

The Board of Trustees is pleased to have supported and participated in an [Indigenous Flag Blessing ceremony](#) held at Olds College on January 18, 2023, as part of the division's ongoing commitment to ensure a welcoming culture to Indigenous students and families. School based and division administrators, as well as Elders from Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and the Métis Nation were also in attendance. Indigenous leaders performed their own time-honoured ceremony for multiple flags from the nations they represent. Each school in Chinook's Edge will [install their own Indigenous flags](#) at their schools this spring.

Trustees appreciate and support work underway to ensure cybersecurity risks are minimized. At the [January 2023 Board meeting](#) trustees heard that a key approach for the division is to increase individual staff awareness of risks. Also Chinook's Edge systems, such as very strong firewalls and dual factor authentication, are in place.

The Board continues to invest in technology evergreening and anticipates spending [\\$600,000 in the 2023-24 school year to renew technology](#). One of the Board's priorities is to ensure students gain necessary technology skills to support learning in a wide variety of fields.

[The Board is monitoring](#) the increasing cost of the carbon tax and [its impact on Chinook's Edge](#). At the [January Board meeting](#), trustees heard the carbon tax could represent an extra \$450,000 annually for Chinook's Edge.

[The Board has approved](#) audited financial statements for the school year ending 2021-22, and approved the 2021-22 Annual Education Results Report. Both will be submitted to the government and posted to the website.

The Board strongly values the initiatives underway that focus on staff wellness, and is supportive of a number of measures, including the work of School Wellness Champions. The group meets several times each school year with the goal of increasing staff wellness. The [most recent meeting was on January 12](#) and a key focus of the day was "re-connection."

[Kindergarten registration is underway](#) in Chinook's Edge. Trustees are excited about the amazing learning opportunities ahead for new students.

Students at Innisfail Middle School and École Deer Meadow School in Olds recently participated in a [Skills Canada Alberta](#) event. The [students' challenge](#) was to consider how to grow sustainable crops in a changing climate, and work in groups throughout the day to construct prototypes. The Board considers opportunities like this, which expose students to possible career connections, an important part of the Chinook's Edge experience.

Trustees express their congratulations to the winners of the [division's bus safety poster competition](#), and they wish the students the best of luck at the provincial level.

One of the learning opportunities that trustees are proud of is the Hockey Academy in Olds. This program was featured in a [recent edition](#) of Celebrating Chinook's Edge, and is one of a number of Academy programs at École Deer Meadow School in Olds.

The Board wishes to extend a welcome to Dennis Beaudoin, [who has been named](#) Dean of School of Trades and Skills at Olds College, and to [Patrick Machacek](#), who is now the Vice President of Development and Partnerships at Red Deer Polytechnic.