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# REPORT

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## ***Business Arising From Minutes***

- Letter from Dianne McCormack, Chair, to the Honorable Minister of Education Minister, Mitzie Hunter regarding the equitable distribution across the province of the funding allocation for the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Leader.



# *Rainy River*

## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

September 1, 2016

File Code: M00

### EDUCATION CENTRE

522 Second St. E.  
Fort Frances, ON  
P9A 1N4  
Phone: 807 274 9855  
Fax: 807 274 5078  
Toll Free: 1 800 214 1753

The Honorable Mitzie Hunter,  
Minister of Education  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street,  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter,

I am writing on behalf of the Rainy River District School Board with respect to the designated funding for an Indigenous Education Leader within the recent Grants for Student Need.

The Board acknowledges this proactive measure by the Ministry of Education in funding an Indigenous Education Leader within each school board. The Rainy River District School Board is committed to supporting Indigenous students in achieving increased levels of achievement, and to expanding the knowledge and understanding of First Nation, Metis, and Inuit cultures, histories, and perspectives for all students and staff. As such, the Board has had this important leadership position in place at the system level since 2006, through a partnership with Seven Generations Education Institute.

The funding for the Indigenous Education Leader is based on a per pupil amount within the First Nation Metis Inuit Supplement, drawing on the 2006 Census sub-division data to determine each school board's relative share of First Nation, Metis and Inuit student population.

In March 2016, all school boards received the minimum funding for this position. School boards that generated a greater amount of funding did not receive additional funding to support this new position and were to allocate \$165,520 from their per pupil amount to the Indigenous Education Leader position. Thus, school boards with low self-identification rates still received the minimum amount for the Indigenous Education Leader and boards which generated a greater amount saw no increase in funding, which would allow the per pupil funding to be directed back to programming.

The Rainy River District School Board's self-identification rate approaches 40 per cent and our schools support students from eight First Nation communities as well as from a broader urban Indigenous community. While the Board appreciates the recognition of this leadership position through dedicated funding, we believe that distribution of this funding is inequitable. We respectfully request that the Ministry of Education review the First Nation, Metis, and Inuit Education Supplement funding, in consideration of this recent change, to ensure that it is equitable and reflects boards' needs across the province.

*TOGETHER, WE EMPOWER ALL STUDENTS TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES, TO ACHIEVE, AND TO DREAM.*

### WEB SITE:

[www.rrdsb.com](http://www.rrdsb.com)

### DIRECTOR

Heather Campbell

We appreciate your consideration of this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

*H Campbell for D McCormack.*

Dianne McCormack, Chair,  
Rainy River District School Board

cc. Rainy River District School Board