

**Board Operation 1 – 8**  
***Aboriginal Education Council***

The Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley) recognizes that it operates on the traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation.

Students of Aboriginal ancestry must be provided with the opportunity to have an education that meets individual and community needs and includes their culture, heritage, language and self-government as Aboriginal people.

The Aboriginal community recognizes the importance of a shared responsibility for education between representatives of the Aboriginal community, the Board of Education of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley), and the Ministry of Education.

The board recognizes the importance and right of people of Aboriginal ancestry to participate in decisions affecting the educational programs of Aboriginal children.

To support and acknowledge the importance of that shared responsibility, the school district shall establish an Aboriginal Education Council (AEC). The council includes two delegated representatives of the K'ómoks First Nation and one delegated representative of the Wachiay Friendship Centre, the MIKI'SIW Métis Association, Upper Island Women of Native Ancestry, Comox Valley Aboriginal Head Start, North Island College, School District No. 71, four elected parents/guardians of Aboriginal students, one elected parent of a child birth to five years old, invited Elders, and one liaison trustee from the Board of Education.

In recognition of the shared responsibility to improve the quality of education of Aboriginal students in School District No. 71 (Comox Valley), it is agreed that the terms and goals of the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement (EA) will enhance the basis of Aboriginal education, programs and services of School District No. 71 (Comox Valley).

The AEC will have Terms of Reference governing its meetings and affairs, including representation and processes for electing representatives. These terms shall be shared annually with the Board of Education.

The Aboriginal Education Council may advise the board on any matter pertaining to the education of Aboriginal students.