

From: Nadine Gagne

Sent: 31 March 2026 15:17

To: Valene Johnson <Valene.Johnson@sd23.bc.ca>

Subject: Escalation: Lack of Engagement and Access – Métis Nation BC Input on Equity in Action Agreement

WARNING: This email originated from outside Central Okanagan Public Schools. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Johnson,

I am writing to formally escalate concerns regarding the absence of meaningful engagement, communication, and access to process within School District No. 23 in relation to the Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2025–2030.

As a Métis Nation BC citizen and a parent within the District, I have made repeated and sustained efforts over the past several months to engage constructively with District staff, including Mr. Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction for Indigenous Education and Equity, and Mr. Jon Rever, Superintendent. These efforts have included multiple emails and requests for clarification regarding how Métis Nation BC citizens are able to provide input into the development of this equity and reconciliation framework.

Despite these efforts, I have not been provided with any clear, accessible, or structured pathway for engagement. I have received little to no substantive response, no defined timelines, and no explanation of how my input—or that of other Métis community members—is to be formally received, reviewed, or incorporated. The absence of meaningful communication over an extended period of time has effectively prevented my participation.

I must be clear that directing Métis parents to individual staff contacts, without ensuring responsiveness, transparency, or accountability, does not meet the standard of meaningful Indigenous engagement. This is particularly concerning given that the Equity in Action Agreement is a document that directly impacts Indigenous students and families, and is positioned as part of the District's commitments to equity and Truth and Reconciliation. At this stage, my trust in the District's Indigenous Education and Equity processes has been significantly eroded due to the prolonged lack of communication, clarity, and engagement. Given that I have exhausted reasonable efforts to engage at the staff and senior administration levels without success, I am now seeking the Board's direct involvement and oversight.

Accordingly, I am requesting:

- A clear and formalized process through which Métis Nation BC citizens can provide input into the Equity in Action Agreement;
- Defined timelines for when and how such engagement will occur;
- Clarification as to whether Métis-specific consultation pathways exist, distinct from broader Indigenous engagement;
- Confirmation of how previously submitted input will be acknowledged, documented, and considered;
- Immediate direction on how I am able to meaningfully participate at this stage of the document's development or review.

Given the length of time this matter has been ongoing and the absence of response at the District level, I also request that the Board clarify what oversight mechanisms are in place to ensure that District commitments to Indigenous engagement, equity, and reconciliation are being upheld in practice.

My intention remains to participate in good faith and to contribute constructively. However, meaningful participation requires a process that is transparent, accessible, and responsive—conditions that have not been present to date.

I would appreciate a prompt and substantive response outlining next steps.

Respectfully,

Nadine Gagné
Métis Nation BC Citizen
Parent, School District No. 23

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Nadine Gagne [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Mar 31, 2026 at 2:13 PM
Subject: Re: Inquiry - input into SD 23's "Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2025-2030"
To: ECC Student Appeals ECC:EX <EDUC.StudentAppeals@gov.bc.ca>, Nadine Gagne [REDACTED], Jesse Bruce <jesse.bruce@sd23.bc.ca>, Jon Rever <Jon.Rever@sd23.bc.ca>, Board of Education <boardof.education@sd23.bc.ca>, Lisa Guderyan <lisa.guderyan@sd23.bc.ca>, Christie Russell <christie.russell@sd23.bc.ca>, Kevin Kaiser <Kevin.Kaiser@sd23.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Request for Direction – Métis Nation BC Input on Equity in Action Agreement

Dear Student Appeals Branch,

Thank you for your response and for outlining the general process.

However, I must respectfully clarify that I have already taken the steps you have suggested. Over the past two months, I have made multiple attempts to engage directly with School District No. 23, including with Mr. Jesse Bruce and other District representatives, regarding both my concerns and my request to provide input into the Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2025–2030.

Despite these repeated efforts, I have not been provided with any clear process, timeline, or structured pathway through which Métis Nation BC citizens are able to contribute input. Communication has been limited, non-substantive, and, at times, dismissive. I have not received confirmation that my prior submissions have been meaningfully reviewed, nor have I been advised how my input can be formally considered within the District’s decision-making process.

As a Métis Nation BC citizen and a parent within the District, this lack of access to a defined and transparent engagement process raises serious concerns. Meaningful Indigenous engagement—particularly with Métis communities—requires more than being directed to individual staff contacts or encouraged to send emails without acknowledgment or accountability. It requires clear structures, timelines, and demonstrated mechanisms for how input is received, documented, and incorporated. At this stage, my trust in the District’s Indigenous Education and Equity processes has been significantly eroded due to the prolonged absence of meaningful communication, clarity, and responsiveness.

While I appreciate the information provided regarding the School Act appeal process, I want to be clear that my concern in this instance is not limited to the formal student appeal. It also relates to the District’s broader obligations regarding Indigenous engagement, equity, and reconciliation, and the absence of an accessible pathway for Métis input into a document that directly impacts Indigenous students and families. Given that I have already exhausted reasonable efforts to engage at the local District level without success, I am requesting further direction from the Ministry on the following:

- What mechanisms exist, beyond the local District level, to ensure that Métis Nation BC citizens are able to provide input into District-level equity and reconciliation frameworks;
- What oversight or accountability measures are in place when a District does not provide a clear or accessible engagement process;
- Whether the Ministry has expectations or guidelines regarding how school districts must engage Métis communities specifically, distinct from broader Indigenous engagement.

My intention remains to engage constructively and in good faith. However, meaningful participation requires a process that is transparent, accessible, and responsive—elements that have not been present to date.

Given the length of time this matter has been ongoing and the absence of resolution at the District level, I am seeking clear guidance on next steps to ensure that my concerns are appropriately addressed.

I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Nadine Gagné

Métis Nation BC Citizen

Parent, School District No. 23

On Tue, Mar 31, 2026 at 2:04 PM ECC Student Appeals ECC:EX

<EDUC.StudentAppeals@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Ref: 316103

Nadine Gagne

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Nadine Gagne:

Thank you for your recent voicemail and emails to the Ministry of Education and Child Care. This is further to a voicemail left for you by Sophie Bird, Senior Legislative Analyst.

We understand that you are seeking direction on how to provide input, as a Metis Nation citizen and parent, on the document titled Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2025-2030, which is intended to nurture Indigenous student success through the lens of equity within School District No. 23 Central Okanagan. If you haven't already done so, please reach out to Jesse Bruce, Director of Instruction, Indigenous Education and Equity (jesse.bruce@sd23.bc.ca, 250-870-5144), and Jon Rever, Superintendent (jon.rever@sd23.bc.ca, 250-470-3256) regarding your concerns. If, after reaching out to these individuals, you do not receive an answer to your questions, you may wish to consider contacting Valene Johnson, Board Chair (valene.johnson@sd23.bc.ca, 250-860-8888). District staff and the locally elected board of education are typically best placed to provide the information you are seeking

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

We hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

Student Appeals Branch
Ministry of Education and Child Care