

District Committees

Haida Education Council

source: Haida Education Council Terms of Reference

Introduction/Preamble

The Education Councils of the Haida First Nations Communities and the Board of School Trustees of School District 50 accept the challenge inherent in the British Columbia school system's goals of education. They recognize the importance of having all their students achieve success in the context of intellectual, human and social, and career development. Haida language, culture, knowledge and history form an integral part of the education system.

- The Haida Education Council (**HEC**) was established to develop a long-term sustained commitment to a partnership between the Haida Communities and the Education Community based on mutual respect and recognition, responsibility and sharing.
- The Haida Education Council shall consist of Haida representatives of the Skidegate Band, the Old Massett Band and the Council of Haida Nations, and representatives of the School District.
- The HEC gives Aboriginal peoples greater influence and control in determining school programs and services for our First nation students.
- The HEC and the School Board work together to increase the academic success of our students.
- This process ensures that programs and services for our students are working.

Mandate

- The Haida Education Council will act as a joint representative advisory committee which will regularly examine, monitor and/or assist in the progress and direction of education programs and services for all Haida children enrolled in School District 50 (Haida Gwaii/Queen Charlotte).
- The Haida Education Council will advise and make recommendations as appropriate to the Old Massett Band Council, the Skidegate Band Council, the School District 50 Management Team or directly to the Board of School Trustees (if applicable) on such matters as:
 - a. The nature and direction of Haida Education programs in School District 50;

- b. The confirmation, allocation and expenditure of Aboriginal Targetted funds;
- c. The clarification and confirmation of the annual Nominal Roll for Haida Band students;
- d. The development and monitoring of any Haida Local Education Agreements or Haida Aboriginal Improvement Agreements;
- e. Other issues mutually agreed upon

Role of the Haida Education Council

- To assist, advise and direct the expenditure of all Targetted Dollars allocated for Aboriginal programming.
- To assist in the development of educational programs for Aboriginal students which enhance academic and vocational skills, while promoting personal, social and cultural growth.
- To develop and reinforce in Aboriginal students a strong identity and pride in their heritage and feeling of self-worth.
- To develop and reinforce in Aboriginal students a positive attitude towards education.
- To facilitate the development and implementation and resourcing of the Aboriginal culture and language education programs.
- To promote and assist in the development of District programs designed to increase the awareness and appreciation of all Aboriginal peoples and culture, with an emphasis on Haida history and culture.
- To seek the advice, where appropriate, of Band Elders, Band leaders, Chief and Council and other resource people such as school and/or Band Staff.
- To monitor, collaboratively with the School District, the staff hired through targeted dollars.
- To ensure regular and open communication and agreement regarding the education of Aboriginal students.
- To give direction to the School District in matters pertaining to Aboriginal culture.
- To advocate on behalf of Haida students to ensure their needs are met by Aboriginal programs within the district.
- To increase the educational success rate of Aboriginal students.
- To facilitate the effective and coordinated use of resources between all the educational services for Aboriginal students.
- To prepare the annual budget for the Aboriginal Targetted Dollars.
- To sit on any committee involved in the hiring of educational administrative personnel of any of the School District schools with Haida children in attendance.

- To appoint Haida representatives from the HEC to participate in the selection, hiring process (i.e., posting, reference checking, interviewing, and short listing) of staff hired through the Aboriginal Targeted Dollars.
- To ensure the language teachers are supported in their positions.
- To support the development of individual career plans for Haida employees in School District 50, in order for them to do their jobs as professionally as possible.
- To formally review its terms of reference every two years, but the terms of reference may be amended at any time during the two-year term based upon consensus of the HEC.

Role of the School District

- To provide advice to the HEC regarding all matters pertaining to the expenditure of Aboriginal Targeted Dollars.
- To implement the funding decision of the HEC with respect to the expenditure of Aboriginal Targeted Dollars.
- To ensure that a minimum of three Haida representatives from the HEC participate in the selection, hiring (ie posting, reference checks, interviewing, short-listing and selection) of staff hired through the Aboriginal Targeted dollars.
- To invite the HEC to provide representatives to sit on any committee involved in the hiring of educational administrative personnel of any of the School District schools with Haida children in attendance.
- To ensure that any information pertaining to Aboriginal education and proceedings of meetings of the HEC is distributed to members on a timely basis.

Structure of the Haida Education Council

- The Haida Education Council shall represent the major stakeholders in the education of Haida children and shall consist of representatives of the Haida communities and representatives of School District 50.

Four (4) Representatives of the Haida Communities

1. One member from the Council of Haida Nations
2. Haida Director of Education
3. Education Administrator from the Old Massett Village Council
4. Education Administrator from the Skidegate Band Council

Four (4) Representatives of the Band Council

1. Two members of the Old Massett Village Council which may include the Chair of the Education Committee or an appointee of the Village Council

2. Two members of the Skidegate Band Council which may include the Chair of the Education Committee or an appointee of the Band Council

Seven (7) Representatives of School District 50

1. Superintendent of Schools
2. Two School District 50 Trustees
3. Three School District 50 Administrators
4. Official representative of the Queen Charlotte District Teachers' Association
 - The Haida Education Council may establish a Working Committee with representatives from the Haida Education Council.
 - In the event of the absence of a HEC member, an appointed alternate may attend the meeting in the HEC member's place.
 - a. Alternative representatives to the HEC are to be appointed by their respective parent organizations (ie Council of Haida Nations, Skidegate Band Council, Old Massett Village Council, School District 50).
 - b. A list of alternates will be presented to the Haida Education Council in advance of any alternates attending any Haida Education Council meetings.
 - Any changes to the membership of HEC members must be approved by the council.
 - Haida elders, Haida Leaders, Chiefs & Councils and resource people such as education staff may be invited to attend HEC meetings and provide guidance upon the request of the HEC.
 - A meeting quorum consists of fifty percent (50%) plus one voting HEC members.
 - In order to make a quorum decision there must be fifty percent (50%) plus one vote of the total voting HEC membership in favour of the decision