

Seabird Island

# Education Strategic Plan

2023-01-18





## **Department of Education Quarterly Report to Seabird Community**

The education program has been very busy in the beginning stages of implementing education jurisdiction at Seabird Island Band. Throughout this process, a five-year strategic work plan has been developed.

# Executive Summary

First Nations Control over First Nations Education, has been grounded in the inherent and aboriginal right of Indigenous peoples enshrined in s. 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 and set out as a minimum standard in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Secondly, the position paper First Nation's control First Nation's Education that was adopted by AFN in 2010 reaffirms the 1972 position paper entitled "Indian control of Indian Education" .

This paper reaffirms 2 fundamental principles relating to Education:

- Parental Responsibility
- Local Control

Indigenous parents must have **FULL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONTROL OF EDUCATION**. Until now, decisions on the Education of the Indigenous children have been made by anyone and everyone, except Indigenous parents.



## **Executive Summary cont.**

The Province of British Columbia, recently passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, assented to November 28, 2019, to bring the laws of British Columbia in line with the UN standards. In accordance with the Section 4 of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) requires the Province to develop and implement an action plan to meet the objectives of the UN Declaration, and to do so in consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples. The Declaration Act Action Plan, released on March 30, 2022, includes collectively identified goals and outcomes that form the long-term vision for implementing the UN Declaration in B.C. It also has 89 priority actions - tangible steps that will advance this work in key areas over the next five years. (included in Education Strategic Plan).

## Executive Summary cont.

The Province of British Columbia entered into the Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreement with the government of Canada and the First Nations Education Steering Committee on July 5, 2006. The Government of Canada has enacted the First Nations Jurisdiction over Education in British Columbia Act, S.C. 2006, c. 10; Section 9 (1) of the First Nations Jurisdiction over Education in British Columbia Act (Canada) authorizes, to the extent provided by an individual agreement between the government of Canada and a participating First Nation, the participating First Nation to enact laws respecting education on First Nation land.

The Seabird Island ratified education jurisdiction in December 2021 and assumed jurisdiction over education on Seabird Island Band as of July 1, 2022.

# **5 year Strategic Plan to implement Education Jurisdiction over K-12 as per Seabird Island Education Law**



# SEABIRD ISLAND EDUCATION LAW

## *Principles*

1. Seabird Island recognizes the following principles in respect of its education system:
  - a. Students will have access to educational opportunities that:
    - i. ensure students are supported in a safe environment that fosters their academic, social, cultural, linguistic, emotional, technological, and physical success.
    - ii. respect, promote and build students' unique Indigenous cultures including family, self-identity, traditions and values.
    - iii. give students the skills they need to thrive in contemporary society, including 21<sup>st</sup> century technological skills; and
    - iv. prepare them to access any opportunities they choose for higher learning, employment, and life choices.
  - b. The Seabird Island education system will align with Seabird Island's Comprehensive Sustainable Community Plan and the Strategic Plan, including all elements of leadership, environment, culture, healing, health and wellness, and infrastructure.
  - c. Seabird Island's education system will link students with other community resources such as social, health, economic, youth and other services as a demonstration of a commitment to complete student wellness and an integrated system of supports.



# SEABIRD ISLAND EDUCATION LAW

## *Principles cont.*

- d. Students have a right to education which respects Stó:lo language and culture. Seabird Island will respect the range of Indigenous cultures and approaches to culture- which vary from family to family - and treat this diversity as an opportunity for learning and respect.
- e. The education of students is recognized to be a shared responsibility between the school, student, parent/guardian(s), family, and community. Accordingly, the school will work collaboratively with all elements to ensure the success of students.
- f. Regular and on-going communication and dialogue between the student, parent, guardian and school are essential for student success. In ensuring positive communication, the school will consider parental capacity and utilize appropriate outreach communication and, where appropriate, communicate with other family members.
- g. Foundational skills are recognized as key to student success, including literacy and numeracy, and educational programming will reflect this principle.
- h. Seabird Island places significant importance on kindergarten readiness and will ensure efforts with community partners to maximize early success as a building block for school success and adult life.
- i. Seabird Island is committed to the transitional success of all graduating students to post-secondary education or work.
- j. Seabird Island education will promote and build student independence and self-reliance, creating strong role models for future generations.



## ***SEABIRD ISLAND EDUCATION LAW cont.***

### ***Parents' rights and responsibilities***

6. A parent of a student of school age attending the Lalme'lwesawtexw (Seabird Island Community School) is entitled:
  - a. to be informed of the student's attendance, behaviour and progress in school in a timely manner; and
  - b. to belong to a parents' committee, if one has been established.
7. A parent of a student of school age attending the Lalme'lwesawtexw (Seabird Island Community School):
  - a. has a right and responsibility to consult with the teacher or principal with respect to the student's education program; and
  - b. must, at the request of a teacher or principal, meet with the teacher or principal regarding the student's educational program.
8. A parent of a student of school age attending the Lalme'lwesawtexw (Seabird Island Community School) should ensure that their student has their basic needs met (housing, clothing and food), is prepared for the day, attending regularly, is obtaining adequate sleep, and should engage with the school in support of their student.

## ***SEABIRD ISLAND EDUCATION LAW Cont.***

### ***Accountability to Members***

38. The Education Committee must prepare and submit to Council reports and statements in the form, with the information and at the time required by Council.
39. The Education Committee must hold an annual meeting that will be open to all Members, students and parents of the school and members of the parents' committee.
40. At each annual meeting, the Education Committee must:
  - a. provide updates on the First Nation school's annual activities; and
  - b. provide a financial report on the most recent fiscal year;
41. The Education Committee will provide an aggregate outcome report on student performance to parents of school age students.



## ***SEABIRD ISLAND EDUCATION LAW cont.***

### ***Input of non-Members***

42. If a parents' committee has not been established under section 8 and there are non-Member students enrolled in the First Nation school who are 18 years of age or younger, the Education Committee will establish a committee made up of parents of those non-Member students to allow parents of non-Member students to have input into the Education Committee's decision-making process with respect to programs and services which directly and significantly affect their rights as parents.

## Strategic Goals/Objectives

The 5-year strategic goals and priorities are grounded in the vision and mission for the exercise of jurisdiction and the full implementation of Seabird Island education law, as an expression of the will of the Seabird Island peoples.

The following 5 priority areas identified rely on best practices espoused in the national standards set out in the policy position of First Nations Control of First Nations Education (AFN 2010), the minimum standards as set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Articles 3,4 and 5), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission-Calls to Action 62 and 63, and most recently by the Province of British Columbia's Declaration Action Plan 2022-2027, where they align with Seabird Island education priorities;

- 1) Seabird Island Education Law: Education Jurisdiction Governance
- 2) Halq'emaylem Language and Cultural Teachings core curriculum development
- 3) Reviewing & Decolonizing School Policies & Procedures
- 4) Develop Annual School Growth Plans for Foundational Skills for Student Success
- 5) Parental Engagement Strategy
- 6) Provincial Ministry of Education Curriculum Review-DRIPA and TRC compliant
- 7) Facilities Feasibility study- Seabird School and Seabird College
- 8) Inter-agency approach for student success

## Goal 1 – Education School Governance

2023

- Establish Education Board
- Oversee Professional development for staff
- Define terms of Reference
- Setting Educational Goals
- Revisit Mission and Vision Statement
- Prepare an annual Budget and provide to Council for approval
- Ongoing Policy development and Regulations (annually)
- Annual open meetings to members

2024

- Budget and Financial Restraints
- Conflict of Interest guidelines
- Oath of Guidelines
- Develop policies and procedures related to appeals of administrative
- Develop Board Member handbook and TOR
- Develop orientation procedures for new board Members
- Prepare an annual Budget and provide Council for approval
- Policy development for Removal and Appointment of Committee Members
- Develop policy and procedures on appeals.
- Review Policy and procedures

2025

- Review Student Assessment Strategies
- Open Meetings to Members
- Prepare an annual Budget and provide Council for approval
- Removal and appointment of Committee members
- Prepare an annual Budget and provide Council for approval

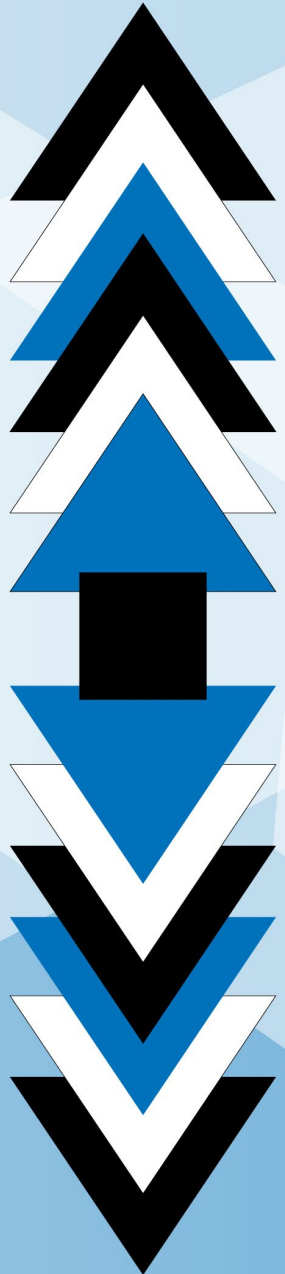
## Goal 1 – Education School Governance

2026

- Prepare in annual Budget and provide Council for approval
- Ongoing Policy Development and Regulations
- Ongoing Board development

2027

- Ongoing Policy development and Regulations
- Prepare an annual Budget and provide Council for approval
- Ongoing Board development





## **Goal 2 – Local Education Agreements**

2023-2027

Ongoing monitoring of students attending SD78 & SD33



## Goal 3 - Language & Cultural Teachings

2023

- Review all existing resources for Halq'emaylem
- Review all existing staff positions for language and culture
- Language Planning
- Translate and develop vision and mission statement to Halq'emaylem based on Sto:lo Worldview
- Review all Halq'emaylem Language staff positions and address the gaps
- Develop an oral language program with 10-15 community members becoming fluent in Halq'emaylem language annually (Washington State Model)
- Identify cultural resource knowledge keepers and language coaches

2024

- Determine need for resources and Personnel for full implementation of Halq'emaylem and traditional teachings
- Develop Halq'emaylem conversational course in partnership with UFV
- Translate all written resources to oral and digitize all written resources
- Identify and recruit cultural resource knowledge keepers and language coaches
- Develop an oral language program with 10-15 community members becoming fluent in Halq'emaylem language annually

## Goal 3 - Language & Cultural Teachings

2025

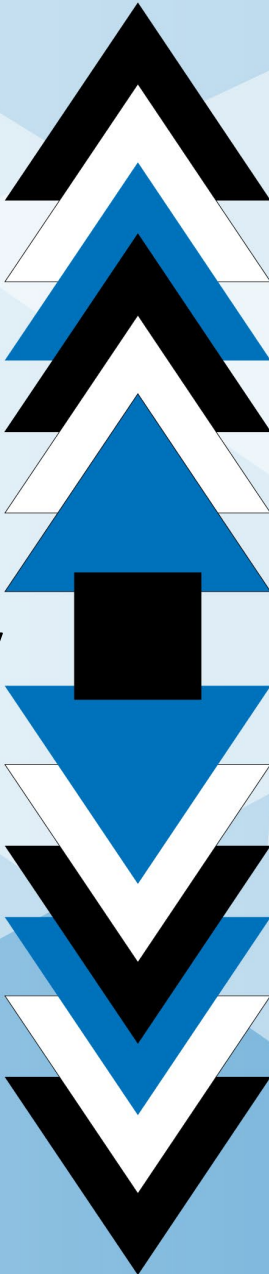
- Create a local history high-school course elective
- Offer Silent speaker program that was co-written with psychologists through Seabird College

2026

- Develop standard assessments for oral language proficiency
- Traditional and Ecological methodologies high school credit development
- Retain cultural resource knowledge keepers and language coaches
- Retain speakers from other areas as resource people if required
- Retain cultural resource knowledge keepers and language coaches
- Continue with the oral language program to have 10-15 community members become fluent in Halq'emaylem

2027

- Develop Standard Assessments oral language fluency
- Identify cultural resource knowledge keepers and language coaches
- Develop an oral language program by 10-15 community members become fluent in Halq'emaylem



## Goal 4 – Language Program

### 2023

- Develop a 4-year language program to be offered at Seabird College leading to a certificate, diploma and degree in partnership with UVIC
- Develop standard assessments

### 2026

- Continue Standard assessments

### 2024

- Continue the 4-year language program
- Continue Standard assessments

### 2025

- Continue Standard assessments

### 2027

- Halq'emaylem with traditional teachings as Certificate, Diploma, and Degree

## Goal 5 - Reviewing & Decolonizing School Policies

### 2023

- Review student discipline and establish alternative programming for high risk and at risk students
- Review of Special Needs Policy and Seabird Community School Procedures
- Research alternative measures for youth

### 2024

- Implement new student discipline and alternative programming if required
- Revise Special Needs Policy and procedures if required

### 2025

- Begin consultations with the matriarchal society, child & family services and the cultural committee to research the traditional child rearing practices and implement the teachings

### 2026-2027

- Continue new Implementations and revise if necessary



## Goal 6 - School Annual Growth Plan

*“Foundational skills are recognized as a key to student success, including literacy and numeracy, and educational programming will reflect this principle.”*

*“Students have a right to education which respects Sto:lo language and culture.”*

### 2023

- Literacy, numeracy, technology
- Language & Traditional teachings Include Parental Voice
- Review suspension and expulsion policy
- Review the Student Code of Conduct & Student Discipline Policy
- To establish Extra-curricular activities
- Annual Review of School Policies and Procedures

### 2024

- Literacy, numeracy, technology
- Language and Traditional teachings
- Include parental voice
- Improving student attendance
- Review suspension and expulsion policy
- Review the Student Code of Conduct and Student Discipline Policy

### 2025

- Literacy, numeracy, technology
- Language and Traditional teachings
- Include parental voice
- Improving student attendance
- Review suspension and expulsion policy
- Review the Student Code of Conduct



## Goal 6 - School Annual Growth Plan

### 2026

- Literacy, numeracy, technology
- Language and Traditional teachings
- Include parental voice
- Improving student attendance
- Review suspension and expulsion policy
- Review the Student Code of Conduct and Student Discipline Policy
- Design and life skills course

### 2027

- Literacy, numeracy, technology
- Language and Traditional teachings
- Include parental voice
- Improving student attendance
- Review suspension and expulsion policy
- Review teacher planning and Student Assessment
- Life skills course

## Goal 7 – Parent Engagement

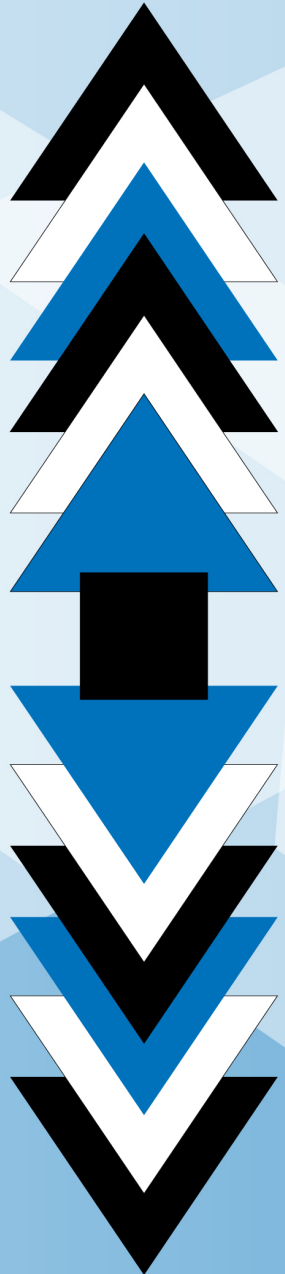
*All participants of students attending Lalme';wesawtexw (Seabird Island Community School) Seabird Island Community School are entitled to participate as full members on the parents committee*

### 2023

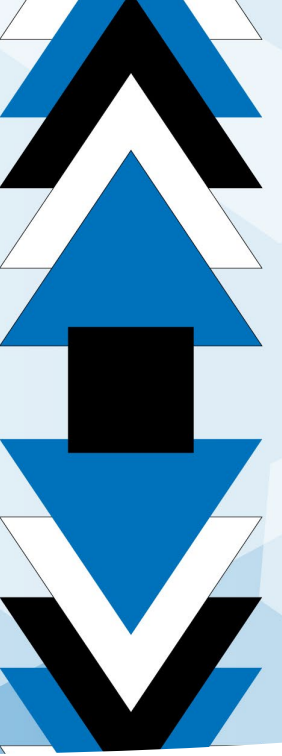
- Establish an effective parent engagement strategy
- Establish a parent Committee & TOR and encourage parent involvement in the school
- Goals is to have Seabird School become a community school that is responsive to needs of parents and students
- Host parent workshops in trauma informed practices etc.
- Do a parent Survey for language, cultural teachings inclusion into Seabird School core curriculum
- Set up 3 reporting Periods per year Christmas concern, open house to explain curriculum, setting up a date when to inform parents whether the students are failing – Year end

### 2024 - 2025

- Organize parent activities and Events effective communication with parents ie) teachers have daily logs. Parent top have any input in respect to any program or service
- Host parent workshops in trauma informed practices etc.







## Goal 7 – Parent Engagement

### 2026 - 2027

- Establish an effective parent engagement strategy
- Establish a parent Committee & TOR and encourage parent involvement in the school
- Goals is to have Seabird School become a community school that is responsive to needs of parents and students
- Host parent workshops in trauma informed practices etc



## Goal 8 - Ministry Curriculum Review

### 2023

- Social Studies (Doctrine of Discovery vs. Title Rights Terra nulia/Doctrine of Discovery)

### 2024

- Science Review

### 2025

- Develop High School level courses on Sto:lo rights on uncaded territory
- English literacy

### 2026

- Design grade 12 graduation requirements

The slide features a light blue background with a vertical column of blue stars of varying sizes and shades. On the left, there are overlapping geometric shapes in shades of green and yellow. On the right, there are overlapping geometric shapes in shades of blue and purple.

## **Goal 9 – Feasibility Study**

**2023-2027**

- Review Infrastructure
- Design Infrastructure

## Goal 10 – Inter-Agency Approach

*Seabird Island's education system will link students with other community resources such as social, health, economic, youth, and other services as a demonstration of a commitment to complete student wellness and an integrated system of supports.*

### **2023-2027**

- Ensuring Students basic needs are met by linking students to other community services





Any questions or comments