



SIWAL SI'WES-INDIGENOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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Mission Public School District is located on the Traditional, Ancestral, Unceded, and Shared lands of the Stó:lō people, of Sq'ewlets, Leq'á:mel, Semá:th, Máthxwi and Qwó:tl'el First Nations, peoples of this land since time immemorial.

April 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I wish to take this time to extend gratitude to Youth Leadership Society of BC and Steps Together Foundation, specifically Ravi Safaya.

Mission Public School District 75 is home to almost 7200 students, of which almost 1200 self identify as Indigenous, with Indigenous learners comprising approximately 17% of the total student population. Due to the rising costs of living, this has placed some Indigenous families in crisis with many living in near or at the poverty line.

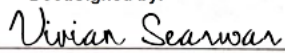
The aftershocks of the pandemic continues to impact many Indigenous families by exposing new gaps and amplifying those that already existed. These gaps include (but are not limited to):

- Food Security
- Clothing Security
- School Supplies & Fees
- Transportation
- Technology Needs (devices and wi-fi)
- Participation in school-based and community extra curricular opportunities (sports etc)
- Post-Secondary Education Options

In partnership with **Youth Leadership Society of BC** and **Steps Together Foundation**, we were able to provide desktop computers and laptops and food hampers for several families, and tuition for select Indigenous students to attend Riverside College in a trade.

The support Siwal Si'wes has received from Ravi Safaya has been incredible, and for which we are extremely grateful. This will create some "room to breathe" in such unsettled times for the Indigenous learners and families whom we serve.

Once again, Ravi and team, we are grateful for your ongoing support and look forward to strengthening our working relationship in the future!

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Vivian Searwar
District Principal, Siwal Si'wes Indigenous Education, SD75

**Siwal Si'wes
(our forefathers' teachings)**