



Greater St. Albert Roman Catholic Separate School District No. 734

# Committee Report Summary

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**Board Advocacy Committee Meeting Date:** December 5, 2016

**Submitted by Trustee:** Trustee Crockett

**Committee/Event Name:** FNMI Leadership Committee

**Committee Meeting Date:** November 10, 2016

**Attendees:** D Keohane, R Nixon, B Brochu, C Bruinemean, Elder - Edna Arcand, Leanne MacMillan – Community and Social Development, and Trustees: N Radford, R Tremblay and J Crockett.

## Setting the Direction

- Create committees with both indigenous and non-indigenous representatives to increase hope, engagement and well being for our FNMI students as well as to eliminate the achievement gap.
- 2016 – 2017 GSACRD has 338 FNMI students, 200 of which are Metis.
- Our Challenge – fewer students are writing diplomas although the drop out rate is decreasing.
- Principals have been tasked with - What might cause or push students away from school? What might be causing students to be pulled away from school? Student stories are encouraged to be heard and these will be brought back to a later meeting.

## Mission

- To enable school communities to engage in Education for Reconciliation. The Blanket Exercise is one strategy that will be used towards reconciliation.
- Question – How do we live FNMI spiritual belief and practices together in the context of our faith? Edna Arcand shared that Alexander practices both the Catholic faith and First Nation spirituality and culture.
- ESSMY students produced a youth version of the Truth and Reconciliation that went all the way to Ottawa.

**Kayas – Kipohtakaw** – Edna Arcand with the blessings of the elders at the Alexander Reserve collected the stories and published this book on *How Alexander Came to be*.

## FNMI Leadership Committee is seeking guidance on the following:

- How do we share our work with parents?
- How do we enrich our work through outside agencies, initiatives and programs and how do we all work together?
- How do we help trustees find routes for advocating through external agencies such as government ministries, municipalities or ASBA to best support students?

**Next Leadership Committee Meeting Date: January 12, 2017**