

update

January 13, 2014

Creating an Aboriginal Learning Centre

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

The CBE and parents from Piitoayis Family School as well as other Aboriginal families and Elders in the City of Calgary have been involved in the first phase of a development process to create a new place for Aboriginal children and their families to come together to learn and be supported by the community.

On November 28 & 29, 2013, thirty members of a diverse development team worked with a facilitator to bring to paper, some possibilities for this Aboriginal Learning Centre. Three groups each worked on ideas and floor plans that could become part of this beautiful place. Some common themes included:

- A holistic learning approach (mind, body, heart, spirit)
- Space for learning (indoor/outdoor classrooms, culture, language)
- Space for Elders (storytelling, ceremony)
- Space for celebrations (feasts, pow wows)
- Space for community services (social/emotional, food, advocacy)
- Space physical activities (gymnasium, after-school programs)

Results from this development meeting will be reviewed by Alberta Infrastructure and Alberta Education. Budgets will be discussed and we are hopeful that funding may be announced in the new-year.

We appreciate the significant contributions of Elders Leonard Bastien and Randy Bottle, Valerie Newbreast and Clarice Blacksmith from Piitoayis Family School, and other parents/caregivers from across the CBE that have shared their hopes and dreams with us. Thank you also to the CBE staff and community members who made up the developmental team.

As we receive more information from the Government of Alberta we will continue to keep you informed and work with you to bring this dream to reality.

Sincerely,

Lori Pritchard
Principal, Piitoayis Family School