

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 1, 2010

Chilliwack School District

Chilliwack Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement

Signing Ceremony

CHILLIWACK - The Chilliwack Board of Education is pleased to announce that on Monday February 8th at 10:00 a.m. there will be a Signing Ceremony for the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement.

The Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement is a working agreement between the Chilliwack Board of Education, the Aboriginal communities in Chilliwack, and the Ministry of Education. The agreement is designed to enhance the educational achievement of Aboriginal students. It is a collaborative partnership between Aboriginal communities and the Chilliwack School District that involves shared decision-making and goal setting to meet the educational needs of Aboriginal students. The agreement highlights the importance of academic performance and more importantly, stresses the integral nature of Aboriginal traditional culture and languages to Aboriginal student development and success.

The agreement is the culmination of work that began in January 2007. The agreement reflects the contributions of parents, students, community members, and educators who met together in First Nation communities, at schools, and in meeting rooms across Chilliwack.

There are three goals in our Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement.

- To increase Aboriginal students' sense of belonging at school.
- To increase academic success of all Aboriginal students.
- To increase, for all students, the respect and understanding of language, culture, governance and history of Sto:lo and Aboriginal people; in order to create a better sense of school and community.

The **Signing Ceremony** will take place on **Monday February 8, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Cheam Hall, located at the Kipp Centre, 46370 Portage Avenue in Chilliwack.**

For further information please contact:

Michael Audet,
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Chilliwack School District
604-703-1798

For more information on Aboriginal Education programs in the Chilliwack School District visit the website at www.sd33.bc.ca.