.



Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

Marion Wright, Kwakiutl Chief Councilor

The Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement has included community dialogue and identified goals. The Ministry of Education and School District will work closely with the communities. We have always said in the past that the school system has failed our children. That is the history and with the Enhancement Agreement we will be looking at the future... Goal one is about values. The big house reflects the values of our people. The school environment: books, classroom organization, and teachers have values which may not reflect the First Nation community. This is where our children have difficulties. It is not the failure of a

child; but the failure of a system. The ministry and school district have a big job ahead of them. In order to create a sense of belonging for the First Nation students, the very values embedded in the school system must be examined. This is going to be difficult as they are so ingrained in the system and hard to change. When the public education system begins to understand in a positive way the cultural differences between non-native and native then education will be beneficial and a better experience for our children. I know it is a big task, but with the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement this will be achieved.

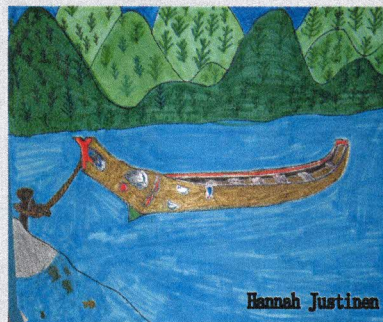
Goal two is about graduating. These young children will be graduating. When they graduate they will

make a symbolic walk. It means a lot. They have overcome great obstacles and our communities must do everything we can to help our children make that symbolic walk. A slogan our children chose at grad night 'tomorrow begins tonight' and how true for grads.

Goal three is about Aboriginal curriculum. The goal increases respect for Aboriginal culture, values history and increase sense of belonging, which goes back to the values. When we build education around the enormously rich culture; we begin to see the values and beliefs that are most important to us. This validates a culture and validates what is most important to us.

Hereditary Chief Tony Hunt

Welcome chiefs, elders, Kwakiutl, other chiefs, children—our future generations. We built this house a long time ago to carry on our tradition and in the big house we respect. I like to think anything we do to further education is the most important thing we do to further knowledge. In a modern day we need tradition and respect.



Dennis Umpleby, FNEC Chair – Our community journey goes back about three years, our first meeting was in a room with no window and adversarial, but after the third meeting we all realized we were there for the children. I think once everyone realize we wanted the same thing it was easier... June 2003 to June 2005, it took two years, but we have the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement and it was done in collaboration with the First Nation communities.

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement



Wendi Dunlop, CUPE

All CUPE members applaud the commitment for all our children that has our communities working together strengthens our communities and gives us a vision for the future.

Trish Rosborough, Ministry of Education Aboriginal Education Branch

It is a privilege and an honour to be here today to sign this agreement. The ministry pays attention, even though we are far away, we pay attention to what is going on in the school district and in the province. We know where the work is happening. We know what is going on and we want to support that work especially where kids know who they are.

Basil Ambers, Elder

I can't think of anything more sacred than to come here and sign this agreement for our children. That to us is very important...education is the backbone of our community. We hope this is a new start. Our elders recognize that and our chiefs have worked hard...we recognize our children need a better education and they need to be better armed in order to live in today's environment.

Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement