



PRESS RELEASE
April 12, 2022

Manu Madhok, Superintendent of Schools, is pleased to announce the appointment of Leona Prince to a newly created Director of Instruction-Indigenous Education position.

Leona Prince has been a committed and passionate educator for sixteen years in Northern BC and for the past four years, as District Principal of Aboriginal Education in SD91.

Leona is a graduate of Lakes District Secondary and a member of the Lake Babine Nation. She belongs to the Likh Tsa Mis Yu (Beaver) Clan and has three wonderful children. Leona is deeply committed to Indigenous education with the goal of equity and promoting culture and language across all schools.

Since joining SD91, Leona's leadership has led to a District Equity Scan, the creation of a new Diversity 8 course and Indigenous website, increased Indigenous culture and language programming across our schools and supporting a group of lead SD91 educators in deepening their Aboriginal Education practice.

Outside of her formal role with Nechako Lakes School District, Leona is a celebrated author of published children's books as well as a sought-after presenter at numerous provincial events. Leona has been a professional collaborator with many provincial organizations and school districts including Focused Education, OpenSchoolsBC and the FNEC Curriculum Team. Leona is also passionate about becoming fluent in her own language and is continuing her learning through participation as a student in the NVIT Nedut'en Fluency Degree Program.

In 2017, she was awarded the Alumni of the Year award for Professional Excellence by the Alumni Association of UNBC, her alma mater. In 2018, Leona also received an Inspire Award for Educational Leadership.

In this new position, Leona will join the senior leadership team to enhance the district's journey and commitment to improving the education and lives of all learners through Truth and Reconciliation and the Calls to Action.

As per Board of Education Chair, Dave Christie, *"The Board is excited to have Leona Prince promoted to the Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education position. Leona in her time with SD91 as the District Principal of Aboriginal Education, has been a driving force to support and enhance indigenous students, which make up 40% of our student population. Leona has developed and introduced many new programs for staff and students which the board is proud of. SD 91 is grateful to live, work and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of fourteen First Nations. Supporting the development of the Director of Instruction – Indigenous Education position is in direct alignment of the Board's Strategic Education Plan in every aspect. The Board would like to congratulate Leona and look forward to her continued work in enhancing outcomes for all our students."*

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