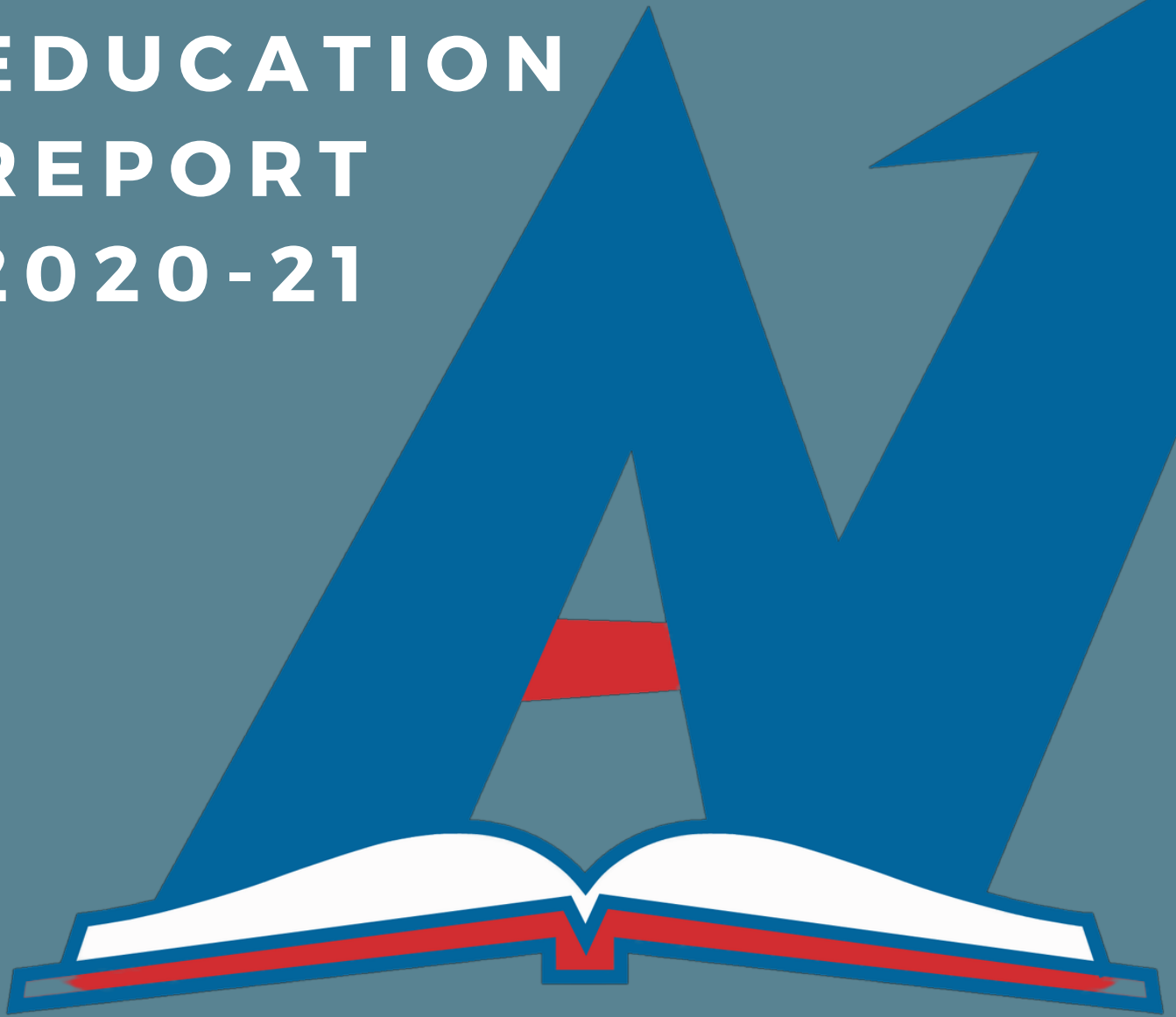


**ASD-N ANNUAL
FIRST NATION
EDUCATION
REPORT
2020-21**



**Anglophone North
School District**

**PREPARED BY:
MATTHEW SWEZEY
SUBJECT COORDINATOR OF FIRST NATION**



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PREAMBLE

Anglophone North School District is situated on traditional and unceded Mi'kmaq territory and serves the largest population of Mi'kmaq children and youth in the province. ASD-N is committed to providing quality educational opportunities that respond to the needs of First Nations children and youth, and their communities. Moving forward with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action is a priority in building understanding of traditional and contemporary First Nations' cultures, histories, and perspectives by all students and staff- system wide. Objective 6 from the provinces 10 Year Education Plan clearly outlines the areas needed to grow in order to meet these needs. Embedding culturally responsive resources, materials and pedagogical practices will get us closer to meeting our goals.



MISSION STATEMENT

First Nations and the Anglophone North School District are committed to empowering students, through a student-centered approach, to be lifelong learners and promote academic success by supporting students with a culturally responsive approach and recognizing the importance of history, language, culture and traditions of the Mi'kmaq People while promoting and maintaining a collaborative and positive working relationship between First Nations, Anglophone North School District and other stakeholders.

DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

Anglophone North School District is located in North Eastern New Brunswick and is situated on the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq People known as Mi'kma'ki. The school district is made up of 29 provincial schools and partners closely with 5 First Nations community-operated schools.

ASD-N has the largest population of First Nations students who attend provincial schools in New Brunswick. These students come from 9 Mi'kmaq Nations and makeup over 10% of student enrollment.

The school district is geographically the second largest in the Anglophone sector.

ASD-N FIRST NATION EDUCATION TEAM

- **Matthew Sweezey: Subject Coordinator of First Nation Education**

Email: matthew.sweezey@nbed.nb.ca

- **Patricia Miller: First Nation Education Lead**

Email: patricia.miller@nbed.nb.ca

- **Rachael Bell: First Nation Education Lead**

Email: rachael.bell@nbed.nb.ca

- **Elizabeth Price: First Nation Education Lead**
Retired in January 2021

ENHANCED FIRST NATION EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AGREEMENT

ENHANCEMENT MEETINGS

As per the Enhanced First Nation Education Programs and Services Agreement, ASD-N has made bringing partnering First Nation communities together to discuss First Nation Education at an individual community level and district-wide.

Our annual Regional Enhancement meeting was hosted in a virtual setting. The regional meeting has proven to be a positive practice that allows all parties to discuss First Nation Education priorities for ASD-N.

In addition, ASD-N met with individual communities throughout the school year to discuss education plans and student needs of each community.



FIRST NATION COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Elsipogtog First Nation
Esgenoopetitj First Nation
Lituguj Mi'gmaq First Nation
L'no Minigog First Nation
Metepenagiag Mi'kmaq Nation
Natoaganeg First Nation
Oinpegitjoig L'noeigati
Tjipogtotjg First Nation
Ugpi'Ganjig First Nation

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

The First Nation Education Team in ASD-N has worked hard to offer professional learning opportunities for educators in ASD-N from Early Childhood through to Secondary. This work has expanded to include all subject areas, grade levels, and language programs. In particular, this school year the First Nation Education Team partnered closely with the Subject Area Coordinator and Lead of the French Second Language Program in ASD-N to offer PL to a variety of grade levels.

GRADES 3-8 TAKE ACTION FOR RECONCILIATION

Every grade 3-8 Social Studies teacher (French & English) in ASD-N received professional learning focused on Scholastics' "Take Action For Reconciliation" resource. Teachers were receptive to the PL and eager to introduce it into their classrooms.



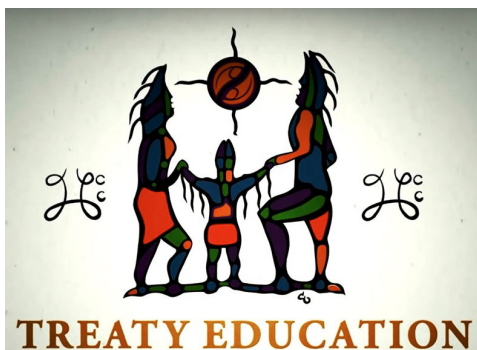
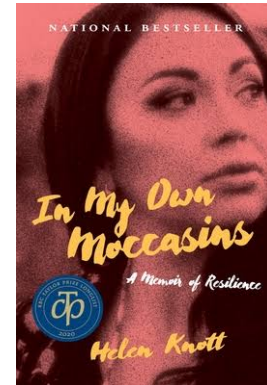
GRADES 7-9 SOCIAL STUDIES MODULES

Every grade 7-9 Social Studies teacher (French & English) in ASD-N received professional learning focused on modules developed by the Office of First Nation Education. These modules are intended to supplement Social Studies courses from grades 7-9 and contain the relevant Social Studies learning outcomes to assist teachers in the delivery of this material. Modules contain a wide variety of primary sources as well as learning activities centered on historical thinking concepts. Each module also contains a "brief history" which may assist teachers in developing important background knowledge.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

IN MY OWN MOCCASINS BOOK STUDY

46 educators from ASD-N participated in a book study of Hellen Knott's "In My Own Moccasins" which is an unflinching memoir of addiction, intergenerational trauma, and the wounds of sexual assault from a resilient, emerging Indigenous voice. It is also the story of sisterhood, the power of ceremony, the love of family, and the possibility of redemption. There were so many relevant themes and learnings that came from this PL exercise. Our hope is to build empathy and respect for Indigenous women and the impacts of colonization.

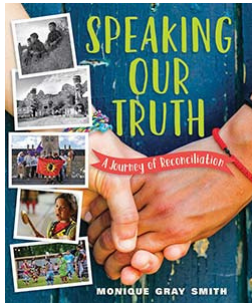


GRADE 3 & 4 TREATY EDUCATION

All grade 3 & 4 teachers (French & English) in ASD-N received professional learning focused on the Treaty Education resource spearheaded by Three Nation Education Group Inc. This teaching resource has been created so young people throughout New Brunswick can better understand the treaties that were agreed to by the Indigenous people of New Brunswick with the British Crown.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OFFERINGS



Speaking Our Truth

World of Wisdom (world-of-wisdom.ca)

Indigenous Pedagogy

Cultural Responsive Teaching



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PLANS AND RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION FOR 2021-2022

- This Place: 150 Years Retold
- Indigenous Life in Canada Past Present Future Book Series (French & English)
- Medicine Wheel Book Collection (French & English)
- Legacy Schools Program
- Indigenous Music Resource 9-12
- In Four Languages Book Series
- First Nation Visual Arts K-12
- Grade 5 Treaty Education (French & English)

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

No greater challenge was faced during the pandemic than by the community and students of Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation. In October 2020, students of Listuguj were not permitted to attend Sugarloaf Senior High School which left over 100 students without a place to attend school.

The community of Listuguj rose to the challenge, particularly the Education Directorate, Enhancement Manager, and Staff to organize the Listuguj Learning Hub where high school students were able to attend as an alternative location for their education. ASD-N and SSHS worked closely with the Listuguj Education Directorate to get the necessary equipment, supplies, teachers, and educational assistants to support the learning of students both virtually and face to face.

ASD-N, SSHS, and Listuguj advocated tirelessly for the safe return of students to SSHS and this occurred at the end of April. There is much work to do moving forward to address the impacts of this unfortunate situation. ASD-N and SSHS are committed to working with the community of Listuguj to meet their cultural, wellness, and educational needs.

The following are some of the learning opportunities students had at the Listuguj Learning Hub.



LISTUGUJ LEARNING HUB

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Physical Education
- Skilled Trades and Applied Technology (Automotive & Culinary)
- Co-op Education: Bowmaking, Welding & Carpentry
- MMIWG Walk
- Virtually Learning
- History Walks in Community
- Wellness: Therapeutic Painting
- Passion Projects: Dancing, Regalia and more
- Cultural Opportunities: Ash Basket Making, Moccasins, Jig'magnn, Bundle Making, Talking Circles, Sweatlodge, Sacred Fire, etc.



CAREER PATHWAYS



Explore your career path!
Innovation | Collaboration | Education

The ASD-N ICE Centre provides career pathway opportunities for high school students and was created by the Anglophone North School District and NBCC Miramichi. The focus of the ASD-N ICE Centre is to create a variety of career focused courses for high school students. This program has experienced a growth period since its inception in 2019 and continues to expand offering unique learning opportunities for students in ASD-N.

2020-2021 COURSES

-  **ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS PLANNING**
-  **NURSING & HEALTHCARE**
-  **HEAVY CONSTRUCTION**
-  **ADVANCED WELDING**
-  **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**
-  **MECHANIZED FOREST EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

NEW - 2022-2023

-  **INTRO TO TEACHING**
-  **POLICE FOUNDATIONS**

FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITY COURSES

-  **ADVANCED WELDING**
-  **ELECTRICAL WIRING & CONSTRUCTION**
-  **FISHERIES, FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENT**

FUTURE PLANS 2021-2022

COMMUNITY APPROACH TO EDUCATION

ASD-N has partnered with the Office of First Nation Education and First Nation communities: Natoaganeg, Elsipogtog and Esgenoopetitj to pilot a community approach to education that will see Indigenous students learning in their community and gaining a better understanding of community needs and exploring possible career paths.



CAREER PATHWAYS

ASD-N ICE CENTRE STUDENT WILLOW FRANCIS

Willow was enrolled in our Entrepreneurship & Business Planning course during first semester. Willow started a clothing company called Red Willow Apparel, with a focus on raising awareness for MMIWG. Willow is an award winning student athlete and is active member of her community in Esgenoopetitj. She will be working with Aboriginal Sport and Recreation New Brunswick on some exciting new projects this summer. Willow plans to pursue a degree in Business at UNB Fredericton in September 2021.



NATOAGANEG WELDING SITE

ASD-N in partnership with Natoaganeg First Nation and the Office of First Nation successfully offered Advanced Welding to students in the community through the community approach to education model which is will be expanded in 2021-2022.

LEGACY DISTRICT FOR RECONCILIATION



ASD-N has entered into a partnership with the Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF). They offer a national initiative, known as the Legacy Schools program, which provides a toolkit of resources and professional development opportunities for teachers to teach about the history and legacy of residential schools. We expanded on this idea and have a goal of becoming a Legacy School District for Reconciliation. ASD-N has identified a teacher champion in every school of our district that will participate in expanded professional development opportunities. Teachers will have an opportunity to apply for grant money in their efforts to become ambassadors of truth and reconciliation.

Do something.

EVERY CHILD MATTERS- 215



A snapshot of the commemorations across the district in memory of children that never made it home.



COMMEMORATION ACROSS ASD-N

ORANGE SHIRT DAY OSD



Orange Shirt Day was commemorated across ASD-N again this year with all schools participating. The discovery of over one thousand unmarked graves, and counting, at the locations of former Indian Residential Schools across Canada, makes the commemoration of Orange Shirt Day more important than ever to honour those who survived and never made it home.



WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, this conference has been further postponed to September 2022. ASD-N still intends to send a cohort of teachers to this international conference. Our hope is that our abstracts are selected and we can showcase our success on the world stage!



WIPCE 2021
Panpapanpalya

*Indigenous Education
Sovereignty:
Our Voices ...
Our Futures*

FOREST CLASSROOM

The Covid-19 pandemic has created challenges we have not faced before but with these challenges, a shift has also taken place for the better. One of the positive changes we have noticed is the increase in using the outdoors as a classroom space. Many schools have recognized the importance of using the natural world to teach. Indigenous Peoples have known this since time immemorial and it is wonderful to see teachers adopting this as a best pedagogical practice to engage their students in learning.



SPIRIT BEAR



A group of students from L.E. Reinsborough School wrote letters to Superintendent, Mark Donovan, requesting for the program to be expanded to other schools because it had a positive impact on them. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the districts ability to expand the Spirit Bear program as intended; however, the 2021-22 school year will see this expansion.

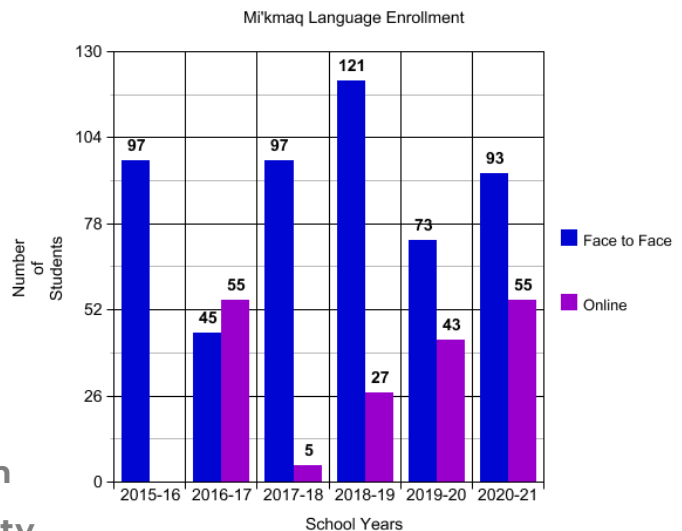
MI'KMAQ ELDERS



The Elders in Schools program was severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Changing Public Health guidelines prevented the program from running as designed. The program was shifted to a virtual platform when possible. The 2021-22 school year will see a revitalization of the program in ASD-N schools.

MIKMAQ LANGUAGE

The Mi'kmaq language is offered online and face-to-face depending on location. ASD-N has pursued projects and initiatives to promote and preserve the language. The district is supporting Elsipogtog First Nation and Metepenagiag First Nation in their efforts to run the Master Apprentice Program (MAP) with the hope of building the capacity of aspiring Mi'kmaq language teacher. This will be launched in the 2021-21 school year.



FLAG RAISINGS

MI'KMAQ GRAND COUNCIL FLAG

ASD-N added two more schools to the list that are flying the Mi'kmaq Grand Council (MGCG) flag permanently. As part of their Orange Shirt Day commemorations, Nelson Rural School raised the MGC flag to honour the Mi'kmaw People and the territory of Mi'kmaki.

North & South Esk Regional High School followed suit and raised the flag on June 21, 2021 in partnership with Metepenagiag First Nation. The event was live streamed in the school for all students to see.

Plans are underway to raise the MGC flag at other schools in 2021-22 with the ultimate goal of raising it at every school in the district permanently.



CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY 2021

ASD-N in partnership with the other Anglophone Schools Districts and Elsipogtog First Nation, live streamed an exhibition of culture to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day. The event received considerable attention with over one thousand views.



COMING 2021-22!



MULTI-SCHOOL MAWI'OMI'S

With a much-anticipated move to the "green phase", ASD-N will be partnering with First Nation communities and schools to offer multi-school mawi'omi's during the 2021-22 school year.

CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

SPIRITUAL WELLNESS

Smudging has become part of daily life in ASD-N schools. Some schools have made it an embedded practice with their daily routines.

