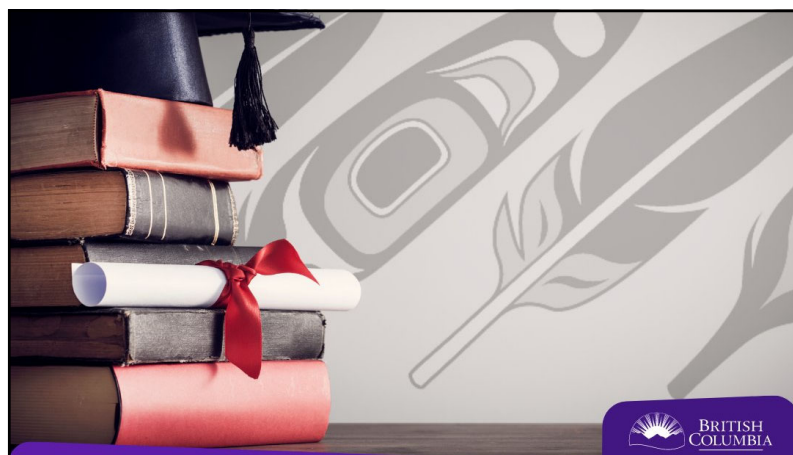
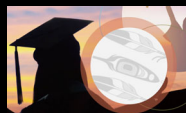




Indigenous Content Graduation Requirement

Implementation Date:
2023-2024

**New Indigenous-focused
grad requirement for
secondary students**



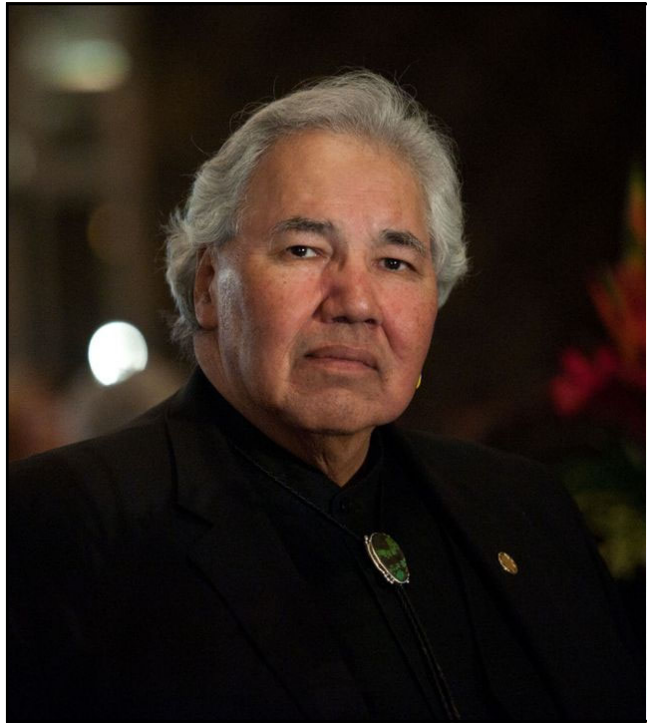
**B.C. secondary students will need to complete
Indigenous-focused coursework to graduate**

*"Reconciliation is not an Indigenous problem,
it is for all of Canada. We have all been
taught to believe in Aboriginal inferiority
and European superiority and that's wrong...
But in addition to that, the way that schools
treat Indigenous history also needs to be
reevaluated and rethought and recast...
Reconciliation is about our responsibility to
the future."*

– Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair of the Truth
and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.



IT'S ABOUT TIME!



Education is the key to reconciliation. Education got us into this mess, and education will get us out it.



— JUSTICE MURRAY SINCLAIR

Historical Background

- For many years, the First Nations Leadership Council, FNEC, and education partners including the BCSTA and the BCTF have formally advocated for an Indigenous-focused graduation requirement.
- The Action Plan for DRIPA:
 - “Implement a mandatory course or bundle of credits related to First Peoples as part of graduation requirements in B.C.”
- First Nations Anti-Racism Strategy (being developed by FNEC)
- BC Tripartite Education Agreement:
 - “advancing reconciliation between the Crown and First Nations, as expressed in the TRC’s Calls to Action and the UN declaration” and “decolonizing approaches to First Nations education and developing new approaches aligned with the UN declaration”



Action plan to create a better province for Indigenous Peoples



fnesec FNSA



TRUSTEE KNOWLEDGE SERIES
UNDERSTANDINGS
1 of 3

Our Commitment to Student Success

Responding to the B.C. Tripartite Education Agreement

Historical Background continued

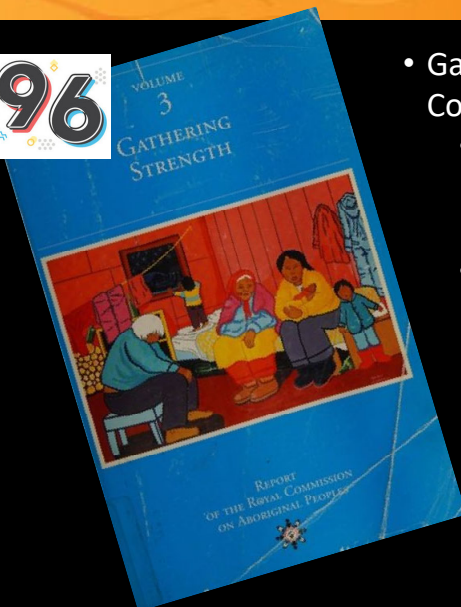
- The Draft Principles that Guide the Province of B.C.'s Relationship with Indigenous Peoples:
 - “reconciliation is a fundamental purpose of section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982” (#2)
 - “reconciliation is an ongoing process that occurs in the context of evolving Crown-Indigenous relationships (#9)
 - “a distinctions-based approach is needed to ensure that the unique rights, interests and circumstances of Indigenous peoples in B.C. are acknowledged, affirmed, and implemented” (#10)

DRAFT PRINCIPLES
that Guide the
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S
Relationship with
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



Historical Background continued

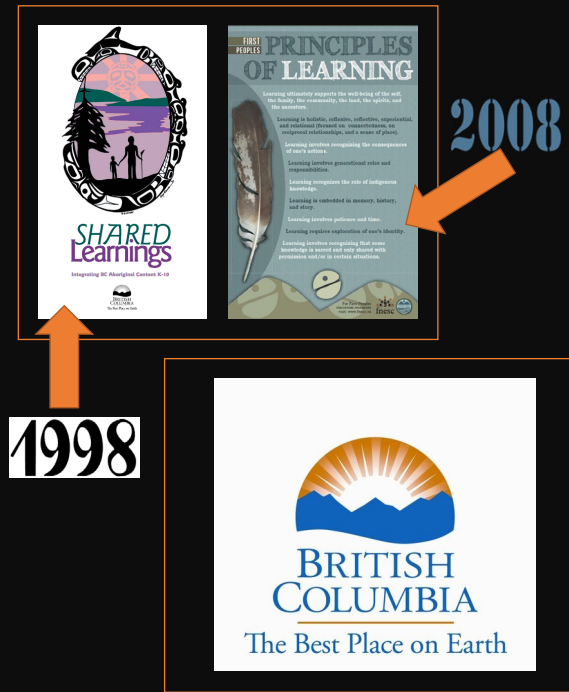
1996



- Gathering Strength – Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples:
 - “educational institutions have a pivotal role in transforming the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and Canadian society”
 - “accurate information about the history and cultures of Aboriginal peoples and nations, the role of treaties in the formation of Canada, and the distinctive contributions of Aboriginal people to contemporary Canada should form part of every Canadian student’s education”

BC – Consistently Ahead of the Curve

- BC has been proactive and visionary in implementing Indigenous curriculum.
- Every curriculum area, K-12, includes Indigenous content and worldviews since 2015.
- Graduation requirements are a reflection of what our society believes students should know, do, and understand.
- Changing the graduation requirements sends a clear message that our society believes that students should have the opportunity to develop deeper understandings of the experiences, cultures, and histories of Indigenous people in Canada.



Frequently Asked Questions

Will post secondary institutions (colleges, universities, trades and diploma programs) accept English First Peoples 12 for admission?

Since English First Peoples 12 was introduced in 2008, post secondary institutions in Canada have accepted the course as equivalent to English 12 or English Studies 12. All of the Indigenous content courses we are offering as a district are as rigorous and complex as their equivalent courses. In fact, an increasing number of post secondary programs have already, or are in the process of, introducing required Indigenous content courses. If students are planning to attend a post secondary institution outside of Canada, they should be sure to check admission requirements.

Will students need an additional course to meet graduation requirements?

There is no increase in the number of credits students require for graduation. In fact, most students take more than the required 80 credits for graduation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will this new course requirement limit choice for electives?

Not necessarily. The courses we plan to offer in our school district will actually replace other requirements. For example, if students take one of the English First Peoples 10/11/12 options, those courses meet the English Language Arts requirement at each of those grade levels. Alternatively, if students take either BC First Peoples 12 or Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12, those courses meet the Social Studies 11/12 requirement.

Will any of these courses be offered through distance learning?

English First Peoples 12 will be offered through the Education Outreach Program, our district's online learning school.

School District 83 – Secondary School Profile

School	Community	Grades	Population	
AL Fortune Secondary	Enderby	7-12	369	
Eagle River Secondary	Sicamous	7-12	156	
JL Jackson Secondary	Salmon Arm	9-10	636	
Pleasant Valley Secondary	Armstrong	9-12	498	
Salmon Arm Secondary	Salmon Arm	11-12	652	

- Funds set aside at district level to purchase resources for schools for next year
- Regional FNEESC Session in Kelowna – team from district who will be supports for other teachers in our district
- Microsoft Team (Professional Learning Community) open to all teachers who want to learn, collaborate, or share
- February Professional Development Day – Indigenous-Focused Graduation Requirement working group session all at AL Fortune Secondary
- Indigenous Education Helping teacher – Tina Lepine

MORE INFORMATION

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/support/indigenous-focused-grad-requirements/indigenous-grad-req-qa.pdf>
- Chelsea Prince, Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education