

EDUCATION JURISDICTION

Duane Eustache, Negotiator

Josephine Eustache, Coordinator

Rosemary Donald, Assistant Coordinator

In July 2003 the Federal and Provincial Governments and the First Nation Education Steering Committee (FNEESC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with respect to First Nation Authority and Jurisdiction over Education. In July a Framework agreement was made with the government of Canada and First Nations Education Steering Committee, and an agreement was made with the Province of BC, (First Nations Jurisdiction over Education in BC Act, S.C. 2006.c.19) which authorizes enacting laws respecting education on First Nation land, and to consult with First Nations Education Authority on any change.

In October 2007, Simpcw First Nation Council supported a motion to resolve and agree to support the formation of a Simpcw Community Education Jurisdiction Working Group for a period of 24 months. A plan was made for selecting a negotiator and coordinator.

In November 2007 BILL 46 – 2007 FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION ACT became law which recognized that First Nations may make First Nation laws with respect to education provided by the First Nations on First Nation land. Simpcw First Nation is one of about 13 First Nations prepared to negotiate Education Jurisdiction in the next few months.

In November 2007 a Community Education Planning Session took place with a good attendance. A vision for what the community considers as quality education for our children and grandchildren into the future was created. Nathan gave a brief review on Education Jurisdiction. A plan was made to post for positions.

In December 2007 Simpcw First Nation completed a Band Council Resolution confirming that Duane Eustache is the negotiator for Jurisdiction. Duane attended the jurisdiction meeting in Vancouver in December 5 and 6 to be informed about the process and the requirements. Rosemary and I agreed to coordinate the process. Duane and I attended meetings with the rest of the negotiators and coordinators in Vancouver on January 22 and 23rd. A COMMUNITY DINNER MEETING IS PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 6. Come and get updated on plans to set up Community Education Authorities, Funding arrangements and negotiations (Duane) and how this will all work. Find out the benefits of having First Nations controlling their own education. And what the next steps are. Call Duane, Rosemary or myself if you have any questions or comments. (672-9619)

Josephine Eustache, Coordinator