

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, June 23, 2026

1. National Indigenous Peoples Month

In honour of National Indigenous Peoples Month, we are pleased to welcome students from Burnaby North, Moscrop Secondary and Aubrey Elementary who will share words, song, reflections, and experiences that celebrate identity, learning, and connection.

We are honoured to be joined by 2026 Indigenous Valedictorians Kyle Peters and Catalina Claxton, who will share reflections on their educational journeys and the ways Burnaby Schools has helped shape who they are today. While Catalina is unable to join us in person, she has thoughtfully prepared a video message to share her experiences and perspectives.

Drawing inspiration from the words of Elder Latash Nahanee of the Squamish Nation, “looking back to move forward,” Kyle and Catalina offer reflections on their journeys while highlighting the importance of culture, community, and education in shaping their future paths.

We will also hear words and song from elementary students Lily and Jaxson Farrell, who have participated in meaningful learning throughout the year through the *Greeting of the Day* teachings. These experiences have been generously shared with Burnaby Schools through the care, guidance, and partnership of many members of the local Indigenous community.

Tonight, Shishona Austin, Indigenous Education Enhancement Teacher, and Rob Smyth, District Principal of Indigenous Education, will introduce the presentation and support the sharing of these student voices and experiences. This presentation celebrates the strength, resilience, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous students and communities, while highlighting the importance of learning from the past as we move forward together.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.