

From: [Ken Nichols](#)
To: [School Board Office](#)
Subject: Re: Board Statement on Indigenous Sovereignty
Date: Friday, May 23, 2025 9:26:24 AM
Attachments: [Board Statement on Indigenous Sovereignty.png](#)

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Good morning,

I want to add my voice of disappointment to the Board's decision to issue this statement.

Generally, I believe the statement issued was an overreaction, and overreach, into the political realm, and I disagree with many of the assertions contained within it.

There are controversial opinions being expressed in your statement that undermine my confidence of public education. I do not believe there is "systemic....and ongoing racism" in this country. Historically, and in the context of modern moralities, yes there was. However, that type of behaviour existed long before Europeans settled in North America. Warring indigenous tribes were often behaving in a "racist" manner towards each other. I contend that all those days are over. Canada for as long as I've been alive has been the least racist nation on earth.

As for the continued use of land acknowledgements in the context that somehow it will heal past divisions, I feel like they are creating new divisions. Many experts are noting that unless we intend to give all the land back, then we need to stop apologizing. Further, those recently arriving as new Canadians coming from somewhere else in the world to start a new and better life, what part did their heritage play in the historical dealings of the past? How do you think they feel?

What I seek is balance. You cannot build someone up by tearing someone else down. The great country of Canada was built by imperfect men and women, but what they left behind was a standard of living and way of life that was the envy of most of the world. Your Board represents and gives direction to the educators that are weighing into the political arena and seem determined to tear the nation apart as an unintended consequence.

When I see statues of Sir John A. Macdonald being toppled or over 100 churches burned to the ground, I believe statements like the one you issued are fueling division in this

country.

I expect better.

Regards,
Ken Nichols

From: SD23 District <noreply@sd23.bc.ca>

Date: Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 4:05 PM

To:

Subject: Board Statement on Indigenous Sovereignty

[Please click here to read a statement](#) from the Board of Education on Indigenous Sovereignty.

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