

## Quelmúcw Education Council Retreats & Regional IEC Gathering



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## Bill 40

- In the Spring of 2024, Bill 40 was passed as an addition to the *School Act*.
- School Districts are required to have Indigenous Education Councils (IEC).
- At the time of passing Bill 40, 20 out of 60 school districts did not have an IEC.
- In the 2024-2025 school year, additional funding for IECs was introduced to “build capacity” for IEC members and to run an IEC.
- The funding continued this current school year and is likely to be half funding next year.
- This funding has allowed the Quelmúcw Education Council to set learning goals and a work plan, and to engage in deep learning during retreats last year and this year.

**OUR MISSION** Empowering students to become confident, curious, and caring individuals who thrive in their learning, relationships, and community  
**OUR VISION** Preparing students to become educated citizens who contribute positively to a dynamic, sustainable, and diverse world  
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## November 5-7, 2024

- Revelstoke Resort
- Relationship Building:
  - Circle Introductions
  - Social Time Together
  - Setting Meeting Norms/Community Agreements
- Learning:
  - Bill 40
  - Distinctions-Based Approach
  - Ministry Designations & IEP Processes
  - Inclusive practices in secondary Indigenous Education rooms

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## November 17-19, 2025

- Originally, we were planning a two-day Quelmúcw Education Council Retreat at Spirit Ridge in Osoyoos
- We are connected with the Okanagan Mainline Indigenous Regional Educators group (OMRIE) – ten districts around our region
- The other districts and their IEC's wanted to collaborate with us to have a regional gathering for IEC members to learn from each other
- Plans changed to have a one-day retreat for the Quelmúcw Education Council, and a one-day Regional IEC Gathering for the ten districts
- Two additional districts asked to be part of the Gathering as well

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## Our Theme: e'nowkinwix™

E'nowkinwix™ is a nsyilxcn word that describes a community dialogue protocol which seeks to include diverse points of view in order to ensure a holistic strategy leading to actions that empower principles of collaboration. The process incorporates essential aspects of balancing divisive and polarizing views, into an empowering dynamic of solidarity in action.



Regional Indigenous Education Council Gathering

Theme: e'nowkinwix™

November 18-19, 2025  
Spirit Ridge, Osoyoos

*We acknowledge that we are holding this Regional Indigenous Education Council Gathering on the traditional, unceded, and contemporary lands of the syilx people, and we hold great respect for the inherent Rights Holders of this place, the Osoyoos Indian Band.*

### Our Theme: e'nowkinwix™

E'nowkinwix™ is a nsyilxcn word that describes a community dialogue protocol which seeks to include diverse points of view in order to ensure a holistic strategy leading to actions that empower principles of collaboration. The process incorporates essential aspects of balancing divisive and polarizing views, into an empowering dynamic of solidarity in action.

Gratitude to Ben Louis, a member of the Okanagan Indian Band, and a teacher and language speaker in School District 22 for his guidance on our theme.

When we reflect on Bill 40, we believe that the purpose is to provide a legislative guide for better relationships between Nations and School Districts. All districts and Indigenous Education Councils are at different places in the journey toward effective and ongoing implementation of Bill 40. Our hopes for the Regional Indigenous Education Council Gathering are to create connections with each other and to learn about some of the promising practices in our region.

### Learning Together – a Community Agreement

We ask that you come to our gathering with open hearts and open minds, that you help to create a safe place for participants to be vulnerable and to engage in respectful and open conversation, with the hope of all going forward together in a good way. We ask that you take space, but also hold space for each other. There are multiple "right ways" of Indigenous communities and School Districts being in good relations with each other; our context, cultures, and experiences all contribute to how we work together effectively. Please come with open minds and open hearts. We are all better by working together for the benefit of Indigenous learners.



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<b>SD6 Rocky Mountain</b>	<b>SD8 Kootenay Lake</b>
<b>SD19 Revelstoke</b>	<b>SD22 Vernon</b>
<b>SD23 Central Okanagan</b>	<b>SD27 Cariboo-Chilcotin</b>
<b>SD53 Okanagan Similkameen</b>	<b>SD58 Nicola Similkameen</b>
<b>SD67 Okanagan Skaha</b>	<b>SD73 Kamloops-Thompson</b>
<b>SD74 Gold Trail</b>	<b>SD83 K'w'saltktnéws ne Secwepemcúl'ecw</b>

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## Tuesday, November 18

- Pre-Gathering activities Tuesday evening included exploring the Nk'mip Desert Cultural Centre, followed by a welcome, dinner, Loonie auction, social time, and music trivia in the Eagle Room at Spirit Ridge.
- The Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre was be open from 3:45-5:30pm for some welcoming activities and learning about the hosts of the land where we are holding our gathering.

3:45pm

4:00pm

5:30pm

6:00pm

7:00pm

8:30pm

Check-in at Registration Desk

Visit the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre

Welcome to the Territory

Ronnie McGinnis – Council member from

Osoyoos Indian Band

Dinner and Loonie Auction

Music Trivia

Wrap-Up for the evening

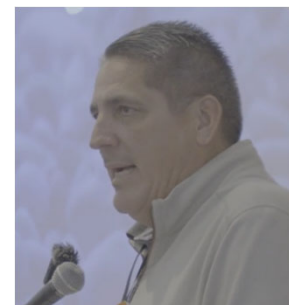
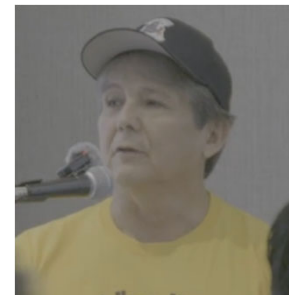
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## Wednesday, November 19

- Welcomed by Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band
- Student drumming group – Sen'Pok'Chin
- The Okanagan Song
- Brad Baker, Superintendent, Indigenous Education, Ministry of Education and Childcare



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**Learning Bursts** are short (10-15 minute), focused presentations from school districts and IEC's that highlight promising or inspiring practices, all connected to districts and IEC's working collaboratively together. These brief presentations are intended to share stories of success and innovation that others can learn from.

- SD53 (Okanagan Similkameen): OMRIE Student Summit and the Power of Student Voice
- SD8 (Kootenay Lake) Annual Youth Pow Wow
- SD22 syilx Working Group – Walking the Path Together
- SD6 (Rocky Mountain) – Shuswap on the Land Learning Days
- SD83 (K'w'saltktnéws ne Secwepemcu'lecw) – Gift of a District Name Change (video)



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**Learning Together Circles** are sessions that bring participants together to engage in open, respectful dialogue. Throughout the day, these circles will look different, depending on the purpose of each circle.

The Learning Together Circles in the morning are opportunities for participants to connect first with members of other IEC's, to hear about the strengths and stretches you are all experiencing, and then to re-connect with members of your own IEC to share what you have learning. In the afternoon, the first Learning Together Circle will give you the chance to stand if you are able while you connect with other participants using conversation prompts. During the other Learning Together Circles in the afternoon, you will be able to self-select an IEC "Hot Topic" that you want to learn more about at specific tables.



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