

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**  
**Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, September 29, 2026**

**1. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

Each year, the Burnaby School District recognizes the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day through a week of learning, reflection, and gathering across our schools. This learning honours the children who never returned home, Survivors of residential schools, and their families and communities, leading into the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30.

As our understanding continues to grow, so does our understanding of our shared responsibilities across school learning communities. We continue to learn and unlearn together, recognizing that September can be a particularly difficult time for many Indigenous students, families, and communities as schools revisit the painful history and ongoing impacts of residential schools. This calls for additional care, thoughtfulness, and responsibility in how this learning takes place.

Across the District, non-Indigenous students and staff are increasingly taking responsibility for this work alongside Indigenous students, staff, Elders, and community. Some examples this year include:

- **University Highlands Elementary:** Staff continue to strengthen a relationship with the Tsleil-Waututh community that began several years ago. On the District professional day, staff will visit the Tsleil-Waututh community, recognizing that relationships bring ongoing learning and responsibility.
- **Gilpin Elementary:** Non-Indigenous staff are leading a circle as part of the school's Orange Shirt Day gathering and laying blankets in honour of residential school Survivors. Students will engage in learning grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and relating.
- **Lakeview Elementary:** Patricia Buchanan, Teacher-Librarian, has been sharing books with students by Indigenous authors and encouraging learning about the importance of honouring Indigenous voices and the voices of ancestors. Students and staff have also spent time listening and responding to *Greeting of the Day*, grounding their learning in gratitude and community.
- **Moscrop Secondary:** The school is hosting two assemblies and creating space for an Indigenous team member who has offered to share her story. Building upon the school's longstanding relationship and learning alongside Elder Dr. Roberta Price, the gatherings centre listening, vulnerability, collective learning, and care for one another.
- **Burnaby Mountain Secondary:** The school continues to work respectfully with Tsleil-Waututh Elders Sam George Jr. and Les George, who have been welcomed to share their stories with approximately 500 students. Significant care and preparation have gone into the gathering, following District and local protocols and emphasizing respect and care for Elders.

These examples reflect a deepening landscape across the District, where Reconciliation is increasingly understood not as the responsibility of Indigenous people, but as shared work requiring relationships, learning, care, and ongoing responsibility from all members of our school communities.

**Recommendation:**

THAT the Board of Education receive the information.