

Staff Report



January 23, 2024

To Board of Education (Public Meeting)

From Sean Nosek, Superintendent/CEO

Re **2024-2027 Local Education Agreements with Mathxwí First Nation and Semá:th First Nation**

This report is presented to the Board for information.

BACKGROUND:

Local Education Agreements (LEAs) are agreements co-created to increase accountability and to promote effective working relationships between local First Nations bands and local Boards of Education. Specifically, Local Education Agreements govern the purchase of educational services by First Nations from Boards, and set out processes for information-sharing, collaboration and decision-making. The LEA applies specifically to students who live on the Nation (75 students). The Federal Government provides funding to First Nations for students who are ordinarily resident on-reserve *and* in the BC public school system (K-12). The Nation pays tuition to the School District based on a rate set by the provincial government.

With the support of our Knowledge Keeper, Dr. Gwendolyn Point, meetings were held with leaders from both Mathxwí First Nation and Semá:th First Nation to review previous LEAs, and the agreements were renewed for an additional three years until 2027. These agreements are now signed and in effect. Having active and signed LEAs demonstrates the School Districts' commitment to the Nations and these students and points to a healthy working relationship between all parties.