



SCHOOL DISTRICT 78

FRASER-CASCADE

EVERYONE PULLING TOGETHER

Mar. 11, 2026

Media Statement re Cultural Expression

Recent discussions about cultural expression at one of our schools have sparked strong reactions. While situations like this can seem messy at first, they also offer opportunities for learning and growth.

A student wished to wear a cedar hat to honor a family tradition. Initially, a teacher raised a concern about school rules. Once the cultural significance was explained, the student was allowed to wear it, with a temporary removal requested during class. Administrators later consulted an Elder, who confirmed the hat's importance, and the student continued to wear it. **The district also sought and received guidance from its Indigenous Education Council on March 11, 2026, to ensure the situation was handled in a culturally informed and respectful manner.** A meeting with Elders and community representatives is planned to ensure respectful dialogue.

Unfortunately, media and social media coverage misrepresented the situation, creating division and racially charged commentary. We ask our communities to focus on facts and respectful communication.

Our commitment remains clear: supporting students in expressing their identity, honoring cultural traditions, and fostering inclusive, respectful schools. We celebrate the student's courage and continue working to create environments where everyone feels valued and supported.

Dr. Balan Moorthy

Superintendent of Schools