



**Central Okanagan  
Public Schools**

Together We Learn

April 13, 2026

Via Email

Dear Ms. Gagne

**Re: Request to Amend the Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2025–2030**

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Thank you for your correspondence requesting that the Board of Education amend the Central Okanagan Public Schools Equity in Action Agreement for Truth and Reconciliation 2025–2030 to include a more specific reference to the Métis Nation and Métis culture.

The Board of Education has carefully considered your request. After review, the Board must respectfully decline to amend the current Agreement. In reaching this decision, the Board considered the following.

First, the current Agreement already expressly recognizes Métis representation and participation. The Agreement identifies the Kelowna Métis Association as a named partner to the Agreement and includes Métis representation within the collaborative structure that informed its development. The Agreement also acknowledges the contributions of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and urban Indigenous partners who reside in the Okanagan territory.

Second, the Agreement was developed through a comprehensive and inclusive process. As part of the 2025–2030 refresh, the District invited public and community participation through engagement opportunities, consultations, and feedback processes. The revised Agreement was subsequently considered through the District’s Indigenous Education Council and approved through the Board’s governance process before being formally executed by the signatory parties. The Board places significant weight on the integrity of that consultation, review, approval, and signing process.

Third, the Equity in Action Agreement is a collective, multi-party agreement intended to serve Indigenous learners across the district. As you know, Central Okanagan Public Schools serves more than 3,100 students of Indigenous ancestry representing a broad range of Indigenous identities and communities. In that context, the Agreement was intentionally developed as a shared framework that reflects commitments reached collaboratively with

the representative Indigenous organizations and partners who participated in and signed the document.

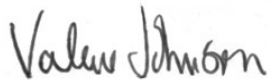
Fourth, once approved and signed, the Agreement became the formal expression of the commitments collectively reached by the signatory partners. The Board is not prepared to alter the wording of a signed multi-party agreement outside the established renewal and revision process. To do so would require reopening a document that was developed through extensive engagement and formally endorsed by the participating organizations.

The Board's decision should not be interpreted as diminishing the importance of Métis history, identity, culture, or community within Central Okanagan Public Schools. The Board remains committed to the success, dignity, belonging, and cultural identity of Métis learners and families, alongside all Indigenous learners in our schools.

When the Equity in Action Agreement is next reviewed, revised, or renewed, the Board welcomes your participation in the public community engagement process. Input from students, families, rights holders, and community members is important and contributes meaningfully to the ongoing development of the District's work in truth, reconciliation, and equity.

Thank you for taking the time to write and to share your perspective with the Board.

Yours truly,



Valene Johnson  
Chair

cc: Board of Education  
Jordan Coble, Chairperson Indigenous Education Council  
Jon Rever, Superintendent of Schools  
Raquel Steen, Assistant Superintendent