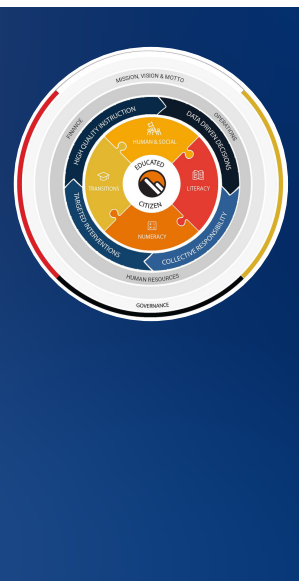


# SCHOOL BASED PRO D

## RECONNECTION & EQUITY, TRUTH & RECONCILIATION



### MOUNT SLESSE MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS and EAs

On October 7, MSMS staff engaged in a meaningful school-based professional day with a focus of Reconnection and Equity, Truth & Reconciliation. Saylesh Wesley, Indigenous Enhancement Teacher, opened our day with a call for vulnerability and an openness for learning. Staff were provided with an opportunity to work on their class profiles which enabled them to think about the stories of the students in their classes and how best they can be supported in the classroom and with additional support from teachers, EAs and community partners. The Indigenous Education Department connected us with Sonny McHalsie who presented to our staff about the Halq'eméylem language, local Stó:lō history and place names. Sonny engaged our staff and allowed them to situate themselves with a local historical understanding of the unceded traditional territory of the Stó:lō people that we are privileged to live, work and play on every day.

After lunch, MSMS staff boarded two school buses and went Soowahlie for a tour and to meet with Chief Brenda Wallace. None of our staff had been to Soowahlie, even though we have had many students from this reserve attend MSMS through the years. Chief Brenda Wallace shared authentically her own story and her vision for Soowahlie. During this visit, Chief Brenda Wallace extended an invitation to our staff to visit and to have a MSMS family gathering on site.

Our staff engaged in a great way and have expressed their want to carry this work forward. We have scheduled our MSMS family gathering at Soowahlie for Wednesday, January 18.

#### From Staff...

*"We need to ensure student voices are heard so they can feel the connection."*

*"We'd like to bring the Indigenous community to the school and take the school to the Indigenous community to create connections."*

*"So fitting after our district staff meeting. I'm learning a ton and reflecting."*

#### Strat Plan Connection

**Human & Social Development, Transitions:**  
**Collective Responsibility** for our students. Knowing them, their stories, and how to best support them through a lens of Equity.