



# 16 First Nation Trustees: Leading in Two Worlds

## KEY PRINCIPLES FOR BOARD MEMBERS

The board's understanding of the unique roles and responsibilities of the First Nation Trustee should include the following:

- Appointed First Nation trustees are considered elected members of the board with all the rights and responsibilities of the position.
- The First Nation trustee has a unique responsibility to act in the best interests of First Nation students who attend schools of the district school board under a tuition or education services agreement and to support the board in raising awareness among all students with regard to local histories, cultures and perspectives.
- The board has general and contractual obligations to provide programs and services to First Nation students as described in the tuition or education services agreement.
- The First Nation Trustee has unique responsibilities:
  - Monitoring negotiation of the education services agreement
  - Ensuring the actions of the board reflect the education services agreement
  - Ensuring that both parties to the agreement are fulfilling their obligations
  - Ensuring that mechanisms are in place for effective accountability to the First Nation community
  - Ensuring a high-quality academic and cultural education for First Nation students
  - Ensuring that First Nation students are free from any expression of racism or harassment as students of the board's schools
- There are general obligations of the board with respect to First Nation, Métis and Inuit students, including the provision of:
  - Educational services for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students that are demonstrated to be on par with provincial standards of service
  - An educational environment and teaching staff that respects First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultures, including culturally-specific programs
  - Consistent and timely reporting to the First Nation education authority
  - First Nation involvement in schools attended by First Nation students