

# ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

**TITLE: CEREMONIAL PROTOCOLS**

**CATEGORY: EDUCATION**

**NUMBER: 1060**

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**I. Rationale:**

The Board of Education is committed to supporting truth and reconciliation efforts. Recognizing Indigenous peoples and their unceded lands and waters is an important act of reconciliation and a way to honour our First Nations. The following information will assist staff in our collaborative efforts towards healing and building stronger relationships with Indigenous communities.

**II. Acknowledgement of First Nations:**

- a. School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast) is within the unceded lands of the shíshálh (Sechelt) Nation and the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)

**III. 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.
- b. Port Mellon to Roberts Creek
  - i. "I would like to acknowledge that we are on the unceded lands and waters of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (S-ko-omesh ohk-o-mayook).
- c. Roberts Creek to Egmont
  - i. "I would like to acknowledge that we are on the unceded lands and waters of the shíshálh Nation (she-sha-lh)."
- d. 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 district principal of Indigenous learning to provide you with the proper pronunciation ahead of time
- e. Students and staff who are First Nations, Métis or Inuit, and other students/staff who practice cultural traditions, are welcome to wear cultural attire/regalia fitting to the occasion.

**IV. If there is a Chief or Alternate and/or Elders of that nation in the audience, they are to be acknowledged next.**

- a. "I would like to acknowledge Chief (or Alternate) \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_(First Nation)." It is customary to try to look for the Chief and to try to make brief eye contact at that point.
- b. If one is speaking in English, then first use the English name of the Chief (or Alternate). If the Chief (or Alternate) has an ancestral name, it is considered polite to ask ahead of time if you may introduce the Chief also by their ancestral name.
- c. Elders: "I would (also) like to acknowledge the (name of First Nation) elders that are here and thank them for honouring this ceremony."

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

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

- a. Minister of Education;
- b. Chair of the School Board;
- c. Mayor(s);
- d. Chair of the Regional District Council;
- e. Chiefs of Other First Nations;
- f. Other Cultural Leadership;
- g. Member of Parliament;
- h. Member of the Legislative Assembly;
- i. School Trustee(s);
- j. Municipal Councillors and/or Regional District Directors;
- k. Other elected officials;
- l. Superintendent of Schools;
- m. Assistant Superintendent
- n. Director(s) of Instruction;
- o. District Principal(s) and Principal(s);
- p. Local and Provincial Union President(s).

VI. **Graduation Ceremonies:**

- a. the Canadian flag shall be present;
- b. the ceremony shall open with a land acknowledgement and, when possible, welcoming song(s) by the First Nation where the ceremony is taking place;
- c. the audience will be invited to stand for O' Canada;
- d. greetings shall be invited from:
  - i. the Chief(s) (or Alternate(s) of First Nations (if present);
  - ii. the Board of Education;
  - iii. the Superintendent;
  - iv. the Member of Parliament and/or the Member of the Legislative Assembly;
  - v. the Mayor(s) or Regional Director(s)
  - vi. the Principal of the school.

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**References:** Policy 1 (Foundational Statements), Policy 11 (Role of the Superintendent)