



Education is the key to opening up the world for our future generations. We know that the future of our communities will depend on the skills and abilities of our people. The quality and level of our community's education will affect our economic growth as well as the quality of the social programs our First Nation government can offer. Success can be reached by forming collaborative partnerships with various levels of government throughout the Province of New Brunswick.

February 2009 Pabineau First Nation entered into an Enhanced First Nation Education and Services Agreement. The Province of New Brunswick has entered into this agreement with the Pabineau First Nation and District 15 Education School Board to provide enhanced education programs and services for First Nation Students attending District 15 provincial schools. The Province of New Brunswick has agreed to dedicate 50% of the tuition paid by the Pabineau First Nation to provide enhanced programs and services to the school district where fees originated.

Through this initiative, the Pabineau District Education Committee was established to review and approve enhanced programs and services that will contribute to the decrease of the academic achievement gap that currently exists between First Nation Students and the general student population. The District First Nation Coordinator and I co-chair this committee and we meet as needed throughout the school year. As District 15 is educating children from three First Nation communities, a Regional Education Committee was formed with representative from all interested parties and I chair this committee.



Two tutors are currently employed through this agreement to work with the tuition-paid students within the schools in the Bathurst area from kindergarten to grade 12. The Strategic Action Plan that was developed through the Regional Education Committee is the guide that the tutors use in developing their action plan for each child.

I am also very pleased to announce the extension on the Head Start building and the development of the new initiatives now being offered at the center. Within the facility we offer the Head Start Program and the After School program which is under the direction of the Head Start Director, Amanda Peter-Paul. New to the facility is the K-4 Program and the Daycare which is being run under the direction of the K-4 / Daycare Director, Tracy Gray. In the fall of 2011 we will be offering the Daycare program.

Some of the duties that I undertake as Education Director are the overseeing of the staff within the Education Center and ensuring all programs are being run according to their mandates. Every fall I complete the nominal roll for INAC in collaboration with District 15. I meet regularly with the principles to ensure our relationship continues to stay strong and that all is working towards achieving the educational goals of our youth within the school system. District 15 has a committee, District Education Committee, that meets monthly and I sit on this committee representing Pabineau First Nation, Eel River Bar First Nation, and Listuguj First Nation. Each year the Education Center holds an Education Gala highlighting all the educational achievements accomplished by our youth throughout the school year. The Mentor campaign is now on its 5<sup>th</sup> year, below is the posters from the previous years.

Partnerships have been developed with the Community Adult Learning Network (CALNet) and the Department of Post-Secondary Education, Training and Labour (PETL) in the delivery of the Essential Skills & G.E.D. program within the community. During the summer months, focus is with the youth within the community and during the remainder of the year, focus is on the adults who are either out of the school system for some time and/or the staff.

Regularly the website is updated on activities, workshops, and training taking place at the Education Center. Programs currently offered at the Center:

- Head Start & After School Program
- K-4 Program
- Essential Skills Program
- G.E.D. & Access Center
- Migmag Language Classes
- Youth Employment Strategy
- K-12 Tutors
- Educational/Student Assistant Services
- School Bus Services

