



Education Quarterly Report

July 2023





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Seabird Island
Education

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[1] Education Jurisdiction and Governance

On July 11, 2022 Seabird Island Band concluded their self government agreement regarding education on their lands. Through the signed education jurisdiction agreement with Canada, Seabird now has recognized law-making authority over kindergarten-grade 12 education systems, including authority over teacher certification, school certification, graduation requirements, curriculum and course approvals.

On June 12th, 2023, the **Education Jurisdiction Framework Agreement** between Canada, BC, FNEC and FNEA was updated. The purpose of this updated Agreement is to provide a Framework for the full implementation of Education Jurisdiction Initiative.

Seabird Island Band will require a Steering Committee to negotiate a partnership agreement with FNEC and adequate funding for full implementation of jurisdiction.



Education Jurisdiction and Governance con't

Terms of Reference Education Committee- being updated to reflect Seabird Island Band Education Law and Jurisdiction.

- Current members: Brooke Bobb Reid, Teresa Peters, Edie Karacsonyi, Wayne Bobb
- Portfolio members: Chaundine Fisher, Sally Hope, Rod Peters
- Professional Development planned for the members
- 5-year Strategic Planning: meetings are being scheduled with members and facilitators.
- Consistent with Seabird Education Law parents and guardians are welcome to attend the Education Committee meetings.
- Next meeting date: August 17th, 2023



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[2] Stakeholder Engagement

- **Education Community meetings on Education Jurisdiction** facilitated by Mark Point have commenced with the first one held on June 20, 2023.
 - The next community meeting will be held on August 2, 2023 starting at 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - All community members, Chief and Council, Seabird Island staff are cordially invited.
- **Parent Advisory Committee** was formed. There have been monthly meetings held at the Seabird Community School, all parents and guardians are invited to attend. PAC Terms of Reference in development and recruitment is by open invitation.

[3] Local Education Agreement with SD78

There are 114 Seabird members attending both public and private schools outside of Seabird Island Band. Majority of the students attend Kent Elementary and Agassiz Elementary Secondary. There were a handful of high school graduates.

The current Local Education Agreement between school division 78 and Seabird Island band expires on June 2024 and is up for renewal. Seabird Island Band Education Department and representatives from the SD78 have begun the process of reviewing the terms and conditions of the reciprocal tuition agreement.

Local Education Agreement with SD78

- Key issues for renewal: Education Committee wants more **ACCOUNTABILITY** from **SCHOOL DISTRICT** concerning the following:
 - Student Retention and Attendance
 - In School programming and Resources
 - Effective Parent/Guardian Engagement
 - Cross Cultural training/professional development for Staff
 - Extra-curricular Activities
 - Transportation
 - Monthly reporting student success and achievement

*2022-2023 was the first year that representatives from SD78 attended community awards, SD78 provided monthly student reports to Seabird and regular meetings were held to discuss student scores, attendance rates, and education gaps.

[4] Strategic Partnerships

- **The Education Program has several partnerships:**
- **School Division 78**
- **University of Fraser Valley**
- **Royal Roads University**
- **Sprott Shaw College**
- **Vancouver Career College**
- **Indigenous Education Council**
- **IAHLA- Indigenous Adult Higher Learning Association**
- **First Nations School Association**
- **FNESC- First Nation Education Steering Committee**
- **FNEA First Nation Education Authority**
- **SASET- Employment**
- **Inter-agency Seabird**



[5] Seabird College: Programs Offered

Degree Program: 5-year Bachelor of Education Degree Program in partnership with University of Fraser Valley will begin Fall September 2023. With a cohort of 10-15 students. There is a shortage of teachers nationwide and we have a high teacher turnover and is a major step forward in Education Jurisdiction certifying our own highly qualified teachers.

Diploma: Licensed Practical Nursing [LPN] accepting 10-15 students in partnership with Vancouver Career College

Certificates: Early Childhood Education, Business Administration and Cook/Kitchen Helper



[6] Language and Culture Program

- The Language Curriculum Development program has moved from Seabird Community School to Seabird College.
- The 2 staff [Oral Fluency Transfer Program Coordinator, Language & Culture Project Director] will be responsible to ensure that the school still continues to receive language and cultural activities by assisting the school access knowledge keepers, curriculum resources, and morning protocol.
- The staff's primary responsibilities are as follows:
 - Oral fluency transfer program to assist 10 members of the community become fluent in Halq'eméylem;
 - Oversee the 5 Year Bachelor of Education Degree Program in the interim at Seabird College while recruitment is underway for a Dean or College Program Coordinator.
 - Halq'eméylem language planning, research and development of curriculum.

[7] Curriculum Development Initiative

- Grounded in the Principles [2 a-n] of Seabird Island Education Law, the Education department is undertaking a special initiative to develop decolonized curriculum from a Stó:lō worldview.
- Partnering with researcher Keith Carlson of the University of Fraser Valley. Keith has done research for 30 years in Stó:lō unceded territory.
- Subject based curriculum; example Stó:lō history and Seabird Island towards high school credit, will have to be approved through community and the FNEA vetting processes.
- Keith has shared his research of the community. He will present July 27, 2023 starting at 5-7 p.m. at the band gym.





[8] Seabird Community School K- 12

- We continue to promote and offer a high-quality education program to ensure that our students can succeed in a career of their choice.
- We are addressing the Covid related education gaps by retaining a consultant, Dr. Julia O'Sullivan to provide a sustainable post-covid recovery plan at Seabird Community School.

Seabird Island Community School Class of 2023





Seabird Community School Post Covid Recovery:

Dr. Julia O'Sullivan to provided proposed options for a post-covid recovery plan at Seabird Community School:

- Teacher Retention and Recruitment
- Evaluation of Recruitment/Retention Strategies
- Distribution of Teaching Time According to Expertise
- Set High Expectations in Academic Standards
- Provide Administration Support
- Move towards a Community School

Training and Employment/PESP Con't

- PESP completed three 4-day mobile job fairs during the months of February (Vancouver), March (Kelowna) and May (Victoria) with 8 participant each.
- A Life Skills program entitled “Wellness and Work Readiness” Program ran from March, 2023, to June, 2023 with 10 participants.
- SASET 10-day Landscaping and Trail Building, in June with 8 participants.
- PESP 5-day intro to computers for finding employment training, in February with 8 participants.



Education Long term Goals:

- 1) To develop a nationally recognized First Nations Education Program.
- 2) To set the gold standard for excellence in First Education Jurisdiction from early childhood, K-12 and post secondary education.
- 3) To create a Centre of Excellence for Seabird Island Band that community members can be proud of, which supports the goals of self determination and the full implementation of First Nation Control of First Nation Education.



Education Short Term Goals:

- 1) Continue to engage all major stakeholders by hosting community meetings and Parental Advisory Committee, the Education Committee and Steering Committees.
- 2) Environmental Scan of Promising Practices in Canada and Abroad for language and culture revitalization, curriculum development, teacher training and certification, academic standards
- 3) To review and decolonize and develop Education Policies that are consistent with the Seabird Education Law and its Implementation.



Questions and Discussion:

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