

Title: **Ceremonial Protocols**

Category: **Administration**

Number: **1120**

Circulating until May 5, 2017

1. Acknowledgement of First Nations

School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) is within the unceded lands of the shíshálh (Sechelt) Nation and the Skwxwu7mesh uxwumixw (Squamish Nation).

First Nations shall be acknowledged in school ceremonies in the following manner:

- (a) Before any other comments or introductions which are directly concerned with the ceremony itself, acknowledge the First Nations territory where the ceremony is being held.

Port Mellon to Roberts Creek

"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the unceded territory of the Skwxwu7mesh [pronounced "Sko-maish"] uxwumixw (Squamish Nation)."

Roberts Creek to Egmont

"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the unceded territory of the shíshálh [pronounced "She-shal-h"] (Sechelt) Nation."

When speaking of the Nation, pronounce the name of the Nation in the language of that Nation. If you do not know how to pronounce it, please ask the Principal of Aboriginal Programs and Services to provide you with the proper pronunciation ahead of time.

- (b) If there is a Chief and/or elders of that nation in the audience, they are to be acknowledged next.

- i) "I would like to acknowledge Chief _____ of the _____ First Nation." It is customary to try to look for the Chief and to try to make eye contact at that point.

If one is speaking in English, then first use the English name of the Chief. If the Chief has an ancestral name, it is considered polite to ask ahead of time if you may introduce the Chief also by his/her ancestral name.

- (ii) Elders

"I would (also) like to acknowledge the (name of First Nation) elders that are here and thank them for honouring this ceremony."

(The elders are not named individually – the chief, however, may choose to do that in his/her greetings.)

2. Other officials shall then be introduced in the following order:

- (a) Minister of Education;
- (b) Chair of the School Board;
- (c) Mayor;
- (d) Chair of the Regional District Council;
- (e) Chiefs of Other Nations;
- (f) Member of Parliament;
- (g) Member of the Legislative Assembly;

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- (h) School Trustee(s);
 - (i) Municipal and/or Regional District Councillors;
 - (j) Other elected officials;
 - (k) Superintendent of Schools;
 - (l) Principal;
 - (m) Local and Provincial Union President.

3. Graduation Ceremonies

- (a) the Canadian flag shall be present;
- (b) the ceremony shall begin with O'Canada;
- (c) greetings shall be invited from:
 - the Chief of First Nations (if present);
 - the Board of Trustees;
 - the Superintendent;
 - the Mayor or Regional Directors.

Adopted: January 2001

Revised: May 2008

References: Policy 11 (Role of the Superintendent)

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