

SD8 Kootenay Lake
Aboriginal Education and
the NFB Present:

THE ROAD FORWARD

A Musical Documentary by Marie Clements

Presenting a free virtual
screening. Simply click the link
below to watch! The film is
available for a 24 hour period.

**FRIDAY MAY 8TH 630PM PST
- MAY 9TH 630PM PST.**

[**LINK HERE**](#)

Please note that there are difficult scenes in this movie involving residential schooling and trauma. We recommend this film for ages 13 and up. Please consider these aspects before watching with younger viewers, and take care of yourself and those around you. [Click here](#) for a compilation of our favourite Indigenous wellness resources.



School District 8
Kootenay Lake





SD8 Kootenay Lake - Aboriginal Equity Scan

The Equity Scan is a district wide initiative to discuss and grow an understanding of Equity for Aboriginal Learners which involves a scan of pedagogy, learning environment, policy and governance, and individual student academic profiles. BC Ministry of Education data clearly tells us that there is an achievement gap that exists as early on as the grade 4 and grade 7 FSA results, all the way to the top of our data with School Completion results and Graduation results. The achievement gap remains relatively the same as we look back in data for the past 10-15 years. This is not a district phenomenon, but rather a provincial one.

The Equity Scan has been completed at all schools in the district, the ABED department, PVP and the school board. The ABED department is continuing to look at individual student data and intervene earlier with individualized supports. We are continuing to grow awareness of what equity is and how we can support Indigenous learners.

The Equity Scan survey was released and data has been created from input at all levels of the School District: Trustees, Admin, Teachers and CUPE staff, Community members, families, and Students. From the data, we have learned that there are promising practices and barriers that impact Indigenous student success in our School District.

Promising practices from the data show growth and/or understanding in:

- awareness of Aboriginal students, knowledge, and history;
- engagement in Aboriginal content and with Aboriginal community;
- importance of territorial acknowledgement;
- six year completion rates are on the rise;
- openness to learn and engage in the process of improving Aboriginal academic achievement.

The barriers identified in the data include:

- issues of implicit bias and systemic racism;
- Support for first steps and/or next steps in equity work;
- training, supports and resources.

To conclude, we are focusing on what we are missing and what our next steps are. This is a reminder that Reconciliation is a shared journey. There is a lot of work to do and this will take time, patience, compassion and understanding. The ABED department is focusing on academic support and individual monitoring, in partnership with school teams. We want to continue to structure academic interventions earlier, in an effort to close the achievement gap. Partnerships with school teams, families, and community will be essential in this work. We will all need to have patience as we continue this journey together, and as our collective understanding grows.