

**School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake)
Aboriginal Education**

**Aboriginal Committee of Education (ACE)
Guiding Principles and Protocols**

Mandate

To provide a venue where all voices are heard for shared decision-making between the Aboriginal Committee of Education and the School District.

Values

Together we believe in:

- Honouring the peoples on whose traditional territories we are honoured to work upon and recognizing the importance of their leadership role in Indigenous Education;
- Honoring partnerships with the Metis Nation;
- Making “Our children our focus” - we will focus our discussion on the educational needs of our students, not on political issues;
- Protecting the integrity and accountability of targeted funding for Aboriginal Education;
- Sharing Indigenous worldviews;
- Sharing responsibility in providing quality education for our children and families;
- Respecting and honouring the teachings from territory partners and cultural diversity with the Indigenous community;
- Working together in the spirit of cooperation ensuring a safe, respectful environment for voices to be heard

Responsibilities

We will work in partnership to:

- Support the District Aboriginal Education team
- Support and provide feedback for the revision and renewal of District Aboriginal Education goals
- Identify needs and gaps in services for Aboriginal students
- Provide general advice and direction around Aboriginal Education
- Support the development of localized resources

Decision Making Process

In alignment with BC Tripartite Education Agreements, decisions will be made ideally through consensus; however, if consensus is unable to be reached a vote will be called by the Chairperson. Voting will take place with those present at the meeting. With over 50% in favour the decision will be documented in the minutes. Final recommendations will be brought to the Board of Education by the District team.

Composition

- District Principal of Aboriginal Education
- 2 Trustees
- Superintendent
- 1 Principal or Vice Principal
- 2 KLTF Representatives
- 1 CUPE Representative
- 1 Representative from each Nation: Lower Kootenay Band (Yaqan Nukiy), Sinixt (Lakes), Syilx (Okanagan), Secwepemc (Shuswap), and Metis Nation
- Elders and/or Knowledge Keepers
- 2 Aboriginal Education Students
- District Indigenization Coordinator

Chairperson Role Description

The meetings will be chaired by the District Principal of Aboriginal Education or Indigenization Coordinator/s. The chairperson will ensure that meetings are respectful and that each participant's voice is heard. The chairperson will ensure that meetings start and end on time. The chairperson will develop the agenda for each meeting and share ahead of time with ACE members.

Communication

Agendas and minutes from previous meetings will be sent out one week before the meeting. Agenda request items can be emailed to the Chairperson at least two weeks prior to the meeting date. Meeting dates will be determined at the first meeting for the remainder of the school year. Minutes from each meeting will be provided to the Board of Education and will be posted on the SD8 website.

Code of Conduct

Treat people with respect, caring, and kindness

Updated: September 22, 2023

Approved: _____ - ACE



School District 8
Kootenay Lake

- Bring out concerns in a good way
- Be considerate of others
- Reciprocal respect to all members of the committee

Be respectful of all cultural beliefs and customs

- Have respect and honour for all beliefs and customs
- Act and speak with pride and dignity of all peoples
- Honour the belief of supporting unity amongst all people

Respect opposing points of view and work cooperatively towards a common goal

- Be appreciative of diversity, honest with opinion, and respectful of others even in disagreement

Provide support for one another by:

- Working cooperatively with each other to solve problems and support mutual concerns.
- Honouring and respecting commitments to family, community and organizations.
- Supporting and working towards ongoing development of the program.
- Recognizing that all individuals bring benefits and insight to the circle from their diverse life experiences.
- Committing to information sharing, cultural reinforcement, life-long learning and a holistic approach to child and family development.

Approach discussions with a clear mind by:

- Attending meetings on time, in a proper frame of mind.
- Welcoming information and guidance from all.
- Constructively sharing points of view and suggestions.
- Recognizing that time and energy may be limited.
- Endeavoring to keep disagreements and controversies impersonal and thereby promote unity.

Duty

Each member will act in utmost good faith. No member shall place themselves in a position where there is a conflict between duties as a council member and other interests including positions within the district.

Disclosure

There may be times at which a member may find themselves within a possible conflict of interest. Every member will disclose any possible conflict of interest and remove themselves from the discussion until the conflict matter has been dealt with.

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Time of Declaration

A member will disclose any conflict of interest at the first possible meeting when the issue will be discussed.

Confidentiality

The following are not within our mandate as a group:

- Personnel matters: HR and Labour Management issues
- Personal and confidential information on students, parents, teachers, other employees, and members of the school community
- Performance or conduct of individual employees, students, parents, and members of the school community
- Terms and conditions of employment contracts: CUPE, TF, PVP/Exempt

Members will not divulge information that has been termed confidential concerning any matter, e.g. students, staff, projects, proposal submissions to any person, whether they are directly involved or not.

Reviewing the Guiding Principles and Protocols

This document will be reviewed annually