

Media Release

Elders' Council of the Fort McMurray Public School Division receives Public School Boards' Association of Alberta award

June 6, 2022 (Red Deer, AB) ... Full and equitable participation by Indigenous Peoples in the educational life of their community is one of the goals of the Fort McMurray Public School Division.

To help achieve that goal, the Elders' Council of the Fort McMurray Public School Division (FMPSD) was established. Now, the Elders' Council has been recognized with the award, Promoting and Advancing one or more of the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in relation to education within Alberta, from the Public School Boards' Association of Alberta (PSBAA).

The Elders' Council is composed of local Elders from Mikisew Cree First Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Fort McMurray First Nation 468 and Métis Local 1935.

Linda Mywaart, Board Chair with the Fort McMurray Public School Division, nominated the Elders' Council for the PSBAA award. The Council members "are offering guidance on efforts towards reconciliation and acting as advisors on Indigenous education, history, culture and language programs offered by FMPSD," said Linda. "They are guiding and teaching us their truth to help us transform reconciliation into reconcili-action."

In her nomination, Linda also highlighted the important role played by the now-Superintendent of FMPSD, Ms. Annalee Nutter, who was instrumental in assembling the Elders' Council.

Ms. Nutter “has past knowledge and lived experience on many of the important protocols, and she is a lifelong learner who has demonstrated to the Elders’ Council that we are eager to have them teach and instruct us along this journey of reconciliation and action,” said Linda.

Based on the positive impact of the Elders’ Council on students in FMPSD, Linda said the Board believes the Council is and will continue to be an influence on improving education attainment levels and success rates.

The PSBAA held its annual awards evening at its Spring General Assembly in Red Deer. A total of seven awards were presented.

The Public School Boards’ Association of Alberta (PSBAA) is the voice of public school boards in the province. We believe public schools are the first choice in our communities, where children can go to learn and live the values of democracy together, reflecting our hope, and shaping the future of our communities.

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