



# SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 19 (REVELSTOKE)

## Indigenous Education Council Meeting

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

### Minutes

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#### 1) WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Round table introductions. In attendance: E. Einarson, C. Luke, N. Joseph, B. Joseph, M. Howard, B. Martin, W. Rota, J. Wallach
- Review of action items for an IEC

#### 2) ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Add: CHILL Support Blocks – tabled  
Superintendent Job Posting

Agenda was accepted as amended.

#### 3) ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

Minutes dated October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and minutes dated January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026, were accepted as presented.

#### 4) OLD BUSINESS

a) Chair – Nerissa Joseph, Co-chair Caytlyn Luke. All in favour

b) Knowledge Holders

i. Process – reviewed process

ii. Expansion

1. Due to travel, it would be beneficial to set up specific dates for Knowledge Holders to visit Revelstoke and have the school district work with schools to set a schedule. This could be bi-weekly or 2-3 days once per month.
2. **Action item: Members will work with their communities to see if there are people willing and able to travel to Revelstoke.**
3. **Action item: Jodi will work with district to confirm priorities.**
4. Current budget of \$10,000 has typically covered 16-18 full day visits from Randy Williams.

5. **Action item: Share that the school district would be grateful for invitations to join Indigenous groups travelling to Revelstoke when appropriate.**

iii. Language

1. The Ktunaxa would like to teach basic language in elementary schools and Mara Nelson completed the Knowledge Holder Application. She has been recommended by the Ktunaxa Nation.
2. The Splatshín Council does not feel comfortable teaching language in schools before community.
3. Hold off on language instruction in schools for now.

c) Work Plan 26-27 – tabled until May

d) Land Acknowledgement

- i. Both the Ktunaxa and Secwepemc members feel strongly that the Sinixt should not be included on the land acknowledgment. They are not recognized by the provincial government since they are not part of the Indian Act.
- ii. **Action item: Ktunaxa and Secwepemc members will consult and bring recommendations to the next meeting.** Discussion about the order of the Nations has been tabled.
- iii. Revelstoke has had a close connection with Sinixt peoples as they begin their annual canoe journey in Revelstoke. This has been done alongside Secwepemc people for the past few years.
- iv. A land acknowledgment should not be a simple rote statement. We do need something, but it should come with education about history and connection.
- v. **Action item: Request to remove the land acknowledgment from school district documents until a new land acknowledgment can be recommended.**

e) Website

- i. Language bites – tabled
- ii. Plants
  1. Appreciation for the intention behind plant information on the websites.
  2. **Action item: Jodi will copy all six descriptions and send to members to review and will remove from website for now. See attached.**

## 5) NEW BUSINESS

### a) Budget

- i. Targeted: where we are at this year and projected budget for 26-27
  1. Projecting a \$50,000 surplus because the Aboriginal Education grant was ~\$15,000 above projected, staffing at the high school, and the Knowledge Holder budget has not been used much.
  2. FNEESC costs should not be coming out of targeted funds.
  3. District currently covers all local bussing and IT costs.
- ii. Capacity: where are we at this year and projected for 26-27
  1. Brenna reported that IEC Capacity funding is being cut back next year because IECs across the province have a surplus.
  2. We have currently spent \$19,116.56 (not including this past retreat)
  3. **Action item: Each community will send Brittany a logo and she will get some mock-ups for IEC crewneck shirts in dark green.**
- iii. Feeding Futures
  1. Reviewed programs offered in Revelstoke
  2. **Action item: Put poster on websites**

### b) Reports

- i. How Are We Doing Report

### c) Scholarship

- i. Tabled until Fall meeting

### d) Indigenous Day of Learning planning

- i. **Action item: Jodi will draft a letter to the Board regarding the importance of holding a full day Indigenous Day of Learning when all staff members can attend. Nerissa will approve before submitting.**
- ii. Jodi will attend the SD83 Indigenous Day of Learning on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- iii. Brenna shared a video of the SD 83 Indigenous Day of Learning where all staff were invited on the land.

### e) Roles and Responsibilities (school staff)

- i. Document outlines roles and responsibilities for Principals, Teachers, Indigenous Lead Teacher, and Indigenous Support Staff.
- ii. We are working on a separate document to clearly identify district roles and responsibilities and the roles and responsibilities working within the Indigenous Targeted Education Funding.

f) Family Gatherings/Celebrations

- i. We have been holding two per year. One in Winter and one in Spring. Last year we added a Milestone Ceremony to the Spring gathering to celebrate transitions.
- ii. **Action item: Discuss moving the Family Gatherings to evening so more parents can attend. This also allows teachers to attend.**
- iii. **Action item: Invite Chiefs to graduation ceremony.** Chiefs have been invited to graduation ceremonies in other districts and have given a speech along with the other dignitaries.

g) 2026 Regional IEC Planning

- i. **Action item: Jodi will share the two weeks that work best for us. Oct 23-26 and Nov 23-26. Done.**

h) Superintendent Job Posting

- IEC sent recommendations for the job posting to Anne Cooper.
- IEC agreed to adapt the land acknowledgment for this posting, removing Sinixt and changing Syilx to Syilx Okanagan.

6) **NEXT MEETING**

- May 4<sup>th</sup> Dinner @ 6:00pm. Location TBD
- May 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00-3:00

7) **ADJOURNMENT**



## Soopollalie

kupaʔtiʔ

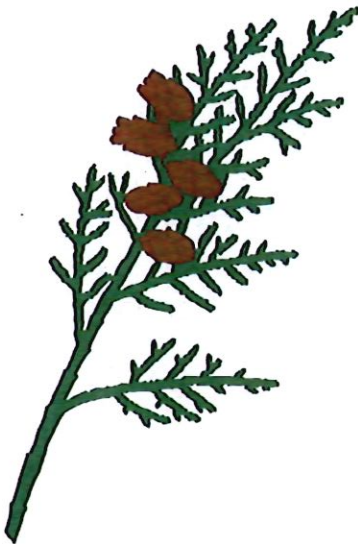
Known as kupaʔtiʔ in Ktunaxa (the language of the Ktunaxa), Soopollalie is also commonly known as Soapberry. Rich in Vitamin C and Iron, these berries are ideal for supporting recovery from colds and flus. Although the unprepared berries are rather bitter, once whipped they become a dessert that is a valued feast food. Ripened soopollalie berries are a phenological indicator that Sockeye salmon smolts are no longer edible.



## Whitebark Pine

stsekq̓h̓

Known as stsekq̓h̓ in Secwepemctsin (the language of the Secwepemc), the cones of the Whitebark Pine contain large seeds that were once a highly valuable trade good. The seeds are a part of the fall harvest, and when roasted, are similar to a peanut or hazelnut. Whitebark Pine is currently listed as an endangered species, primarily due to the widespread infestation of White Pine Blister Rust, a disease that was introduced to North America from Europe during the early 1900's.



## Western Red Cedar

qwekwtkwllp

Known as qwekwtkwllp in Secwepemctsin (the language of the Secwepemc), Cedar is highly versatile and is used for everything from building materials, to antiseptics, to clothing. The harvesting of cedar bark is performed on healthy standing trees, and is guided by many protocols that include the time of year, size of the tree, and reciprocity. Cedar bark must cure for a long period of time before it is ready to use, so it is gathered according to seasonal routines, rather than when needed.



## Cottonwood

mulx

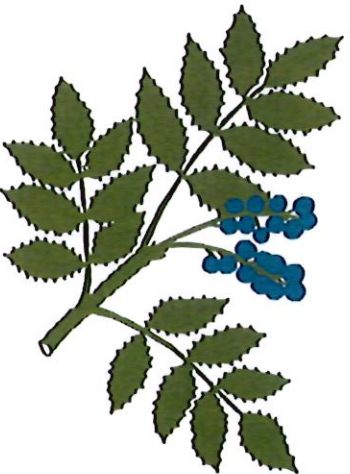
Known as mulx in Nsyilxcən (the language of the Sinixt and Okanagan), Cottonwood trees are both a food and a medicine source. The inner bark and wood fibers can be eaten fresh when the sap is running, and the early bud resin contains a vast amount of medicinal and healing properties. Cottonwood resin can be made into a salve that treats skin irritations and injuries, or can be steeped into a tea to treat a troubled stomach and toothaches. Once the buds have burst, the leaves can be applied to draw out an infection.



## Huckleberry

st'xatq'

Known as st'xatq' in Nsyilxcən (the language of the Sinixt and Okanagan), Huckleberries are readily found on the mountains surrounding Revelstoke. Because of their abundance in this area, Revelstoke was a huckleberry harvesting stop during the seasonal rounds for the Nations in this territory. Huckleberries are delicious straight off the bush, but also preserve well for winter food stocks.



## Oregon Grape

nahuk

Known as nahuk in Ktunaxa (the language of the Ktunaxa), Oregon Grape can be found throughout the Revelstoke area. Although they are better suited to animals than humans, the berries are very tart and taste best after a frost or in preserves. The berries and roots have a variety of medicinal properties and can be used for kidney issues or blood purification. Most commonly, Oregon grape branches are used to create a bright yellow dye that can be applied to a wide range of natural materials.