

## Chinook's Edge welcomes Indigenous Leaders for flag blessing

Administrative teams from each school in the division were part of an Indigenous Flag Blessing ceremony last week. The event involved Elders from Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and the Métis Nation, who joined to perform their own time-honoured ceremony for multiple flags of the nations they represent, so that each Chinook's Edge school is ready to install their own Indigenous flags at their schools this spring. This work honours the division's ongoing commitment to ensure a welcoming culture to Indigenous students and families through the use of a symbol that is vital to them, so that Indigenous students feel a sense of pride. It embraces Indigenous Learning for all students and staff, and continues the division's efforts in reconciliation.



The Chinook's Edge Board of Trustees, Central Office Leadership Team and School Administrators from across the division welcomed their special guests and were witness to the blessing. Elder John Sinclair, a familiar Knowledge Keeper in Chinook's Edge from Good Fish Lake First Nation & Ermineskin First Nation, led an opening welcome.

Superintendent Kurt Sacher thanked the many people whose work is bringing this important recognition to all students and all people throughout the division. "This is a historic moment for our school division, and one that fills us with tremendous pride as we continue to make authentic steps forward with respect to truth and reconciliation. What we have witnessed today is an important step, and I want to thank our Indigenous Learning team, our administrators, our staff and our Board for what they have all done to this point, and for what all of you will continue to do. In Chinook's Edge, our actions will always speak louder than our words," said Superintendent Sacher.



Karyn Barber, Associate Superintendent, shared protocol with each Elder. "Each of us took an individual path to be here today, but we come together with open hearts and minds, listening and learning from one another. We share a vision that extends to each student in our division."



Admin Teams picked up Indigenous Flags for their schools, which will soon be installed through their own ceremonies with students, staff and families.



Chinook's Edge Indigenous Learning Coordinator, Patrick Mitsuing, led special guests to Dance Out the Flags as the Honour Song was performed to end the ceremony.