



Elder Advisory Council

Valuing diversity is about the commitment and responsibility for passing on our culture through our stories and traditions every day of our lives. This is not a commitment to “write it all down” but to live it and model it.

(Thoughts offered by Elders about valuing diversity at the first EAC meeting, Oct. 2010)

Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers are highly respected in their communities, having long discovered their gifts and purposes through their life experiences. Elders and Knowledge Keepers bring an understanding of their community’s history and traditional ways. The CBE Elder Advisory Council was established in October 2010 and includes Elders and Knowledge Keepers from the following Nations:

- Blackfoot (Kainai, Piikani, Siksika)
- Stoney Nakoda
- Tsuut’ina
- Métis
- Cree

Meetings with Elders & Knowledge Keepers occur four times per year with Calgary Board of Education representatives including:

- Chief Superintendent
- Superintendents of School Improvement
- Members of the Board of Trustees
- Education Director & System Principal responsible for Indigenous Education
- Education Director & Principals responsible for Niitsitapi Learning Centre & Piitoayis Family School
- Elders’ Helper

The Elder Advisory Council works with the CBE towards the following goals:

- To engage, collaborate and build bridges with members of Indigenous communities.
- To give counsel and advice to the Board to help inform decisions and policy that support the concept of diversity and inclusion.
- To distinguish ourselves as a culturally competent organization.
- To consider actions to meet CBE Education Plan Key Outcome: *Students who self- identify as Indigenous are supported to experience improved achievement and well-being.*
- To learn and celebrate together.