

The SSBA - First Nations and Métis Education Services supports the strategic plan and the Aboriginal Council, which consists of all self-identified First Nations and Métis school board members in Saskatchewan. The Aboriginal Council elects one member to act as the Aboriginal Constituency representative on the SSBA Provincial Executive.

The SSBA recognizes the growing need for leadership on addressing First Nations, Metis and Inuit issues. There is significant focus at a national and provincial level, involving all levels of Government, First Nations and Metis organizations and the education sectors. There is a shared understanding among the Saskatchewan Trustees regarding what the issues are and how they affect the outcomes for our Saskatchewan students.

Initiatives that fall within the First Nations and Metis Education department that support student achievement and engagement are:

- **Aboriginal Youth Entrepreneurship Program: MAEI**
In 2013, Saskatchewan became the first jurisdiction in Canada to launch the program province-wide, with the support of PotashCorp and Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (INAC). The unique program is targeted at First Nations & Métis to increase attendance and engagement at school and improve graduation rates. To date, over 500 students will have participated in the AYEP throughout Saskatchewan.
- **SSBA 2013 Fall Annual General Meeting Resolution**
Resolution 13-06: Indian Residential School framed Apology : 77.3% support
BE IT RESOLVED that every publicly funded school in Saskatchewan be Encouraged to frame and place in a prominent location the Federal Government's 2008 Statement of Apology - to former students of Indian Residential Schools.
To date, 100% of Division offices and 94% of all schools have the apology displayed within their facility.
- **SSBA 2016 Spring Annual Assembly Resolution**
Resolution 16-03: Provincial recognition of "Orange Shirt Day": 79.2% support
BE IT RESOLVED that the Saskatchewan School Boards Association advocate to the Government of Saskatchewan to officially recognize September 30th as "Orange Shirt Day". This day is to recognize the harm of the Indian Residential School System did to the children's sense of self-esteem and well-being and is an affirmation of the province's commitment to ensure that "Every Child Matters".
- **SSBA 2016 Fall Annual General Meeting Resolution : 80.75% support**
Resolution 16-06: SSBA FNME Position Paper
BE IT RESOLVED that the position paper, crafted by the SSBA with guidance from the Aboriginal Constituency, be used to advocate to the Ministry of education for mandatory curriculum that includes the rich and diverse history of the First Nations and Metis Peoples with their experience of the arrival of the European newcomers, and the legacy of the Indian Residential Schools era.
- **SSBA 2016 Fall Annual General Meeting Resolution : 94.4% support**
Resolution 16-11: NORTEP/NORPAC
BE IT RESOLVED that the SSBA support the governance structure and northern location of the Northern Teacher Education Program (NORTEP)/ Northern Professional Access College (NORPAC) to educate teachers in the north knowing that locally trained teachers are essential to the success of northern children.

