



Westcot Elementary School

Indigenous Education School Plan 2023-2024

1. School: Westcot Elementary

2. School Aboriginal Education Committee Members: All WE teaching staff

3. School Main Contact Persons Cathie Ratz Stina Martinez Megan Stewart

4. Activities, events, speakers, presentations, projects etc. that have occurred at your location over the past two years:

- ∕ Isaac Vanderhorst - Artifacts/Kits from West Vancouver Museum
- ∕ Bob Baker - Song and stories – Kindergarten
- ∕ Faye Halls – Community - Grade 2
- ∕ Soap Stone Carving Grade 3
- ∕ Weaving with Cease Wyss - Grades 5 - 7
- ∕ Squamish Language with Elroy Baker Grade 4 and 5
- ∕ Medicine Wheels - Loose Parts - Grade 1
- ∕ Class set of Looms - Study of Weaving Grade 6
- ∕ Grouse Mountain First Nations Hiwus Program - Grade 4
- ∕ Westcot Gardening Committee - choosing, nurturing and creating a learning space inspired by Indigenous plants, adding the Squamish names for the plants and sharing how these plants were and are being used
- ∕ Garden Meetings with Jared Van Somer



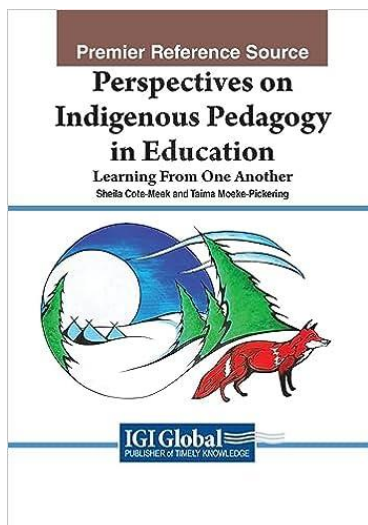
- ☒ Meetings with Squamish and Advocates
- ☒ Learning Through the Canoe – Grade 3 and 7
- ☒ Indigenous Government – Chris Lewis
- ☒ Sharing of our Westcot Orange Shirt created by Inglewood student Shalyn Hastie – Bd Meeting Sharing
- ☒ Squamish Storyteller Kung Jaadee - Orange Shirt Day Assembly
- ☒ Remembrance Day Assembly Honouring Indigenous Veterans
- ☒ Staff and Parent Representatives at Family of Schools Blanket Exercise
- ☒ Grade 7 Book Club (Braiding Sweetgrass – For Youth)
- ☒ Learning Story Co Created with Jada Harry on display in school entry and on school website

Nation Education Team

5. Action Plan for 2023/2024

- **Connections to BC Curriculum**

Full implementation of BC Curriculum recognizing that FPPL are embedded in all curriculum, attention to the authenticity of resources and materials





Recognizing Orange Shirt Day in a relational way with [#SpakwusSlolem](#) (Eagle Song Dancers) with stories, song and dance.

Grade 7 Band Squamish Anthem

K – 3 **6 Cedars** - Core Competency Connections as an addition to the reflective student practice currently in place

Focus on the **place based connections**, continued work with salmon, our courtyard gardens with Indigenous plants

Grade 2 **Museum of Vancouver** Cedar and Sealskin

Grade 7 **Tayaka Tours - paddling**

Grade 3 and 7 **Learning Through the Canoe** with Bob Baker

Grade 3 Canoe Art with West Vancouver Museum Issac Vanderhorst

Grade 3 Blessing of the Salmon released to Brothers Creek



Grades 3, 4, 5 Isaac Vanderhorst
Vancouver Museum

- Artifacts/Kits from West

Grade 2 Community with Faye Halls Yeltsewet

Grade 6 Squamish Nation Government with Chris Lewis

Grade 4 Squamish Language with Alroy Bucky Baker K'ermtn

Grade 7 Novel Study Barren Ground

Kindergarten – Land Acknowledgement Creation and sharing at School Assemblies

Wanda John-Kehewin's book called Hopeless in Hope (Staff Book Club)

School Wide participation in West Vancouver Schools Canoe (Tel'Twit) Sleep Ceremony

Large Turtle Island with Indigenous Languages K – 6

BCTF Giant Floor Map Indigenous Peoples –

- **First Peoples Principles of Learning (how will you embed these in your work with students this year?)**

Asking questions is the place where learning starts. Our Westcot staff continues to seek guidance about protocols unique to our Squamish learners. We model the openness to learn and reach out to our partners in the Nation to help us with our work. We share as a group and continue to learn through experience.



With the support of our TEs we choose stories and resources that authentically reflect First Peoples using materials recommended by the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) and First Nations Schools Association (FNSEA).

We understand that a deep understanding of the FPPL is first necessary, and this understanding takes time to develop. Continued touchback and shared learning will continue this school year.

- **Parent Education**

Classroom Land Acknowledgments we recognize we have the privilege of learning on the territory of the Squamish Nation - shared on Gathering Tree, on Bulletin Boards and at Assemblies

Signage in our Salal Welcome garden and all Indigenous Gardens – honouring the lives of 215 children lost

Social Media as we share events, presentations, learning

Displays within our school (our name, our Orange Shirt Day reflections)

Sharing of our work and plans with our WPAC

Westcot Learns Squamish Language Bulletin Board outside the gym

Providing Stories of our Learning with our Garden Initiative

- **Community Partnerships**



Families of our Westcot Indigenous Students

West Vancouver Museum Partnership

North Vancouver Museum Resources

Grouse Mountain First Nations Hiwus Program - Grade 4

Warriors Lacrosse Team

Squamish Nation Education Team

Ayas Menmen

Garden/Plant Connections

District of West Vancouver - Planting Indigenous Plants in areas around our school

Takaya Tours

- **Student Support – Success Teachers/Counsellors**

Early Learning Team providing visual supports to Grade K - 3 classrooms

Ongoing support of our School Based Team to meet the needs of our Indigenous Learners

Ongoing work with Indigenous Success Teacher Jackie Gladstone



Open dialogue with Advocates from the Education, Employment and Training Department of the Squamish Nation

6. District support and resources needed this year:



To enhance the educational success of our First Nations, Metis, and Inuit students, and focus on the three main goals to ensure they are supported intellectually, culturally, and emotionally.

To use Indigenous ways of Knowing and Perspectives to inform and empower our teaching, learning and decision making

To enhance student success by facilitating transitions and pathways throughout the K - 12 Journey.

To create a sense of space and belonging for Indigenous students that is inclusive to all.

