

Alberta Education
Joint Commitment to Action
and ASBA's participation
The Journey Begins
ASBA 2016 Fall Issues Forum

The Beginning: 2010

- ASBA establishes Education Partners' Task Force on First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success and Wellbeing as an advocacy group.
- Membership: A trustee from each Zone and a metro rep.
- The Chair: Appointed from the ASBA Board of Directors

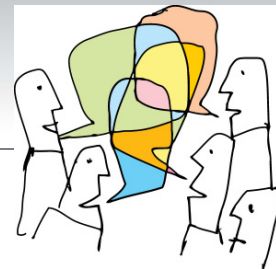
Early Objectives

- Focus on political and legislative environments
- Focus on First Nations Métis and Inuit curriculum content; treaties, history and customs
- Provide support and encouragement to school boards and provincial government

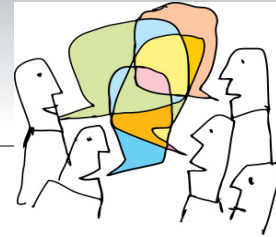


Early Discussions

- Link to the needs of the student, their community and their culture
- Promote and support awareness of First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture and communities
- In 2011/13 reviewed school board strategic plans toward addressing Alberta Education's Goal 3 and share findings with Alberta Education.



Early Discussions



- Advocate for equitable funding between provincial and federal school systems with federal officials.
- Support the education of all students with respect to First Nations, Métis and Inuit culture in the curriculum
- Leadership is second only to classroom instruction in impacting what and how children learn; governance of the system is critical

Terms of Reference

In 2011 the following education stakeholder organizations agree to work collaboratively and in support of one another with a view of contributing to improving the success of Alberta's First Nations, Métis and Inuit students:

- The Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA)
- The Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA)
- The Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA)
- The College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS)
- and other invited stakeholders



Terms of Reference

- Working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, the provincial and federal governments and education stakeholders in developing and implementing strategies to support and promote student success and wellbeing; and
- Supporting each of these education organizations to ensure First Nations, Métis and Inuit students are provided with high-quality, equitable learning opportunities that are culturally relevant to the needs of students and their communities.

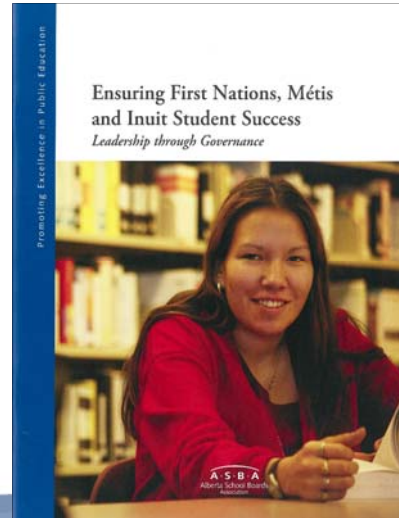
Terms of Reference

- Members of this task force shall liaise with their respective education organizations to dialogue about the work of this task force and to encourage their participation in this initiative.



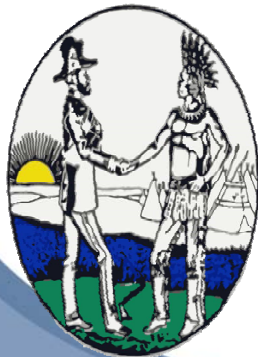
Timelines and Initiatives

- The report, *Ensuring First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success: Leadership through Governance*, was received for information by ASBA Board of Directors
- Nov. 2011: Report released at ASBA Fall General Meeting



Treaties

6



7



8



Provincial Timelines and Initiatives

- 2011: Discussions on the Memorandum Of Understanding between the Treaty 6, 7 and 8 Chiefs, Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta



Timelines and Initiatives

- May 2011 discussion with Alberta Education on teaching Treaty and residential school history via the curriculum
- Task force reviews early draft of proposed Teacher Quality Standard; today we are encouraged to see the standard in the proposed three level Standard
- Task force gives input to “National Experts Panel,” a Government of Canada initiative examining the funding inequities between provincial and federal allotments
- Task force co-chairs attend Council of Ministers of Education, Canada. December 1-3, 2011 in Winnipeg, MB

Timelines and Initiatives

- Dec. 2011: Canadian Rockies Public Schools presents one of their programs at CMEC conference
- Patrick Loyer, ATA, attends CMEC conference
- Task force member, trustee Kathy Cooper planned to attend CMEC conference on behalf of her school board



cmec

Council of
Ministers
of Education,
Canada

Conseil des
ministres
de l'Éducation
(Canada)

Timelines and Initiatives

- 2012: Northland School Division and ARPDC join task force
- Task force reviews feedback from ASBA FGM and the release of the *Ensuring First Nations, Métis and Inuit Student Success: Leadership through Governance* report
- Task force reviews CRPS presentation at CMEC and a YouTube video related to the SAGE program: Land Based Learning
- Task force reviews Wild Rose School Division program initiative

Timelines and Initiatives

- Sept 2013: Partnership with ASBA Student Health and Wellness Task Force
- Task force raised concern about government deleting *Accountability Pillar* reporting requirements for First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. It was reinstated.
- Indigenous Shining Student Award (ISSA) launched during the 2013/14 school year
- *Our Way is a Valid Way* is presented to the task force with provincial rollout set for 2013/14

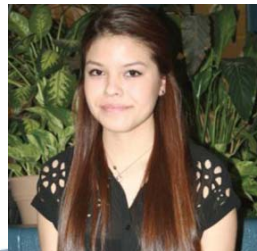


Timelines and Initiatives

- **2014 Indigenous Shining Student Award (ISSA)**

- ▶ Latiya Northwest, Grade 11 student at St. Augustine School in Ponoka, with St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Schools, is the inaugural recipient of the 2014 Shining Student Award. A total of 29 students were nominated:

- ◆ 12 from Zone 1;
- ◆ 10 from Zone 2/3;
- ◆ 5 from Zone 4
- ◆ 1 from Zone 5;
- ◆ 1 from Zone 6.



Timelines and Initiatives

- 2014 Letters of invitation were sent to the Associate Minister of Aboriginal Relations, Mr. David Dorward, and MLA Pearl Calahasen, inviting them to a task force meeting.
- 2014 A letter was sent to Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Gene Williams, expressing a desire to have the FNMI accountability measure reinstated into jurisdiction Education Plans.



Timelines and Initiatives

- Task force lends its support to the *Spirit Runner* app, which focuses on encouraging youth (and even adults) to stay active
- 2014-15 Indigenous Shining Student Award now into year two with corporate sponsorship from Xerox
- Provincial Education Service Agreement draft content is discussed
- ASCA reports that First Nations communities are contacting them for assistance in getting parents more involved in school affairs



Timelines and Initiatives

- Jan. 2015: Dr. Fariba Kolahdooz, Senior Research Associate, presented the data on the University of Alberta's *Why Act Now* project, student health initiative
- March 2015: Mr. Gilman Cardinal conducted a smudge ceremony and the Moose Hide Pledge ceremony. Four men took the Moose Hide Pledge to stand against violence toward Aboriginal women and children

Timelines and Initiatives



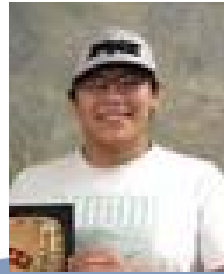
- Over the next six years, AB Ed will present draft curriculum on residential schools and treaties in Alberta.
- ARPDC is working with pilot school authorities: High Prairie, Edmonton Public Schools, Wolf Creek, Chinook's Edge, Rocky View, Holy Spirit to develop teaching resources. <http://fnmied.blogspot.ca>
- ATA is reviewing all of its policies related to First Nations, Métis and Inuit education. All openings of major events to recognize the Traditional Territory of the First Nations land and recognize the traditional knowledge holders and Elders.

Timelines and Initiatives

- **2015 Indigenous Shining Student Award (ISSA)**

- ▶ Brandon Strawberry, a Grade 11 student at West Central High School in Rocky Mountain House (Wild Rose School Division), is the 2015 recipient of the Indigenous Shining Student Award. A total of 29 students were nominated:

- ◆ 10 from Zone 1;
- ◆ 9 from Zone 2/3;
- ◆ 4 from Zone 4;
- ◆ 4 from Zone 5;
- ◆ 2 from Zone 6.



Timelines and Initiatives

- Education Act, Section 63 refers to ESAs; First Nations reps can be appointed as trustees to provincial school boards.
- CASS will take the lead in organizing a First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Symposium, fall 2015
- Sept 2015: Action Plan revised embracing TRC recommendations on education
- 2016 ATA establishes a First Nations, Métis and Inuit Specialist Council



Timelines and Initiatives

- Sept. 2015: Deputy Minister of Education meets task force to discuss mutual interests and direction.
 - ▶ First Nations people have to determine what they want, what they define as student success.
- Alberta Education appoints ADM Dr. Jane Martin to represent the ministry on the task force.
- 2016: Alberta Education announces funding for a collaboration project between First Nations and provincial school boards. Three-year project with \$23 million in funding.



Timelines and Initiatives

- Planning is underway for Symposium II, April 2017
- Indigenous Shining Student Award opens nominations to include students on reserve. 41 nominations were received. This year's award recipient was Zarek Wright-Winnipeg, a grade 11 student from Calgary Board of Education
- Task force recommends to ASBA Board of Directors revisions to bylaw on associate members. Some First Nations authorities wish to join ASBA.

Timelines and Initiatives

- **2016 Indigenous Shining Student Award (ISSA)**

- ▶ Zarek Wright-Winnipeg, a Grade 11 student at James Fowler High School in Calgary (Calgary Board of Education), is the 2016 recipient of the Indigenous Shining Student Award. A total of forty-one students were nominated:

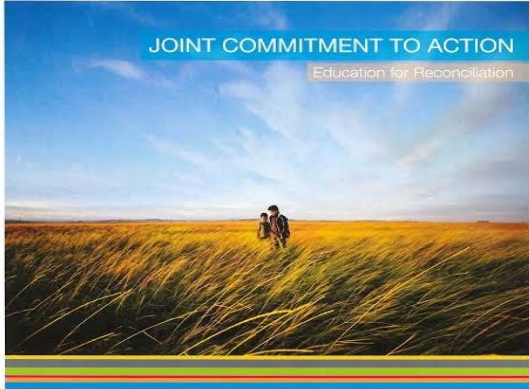
- ◆ 6 from Zone 1;
- ◆ 9 from Zone 2/3;
- ◆ 6 from Zone 4;
- ◆ 18 from Zone 5;
- ◆ 0 from Zone 6

- ◆ 2 from First Nation Education Authorities



Provincial Joint Commitment to Action

- On June 22, 2016 ASBA became a signatory to the Provincial *Joint Commitment to Action* – a commitment by ATA, ASBA, ARPDC, AADE, CASS and NCTR to ensure professional development for teachers, school leaders and education stakeholders, including trustees and superintendents
- This is ASBA's call to action, to move forward in keeping with the spirit of the TRC recommendations and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People 2007.
- The Journey Begins



Through the Joint Commitment to Action, we are fully committed to enhancing professional learning opportunities and resources to prepare and support teachers and education stakeholders in Alberta.



With the goal of advancing reconciliation through education, this historic action will connect all students, teachers and education stakeholders to the knowledge, cultures, experiences, perspectives and contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

Through our collaborative efforts, and commitment to work with First Nations, Métis and Inuit partners, the true and complete shared history of Canada's First Peoples will be embedded within the educational experience of all students.

Provincial Joint Commitment to Action

- Placemat Activity
 - ▶ Please describe a First Nations Métis and Inuit student program or project that you most proud of and would be willing to share.
 - ▶ What actions can you take as a trustee or board to bring this aspirational goal to action?
 - ▶ As a signatory to the Joint Commitment to Action what supports can ASBA develop to assist and support your board's work in this area?