

District Cultural Workers

Siwal Si'wes has 2 dedicated Halq'eméylem instructors who provide districtwide language instruction for grades K-7.

While all Aboriginal Liaison Staff can be booked to do cultural presentations, there are two district cultural workers who can be booked for presentations through Siwal Si'wes.

(please email marcy.buell@mpsd.ca to receive your cultural booking form).

District Indigenous Mentor Teacher

Siwal Si'wes has an Indigenous Mentor Teacher who will be Mentoring teachers as well as working on Curriculum

Field Trips

Educators may apply to Siwal Si'wes for funding to supplement field trips that enhance the understanding of the importance of Aboriginal Culture, History and ways of knowing.

Reconciliation

Each year, Siwal Si'wes explores one of the seven sacred teachings. The 2017-2018 school year is dedicated to the exploration of "Love".

There are many School and District initiatives designed to bring awareness to the recommendations provided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Siwal Si'wes has created a locally developed Residential School Curriculum to assist educators safely teach this difficult truth of Canada's colonial past. This curriculum is available to teachers at

<https://greatspirithand.com>

Siwal Si'wes is committed to strengthening community partnerships with local Chief and Councils, Municipal, Provincial and Federal Government officials and local business to ensure that the TRC's recommendations are being implemented in Mission BC.

A Guide for New MPSD Staff From Siwal Si'wes



(Our Forefathers' Teachings)

Acknowledgement

The Mission Public School District acknowledges that all employees work on the ancestral, Unceded territory of the Stó:lō people.

The District is on the lands of the Kwantlen, Leq'á:mel, Matsqui and Sq'éwlets peoples.

Stó:lō, (pronounced Stahlo) translated into English means “river” and also refers to the peoples who live alongside the lower Fraser and the connected watersheds.

Halq'eméylem is an upriver dialect of the language traditionally spoken by the Stó:lō people on this land.



Origins

The Stó:lō people explain their occupation of the land began with the arrival of sky-born beings and through transformations of ancestral animals and fish. They express their original connections with the land through such phrases as “We have always been here” or “We have been here from time immemorial”.¹

¹ *A Sto:lo-Coast Salish Historical Atlas*, 2001. Stó:lō Nation: Chilliwack, p.20.

Culture

The Stó:lō culture is far too rich and complex to sum up in a pamphlet such as this. However, Siwal Si'wes strives to make this knowledge accessible to all staff and students through several District initiatives and resources.

Resources and Curriculum

The website <https://swswlibrary.com/> is an online resource for MPSD staff, providing vetted, authentic grade appropriate videos, documents and lessons.

This website is also used by educators to access SWSW's physical library. This physical library can be found at 7466 Welton Street, Mission.

Additional information regarding programming and upcoming events can be found at <http://aboriginal.mpsd.ca/>.

