



## Parent meeting to share dreams and ideas for a future Aboriginal Learning Centre.

Question: As we create this “*beautiful place*” for the Aboriginal community to come together, what dreams and ideas do you have for this place (physical, mental, spiritual, emotional)?

### Emotional

- Counsellors
- Healers
- Medicine people
- Family circles.
- Feasts
- Healing circles
- Round dancing
- Elders in residence
- Women’s circles
- Men’s circles
- Elder involved in SLT
- Mentorship
- Professional support – speech
- Transition supports in timely manner
- Private rooms (sharing)
- Language resources – Michif, Cree, Blackfoot
- Traditional parenting
- Seasonal Celebration
- Medicines / herbs
- Counselling, psychologists, etc. of different types / perspectives
- Gathering place
- Belonging (visually) – attire with logos

### Physical

- Shelter – 24 hours?
- Health and wellness – gym / fitness, dance
- Is this a place that you won’t visit to access learning and supports for your children? Your family?
- Bringing the outside indoors – sound, sight, smell, feel
- Cafeteria – traditional cooking, traditional food
- Physical space
- Having Elders present in the facility
- I, as a parent, would love to see this range from p-k to 12<sup>th</sup> grade. I believe it’s important right from start to finish
- The school has to be large for what is needed
- It should look like a native school with maybe large totem poles and outside should be bright, identification of all tribes
- Moon room
- Pre-k – adult learning
- Gymnasium / lots of space
- Breakfast program
- Sports i.e. hockey / football
- Arbour
- Four elements incorporated in design
- Elders room

- Promote diversity in design
- Community involvement in design
- Cabin
- Cafeteria
- Outdoor fire pit
- Computer room
- Health and wellness, gym
- Space – dance – may types
- Access to dentist / lawyers / nurse / doctor
- Youth programs (evenings)
- Dietician
- Breakfast / lunch – healthy
- Daycare
- Medical
- Accredited project for high school
- Cultural dream room:
  - multi-purpose
  - round similar to a tipi with a theatre
  - different ceremonies
  - different kinds of smudges
  - fire pit – calming
  - lighting – projection
- Cultural dream room:
  - Colours – earth tones, ochre, red, yellow
  - Technology – sound effects
  - Music – acoustics would be important
  - Animals
  - Story telling – teaching, culture, language
- Tipi space – inside round spaces, for different activities. Floor design that incorporates cultural images
- History that can be understood
- Create awareness of centre. People come
- Multi-media centre to capture stories and teaching
- Classroom design:
  - make them unique
  - guided by the universe
  - water-sound

#### Spiritual

- Drumming
- Rites of passage
- Elders room
- Ceremonial room
- Cultural teachings
- Wood or natural materials (walls)
- Dancing
- Sweat lodge
- Access to Elders
- Music
- Cultural teaching (smudging ceremonies)
- Language
- Stories – variety from all cultures
- Teaching generosity
- Spirit of giving
- Cultural ceremonies
- Grandmother's tea ceremony

- Craft activities
- In house Elder that attends regularly as part of day-to-day teaching
- Mental
  - Educational partnerships
  - Qualified teachers with cultural knowledge
  - Elders involved in the classroom
  - Teachers for the whole family
  - Ceremonial space
  - Pow-wow space
  - Aboriginal resources (library)
  - Music resources / room
  - Story telling
  - Theatre
  - Resources rich – library – best books, media, technology
  - All the way to Grade 12
  - Celebrating diversity of Aboriginal people
  - One-stop shop for referrals
  - Junior Achievement
  - Excel and practice skills – employability skills
  - Experience – shadowing

#### Questions

- If this is going to be a Learning Centre, how public is it going to be? E.g. An agency referral process – what does this look like from a safety perspective? Concern: mixing school children with the public.
- Are students / families / parents from other areas able to access this facility? If yes, where can they put their suggestions forward?
- Why only consider pre-school to k – 2 – 3 – 4?
- What programs can the facility house after school? Hours?
- Who are the groups that are being considered for partnerships? I.e. USAY, united Way, BGC.