

## Cadmus Delorme, former Chief of Cowessess First Nation, visits Chinook's Edge



Former Cowessess First Nation Chief, Cadmus Delorme, visits Chinook's Edge. Indigenous Coordinator Carolynne Muncer presents a dream catcher that was handmade specifically for him.

The former Chief of the Cowessess First Nation in southern Saskatchewan, shared his insights about Truth and Reconciliation with Chinook's Edge leaders and staff on September 18.

In a meeting with principals, vice principals, senior division leaders and some school board trustees, and later with division office staff members and Indigenous lead teachers, Delorme spoke about the journey of Truth and Reconciliation in Canada.

*"Think of it as a math equation," says Delorme. "The denominator is truth. The truth comes from our brain. The numerator is reconciliation. We lead reconciliation with the heart."*

When moving forward, Delorme shared that in Indigenous teachings, it is important to **"show your heart before asking for the hand"**, meaning it is important to share a story before asking something of people.

Delorme compared the two world views, of being Canadian and being Indigenous, to two canoes that were always meant to have equal value and sail along on a parallel path in Canada. Through various actions in Canada's history, the Indigenous canoe has not moved forward at the same pace as the Canadian canoe.

**"Reconciliation is about aligning the two canoes,"** says Delorme. He shared that his goal and motivation is to help Canada move to a future where that is reality.

Delorme acknowledged that there are challenges ahead, but reminded the group, **"we are only nine years into this journey of reconciliation,"** and encouraged the leaders to keep working towards the goal despite the challenges. **"The greatest warrior is the one who brings peace,"** he says.



***“Chinook’s Edge bringing Cadmus to speak is the icing on a cake that was already beautiful,” said Elder John Sinclair, who attended the session. “I told Cadmus this is the first time I’ve heard the message delivered in such a positive and understandable way. It gives me so much hope for the future and for our children. ”***

Karyn Barber, Associate Superintendent, Chinook’s Edge, heard Delorme speak at a provincial gathering for school division leaders. She says, ***“I knew he had a message that would positively impact Chinook’s Edge work in meeting the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and our journey in reconciliation. Cadmus’ message inspired us to continue learning and leading this work, even when it is challenging, with hope and optimism. We are very lucky to have had time with this kind, humble and wise Chief and national leader of reconciliation.”***

Barber says, ***“Cadmus’ message of grace, learning, and a path forward together was powerful and will have a lasting impact on the work we do as a division. Heart, then hands. Thank you, Cadmus.”***



Above: Cadmus Delorme, former Chief of the Cowessess First Nation, with Michelle Sahli, a Chinook’s Edge staff member who created the dream catcher that was gifted to Delorme.

Below: Delorme with Carolynne Muncer, Indigenous Education Coordinator (left) and Elder John Sinclair (right)



# Chinook's Edge grateful recipient of 10 years of shared wisdom from Elder John Sinclair



As Truth and Reconciliation Day, on September 30, approaches Chinook's Edge is reflecting on the journey it has taken to date and where it is going in the future.

In that reflection, division leaders are grateful for the wisdom, knowledge and support of Elder John Sinclair, who has been providing his guidance to the division for 10 years.

***“He has brought Indigenous teachings, knowledge and connections to students and staff in Chinook's Edge, helping staff and students connect with Indigenous ways of knowing and doing,”*** says Carolynne Muncer, Indigenous Learning Coordinator. ***“Students enjoy his humour. He makes everyone comfortable and he has a gentle and impactful influence.”***

***“We are incredibly grateful for the opportunities we have had to learn and work with Elder John,”*** says Muncer. ***“He always comes from a place of kindness and understanding, and he believes in what we are doing for students.”***

***“His intention is always to teach and to build compassion as we find the path forward. The division is a better place because of him,”*** she says. ***“He has a genuine desire to see the best in people. He has a beautiful heart and it just feels good to be in his presence.”***

***“I do it for my kids and for my grandchildren,”*** says John Sinclair. ***“I know there needs to be a change for the people of Canada.”***

***Sinclair says, “I appreciate working with people who are open to learning. Chinook's Edge has made me feel welcome and understood. They place value on cultural teachings.”***

***“I am so proud of Chinook's Edge for the strides they've taken. We've been working at this for a long time,”*** says Sinclair.

***“I appreciate Elder Sinclair's willingness to connect and build relationship,”*** says Karyn Barber, Associate Superintendent, Chinook's Edge. ***“John is patient and knowledgeable, with a sense of humour that allows us to maintain optimism and hope. We are fortunate to have him give so generously of his time to our students and school staff as we further our learning and respond to the Calls to Action as a division.”***

Thank you Elder John Sinclair, for all you've given and shared with the division.



Elder John Sinclair blessing Metis graduation sashes, and drumming at a school, in previous school years



# Chinook's Edge launches video land acknowledgment in preparation for Truth and Reconciliation Day



Click on the image above to view the land acknowledgment video (or the link in the article below).

On September 30, Chinook's Edge schools will be closed in observance of Truth and Reconciliation Day. During the week ahead, and in the days leading up to that day, educators will take time to help students gain understanding of Indigenous history in Canada, and to consider how we walk together on the path to reconciliation.

Schools may be using [this new video](#) as a part of their learning. The video showcases the division's new land acknowledgment statement that was developed last school year, with significant input from students, staff, school board trustees, and Indigenous partners. The collaboration focused on determining what words would meaningfully reflect the land and the peoples who have lived, worked, and learned in this area over centuries.

In the video, the phrases are shared by Chinook's Edge students and staff. Also, there are visuals of local Indigenous landmarks.

Karyn Barber, Associate Superintendent, Chinook's Edge, ***"We are pleased to provide this visual representation of the meaningful statement that we developed collaboratively last year."***

***Barber says "Thanks to Laurette Woodward, our Communications Coordinator, for envisioning this video. Her work with photographer and editor Dom Gomes took our two dimensional representation of the acknowledgment to a three dimensional piece that brings out the feeling behind the words we developed. The video beautifully communicates the intent behind our work in Truth and Reconciliation, and our commitment to walk the path together."***



# Indigenous leads day successful

Indigenous lead teachers gathered on September 19, 2024 to collaborate and prepare for the year ahead. The teachers are responsible to support other staff members in their schools in the journey towards Truth and Reconciliation.

Clare Butterfly, an Indigenous partner, shared about smudging and helped each participant make a talking stick. Also, participants learned an Indigenous game and had time to collaborate with each other. Thank you to these teachers, and to Clare Butterfly, for your commitment to helping us all understand more about Indigenous people and history.



# 200 Chinook's Edge high school teachers gather to collaborate and learn

Around 200 high school teachers from throughout Chinook's Edge School Division gathered in Olds on September 20th, for a professional learning day, for opportunities to collaborate and learn about learning!

***“Our focus for the day was effective and efficient teaching and learning,” says Karyn Barber, Associate Superintendent, Chinook's Edge. “We discussed the best practices that combine the art and science of teaching, based on current research.”***

***Barber says, “Not only is the power of professional development integral to life long learning for educators, but so is the collegiality that comes from a day like Friday. When teachers are excited about sharing their knowledge, that passion is contagious and it gets students excited about learning.”***

The group has been gathering three times per year annually for three years. Last year the focus was on assessment. In the 2024-25 school year the focus is on instructional delivery or in other words, how teachers bring the curriculum to students so that students can successfully understand it.

One of the guest speakers for the day was Brett Gardiner, a former Ecole H.J. Cody teacher, who spoke about teacher wellness. Barber says, ***“We wanted to affirm that the workload on teachers is significant, while at the same time giving some practical ideas about how we each can manage our own wellness. Brett's message was so impactful.”***



Landry Forand, a teacher from Rocky View Public Schools, also spoke. He shared some myths and truths about how students learn, based on current research.

In the afternoon, teachers gathered with others who teach the same subjects, to share ideas and best practices.

***“In my first year of teaching, I was the only high school math teacher in a K to 12 school. I had no one that I could ask questions to or share ideas with,”*** recalls Helen Hammel, a teacher at Ecole Olds High School.





***“It is life changing to have access to collaboration like we have in Chinook’s Edge. To be able to collaborate and share ideas means greater success for students as we all improve our teaching. I really appreciate the division’s intent to support us and help us build connections with each other,”*** says Hammel.



***“For new teachers, especially, a day like Friday is really important,”*** says Jerod Ferguson. ***“Being able to make connections and relationships with other teachers, so you’re not alone is so important. It makes asking for help less intimidating. Also, teachers who have more experience learn a lot from the collaboration.”***



Ferguson says he has heard this type of opportunity doesn’t exist in other school divisions. ***“I can’t imagine not having the connections we do. Together we highlight best practices and raise the quality of teaching across the division.”***

***“I really appreciate the opportunity to have teachers together from all corners of the school division,”*** says Alex Lambert, Principal of Ecole H.J. Cody School. ***“There is so much strength and wisdom that we hold collectively. This year, focusing on best practices in our lessons will strengthen our teaching, and the learning of our students.”***

