



Aboriginal Education Services

School District #71 (Comox Valley)

607 Cumberland Road, Courtenay, BC V9N 7G5

September 2011

Dear parents / guardians of _____

Self-Identification of Aboriginal Ancestry (First Nations, Métis or Inuit)

Aboriginal Ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification.

This includes First Nations (Status or Non-Status), Métis or Inuit Ancestry.

**** No documentation other than this self identification is required and the ancestry can go back several generations. As required by the Ministry of Education, this form needs to be sent home every school year.**

Aboriginal Education Services in School District #71 offer various supports and opportunities for students of Aboriginal Ancestry. Our goal is to enrich the educational opportunities for all our Aboriginal students. The main focus for our service is to enhance all Aboriginal students' understanding of their heritage, their sense of belonging and the personal belief that they can be successful in B.C.'s public school system. Support varies from school to school, and differs from one level to another (elementary, middle, and secondary). The areas of support available to access can include one or more of the following:

- **Academic monitoring and support** in classrooms and small group situations
- **Home-school support** - Support for families between school and home
- **Personal Support / Advocacy** - Creating a positive learning environment for Aboriginal learners
- **Cultural awareness field trips and activities** – At their school, in the School District and in the community
- **Aboriginal cultural group activities**– field trips, Big House Experience, Post Secondary information sessions
- **Integrating culture** - building bridges between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal students to create a positive learning environment for Aboriginal learners through introduction of Aboriginal curriculum and cultural activities in schools.

The School District has Aboriginal staff who support all students of Aboriginal ancestry (Status, Non-Status, Métis and Inuit) who are enrolled in our District.

In your child's registration, we noticed that you have identified as having Aboriginal Ancestry. Your child will be automatically enrolled in the program and become entitled to receive the services offered by Aboriginal Education Services of SD71 (Comox Valley).

If you do not wish for your child to be involved in the program, we will need a written letter from you, requesting that your child(ren) not be involved in the program. We will need your letter of request **before September 30, 2011** at the above address. A member of our staff who supports your child in their school will also be contacting you by phone, e-mail or in person in mid September to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for supporting our Aboriginal Education initiatives.

Staff Name
Aboriginal Education Services,
School District #71 (Comox Valley)

For more information about
Aboriginal Education Services in
School District #71, please visit our
website at www.sd71.bc.ca/abed