



# SUNSHINE COAST SCHOOL DISTRICT 46

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### **SD46 Welcomes New District Principal of Indigenous Learning**

**SUNSHINE COAST, BRITISH COLUMBIA** – The Sunshine Coast School District (SD46) is pleased to announce that Desiree Harris has been selected as the new District Principal of Indigenous Learning following the retirement of Kerry Mahlman. She will officially begin in this role on August 1, 2025.

The appointment of Desiree followed a comprehensive national search facilitated by Leaders International, with a selection committee that included representatives from shíshálh Nation and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw, whose insights and unique perspectives were invaluable in selecting a leader who embodies the values and vision of Indigenous communities.

Desiree's life's work is grounded in a deep commitment to Indigenous education, self-determination, and systemic change. With over a decade of classroom experience and many years in various leadership roles, she brings a passion for supporting Indigenous students and their families, advancing equity in education, and helping educators embed Indigenous knowledge, content, perspectives, and pedagogies across the curriculum. Desiree is Indigenous herself – she is Michif, Red River Métis.

Desiree holds a Master's degree focused on Indigenous studies. Using Indigenous research methodologies, her thesis explored the experiences of Indigenous students and the supports that foster equity, respect, and well-being. She has led district-wide initiatives in Indigenous education, assessment, and inclusive instruction, and has developed culturally grounded curriculum across grade levels and learning areas, along with land-based learning opportunities.



*"I am grateful to live and work as a guest on the traditional, unceded lands and waters of shíshálh Nation and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Úxwumixw. I am eager to continue learning from shíshálh and Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh Peoples, and am honoured to have the opportunity to work*

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*in relationship with the Rightsholders of these lands. I carry a deep sense of responsibility to walk alongside shíshálh, Skwxwú7mesh, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, families, and communities to ensure their voices, cultures, and rights are valued and upheld in our schools. I look forward to supporting all learners and staff across the district as we continue this important work together.” – Desiree Harris*

Superintendent Kate Kerr expressed her confidence in Desiree’s leadership and commitment to Truth, Reconciliation, and equity. “Desiree brings dedication, authenticity, and vision to this role,” said Kerr. “We are thrilled to welcome her in this new role, and we thank Kerry Mahlman for her extraordinary leadership and commitment to Indigenous learning over the years.”

**For media inquiries, please contact:**

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We acknowledge with respect and gratitude the unceded lands and waters – the Temíxw of Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw and the swiya of shíshálh Nation, where we learn, collaborate, and journey together.

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