

On October 19, trustees joined Chinook's Edge senior administration to celebrate [dozens of long-serving staff](#), welcome 29 new teachers and bid farewell to a record 70 retirees [at the division's annual Celebrations event](#). The Board co-hosted the evening with the Alberta Teachers' Association local #17. Chair Holly Bilton said, "Our Board is very grateful to our staff and we are always pleased to honour them in this way."

The Chinook's Edge Board asked the Superintendent, [at its October 3rd meeting](#), to consider current administrative procedures, which govern schools, to ensure they reference that guest speakers support curriculum or division goals, and to consider communication with families when guest speakers are coming.

The Board was pleased to hear [student enrolment is holding steady](#). On September 30, the number of students attending Chinook's Edge was 11,101. The number is what was approximately anticipated in the budget for the 2023-24 school year.

Trustees continue to prioritize the development of leaders. The Board invests in the [Aspiring Leaders program](#), which celebrates its 10th year this year. The program is for teachers who wish to grow their leadership skills and covers topics such as fostering effective relationships, instructional leadership and inclusion, managing resources, and Indigenous education. There are 14 individuals in this fall's new cohort.

The [Board was pleased that schools](#) in Chinook's Edge and staff at [the division remembered](#) National Truth and Reconciliation Day. Also, trustees are supportive of a new online training resource for staff called The 4 Seasons of Reconciliation. The course was created by the First Nations University of Canada. It covers content such as the impact of residential schools and the Indian Act, the importance of treaties, and what solutions may be possible with economic reconciliation, as well as positive stories of partnerships, hope, and Indigenous cultural revitalization.

Chinook's Edge trustees recently welcomed [Carolynne Muncer](#) as the new Indigenous Learning Coordinator, and [Elisa Jackson](#) as the Staff Health and Wellness Coordinator.

Chinook's Edge Board Vice-chair Sherry Cooper joined several community guests, as well as staff and students for the [official opening of the new outdoor classroom](#) at Jessie Duncan School in Penhold. The space has a tipi in it, as well as Indigenous plants and will help students better understand Indigenous culture and history. It will also connect them with nature and learning in science. To see highlights from the ceremony, including what students think about their new classroom, click this link: https://youtu.be/BP_QjNnvIBA

Trustees were delighted to learn that Ecole H.J. Cody teacher [Sarah Steinbach received a Prime Minister's Award](#) for Teaching Excellence earlier this month.

The Board also sends its congratulations to [Davina Merritt](#), who is a graduate of Ecole Olds High School. Davina Merritt was named the [top student leader in Canada](#). The Bill Conconi Leadership award comes with a \$1,000 scholarship and is provided by the Canadian Student Leadership Association.

Stakeholder engagement throughout the division is something that continues to be a priority for the Board. In October, the division held its [Teachers Matter](#), [Parents Matter](#), [Support Staff Matter](#) and [Students Matter](#) committees, to listen and respond to concerns and questions, give participants a chance to connect and share ideas, and to gather feedback on important topics.