








## February 20, 2024, Superintendent's Report

### 1. District Elder in Residence Program Creating Positive Outcomes:

When the district participated in its Indigenous Education Equity Scan in 2022, one of the recommendations was to develop and implement an Elder in-residence program to support Indigenous students' academic and social-emotional success and support teachers and non-Indigenous students. Elders have valuable knowledge to share, including but not limited to the following:

-  Promoting awareness of cultural traditions.
-  Enhancing and enriching classroom lessons and school events with the integration of Indigenous worldviews and perspectives.
-  Building and enhancing relationships between school and Indigenous students and parents
-  Acting as a mediator, mentor, and support harmony.
-  Work with individual students, small groups, and whole classes.

The district is fortunate to have Michael Garvey as district Elder. Michael works in all the schools in the district and supports school Elders, Knowledge-keepers, Indigenous Support Teachers, teachers, students, and families. We thank Michael and all our Elders and Knowledge-keepers for their ongoing contributions.

### 2. January 26<sup>th</sup> District Shared Professional Development Day:

The annual shared professional development day between the Arrow Lakes Teachers Association, the Arrow Lakes Educational Leadership Association and the district occurred on January 26<sup>th</sup>. The focus for this year was the district's new strategic plan. The morning began with three student keynote speakers. NSS grade 12 students Dharia Phillipson and Mia Ballard, along with Lucerne grade 11 student Yonah Murphy, spoke about their experiences, their future, and what they wanted educators to know about their realities as students in today's world.

The morning then focussed on building competency from within, and SD10 teachers facilitated workgroups on areas related to the strategic plan: trauma and harm reduction, Indigenous learning, science, arts, early literacy, outdoor experiences, ADST and hands-on learning, and mathematics. The sessions were engaging, and staff were able to connect, collaborate, and learn from each other.

In the afternoon, staff had an opportunity to explore wellness and health in a proactive manner. Staff collaborated with local health and wellness providers to examine best practices that can be transferred into the classroom and daily life.

The day was a huge success and a tribute to the knowledge, skills, and expertise that exists within our district.