

Ihk'enazdulkat (we change ourselves)

CNC Indigenous Education Plan 2024 - 2029

Understand

The CNC Community commits to increasing cultural understanding across the College community by:

- Improving cultural awareness and humility
- Taking concrete steps to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the Government of BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act Action Plan
- Working with Indigenous communities to meet their education and training needs

Connect

The CNC Community commits to building and strengthening relationships between CNC and Indigenous communities by:

- Reaching out to Indigenous communities and participating in community activities and events
- Inviting Indigenous communities to participate in the CNC community
- Proactively attracting and recruiting Indigenous students by focusing on responding to their unique needs and challenges and engaging with Indigenous students earlier in their high-school lives
- Increasing Indigenous representation at the College

Empower

The CNC Community commits to supporting Indigenous students as they progress through their learning journey by:

- Simplifying application, admission, and registration processes
- Supporting Indigenous students in their transition to post-secondary education
- Offering relevant, accessible educational paths for Indigenous students
- Providing culturally-informed academic and personal supports to meet Indigenous students' needs across their learning journey
- Indigenizing academic practices – curriculum, delivery, assessment
- Decolonizing our spaces and ways of doing

This statement was adopted by the Carrier Sekani Tribal Council in 1988 and still resonates as an aspirational statement for Indigenous communities.

Yinka Dene Declaration on Education, Language, and Culture

Recognizing our Creator put us on this earth to protect all life;

Recognizing that the earth is like our Mother as it nourishes, warms, and clothes us;

Recognizing our great law of respect for all our brothers and sisters and all of creation handed to us through generations as symbolized in the white feathers of peace;

Recognizing our great law of sharing our wealth with our brothers and sisters as set forth in our Balhats (Potlatch);

We hereby agree, and commit ourselves as Elders, Chiefs, and representatives of the member Tribes of the Yinka Dene Nation, to work together as one for the education of our people:

The principles that will govern our approach to education are:

1. The Yinka Dene must control their own education;
2. All Yinka Dene must have the opportunity to reach their full human potential through education;
3. Yinka Dene education needs the full participation of Elders, parents, and community leaders in teaching and learning;
4. Yinka Dene education promotes the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical well-being of our people to ensure their educational success.

The goals of Yinka Dene education are:

1. With the guidance of Elders, to teach the Yinka Dene language, way of life, and history – past and present;
2. To prepare the Yinka Dene with tools for success in the modern world.

