

5 YEAR EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

As approved by the Board of Directors on
August 20, 2013

2013 - 2018



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Oscar Lathlin



Collegiate

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Joe A. Ross



School

In July 2012, Opaskwayak Educational Authority Inc. Board of Directors approved the development of a five year education strategic plan. Going forward, advertisement for community members to sit on the steering committee responsible for the development of the 5 year education strategic plan took place. The Board of Directors approved the steering committee membership in September 2012.

The steering committee members are:

Amanda G. Lathlin

Diane Pelly

Edith Spence

Ingar Constant

Bev Fontaine

Karon McGillivary

Ron E. Constant

Since this time, the steering committee has been meeting monthly to achieve its goal to create and develop a 5 year education strategic plan. The process included meeting with the community and the Elders in order to listen to their concerns and to determine what is important for the future success of our learners.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you to the steering committee for their time and commitment in completing this significant work. The Board also wishes to acknowledge Peggy Lathlin for the layout design of this document.

Finally, we thank all who shared their vision of the future for our community and our learners.

Edwin Jebb,

Chair



WHERE WE CAME FROM

Notes

Although our educational history goes back to the 1840's when the missionaries first began arriving in The Pas and area, our focus will be limited to that part of history when OCN began its journey toward its control of first nation education.

In 1979, the Native Education Department staff commissioned a study to determine why our dropout rate in the provincial school system was so high. It was found that academic survival was minimal, students were marginalized, and there were major cultural and language differences, to name a few.

In a subsequent survey, a majority of the community was in favour of OCN taking action to build its own school and educate their children on-reserve.

In 1984, an alternative school was established at the former Care Home. Although this school only housed a small percentage of the children, negotiations continued with the Department of Indian Affairs to build a K4 – 12 school.

After many years of diligence, continued perseverance, and through the vision of individuals such as the late Hilda Young and the late Joe A Ross, a Kindergarten – Grade 12 School became a reality in 1991. With overwhelming community support for self-directed education, it was no surprise that Joe A. Ross School, built for 650 students, had an initial enrollment of over 750!

Recognizing its success, in 1994, OCN Chief and Council delegated the authority to Opaskwayak Educational Authority Inc. to administer the educational programming of OCN students.

Since this time, our population has been increasing dramatically. Two years after our first school was built, OCN was back at the table negotiating for another school.

It wasn't until 2009, through the Canada Economic Action Plan, that we were successful in our pursuit for another educational facility. In April 2011, the Oscar Lathlin Collegiate was opened and ready to house the grade 7 – 12 students.

Over the years we have had our share of challenges, but at the forefront is the continued need to ensure student success, and to develop programming that reflects the best interests of our learners.

Opaskwayak Educational Authority Inc.



Annual Review and Assessment of our Performance

Throughout the year, the Board of Directors will be provided with an updated status report of the goals achieved and those in progress. At the end of the year, the Board of Directors will have an opportunity to review the progress of the yearly action plan, and an analysis will be provided for goals not achieved.

As well, highlights and challenges of goals will be brought forward to Board of Directors.

An annual review by the Board of Directors of the yearly action plan is vital to ensuring the fulfillment of the 5 Year Education Strategic Plan.

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The following outlines the seven (7) emerging priority areas identified during the strategic planning consultation process. In total, four (4) community consultations and one (1) Elder consultation session took place. A community wide language survey was also carried out that had questions in direct relation to our strategic planning process. The community linkage process took place from October 2012 - May 2013.

The community's key values became very evident.

From the community feedback, the steering committee was able to make recommendations to the Board for a revised mission and vision statement.

Opaskwayak Educational Authority's Priority Areas are as follows:

1. Cree Language, Culture and Tradition
2. Safe environment
3. Academic Readiness/Independent Learners
4. Holistic approach/Fostering Respect
5. Building Confidence/Empowerment/Pride
6. Technologically Prepared
7. Community Engagement

Vision Statement

*Opaskwayak Educational Authority
Inc. will empower lifelong learners
through an academic program that
embraces our culture and traditions.*

Implementation of the 5 Year Education Strategic Plan

The 5 Year Education Strategic Plan will guide the annual process for Opaskwayak Educational Authority Inc. in its effort to achieve its established vision and mission statements.

The proposed annual process includes the submission of yearly action plans from the various program areas. These action plans will be presented to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will then review and amend the yearly action plans to ensure they meet the spirit of the 5 year Education Strategic Plan.

The yearly action plans will include goals, objectives, timelines, budgets (if possible), and programs responsible.

The planning will take into account Opaskwayak Cree Nation's annual planning, budgetary timelines, and capital budgeting constraints.

PRIORITY AREA

7. Community Engagement

OBJECTIVES

- Pursue innovative ways to increase parent, teacher and community communication;
- Establish a parent advisory committee;
- Seek funding for increased community engagement through incentive programs (point system).



Mission Statement

*Guided by Opaskwayak's belief in
nikanootawinek mena tipanismisowinek,
we continue to promote and encourage
the revitalization of our language,
culture, and spiritual and traditional
knowledge to support each individual's
learning experience and academic
readiness in a safe environment.*

PRIORITY AREA

1. Cree Language, Culture and Traditions

OBJECTIVES

- Continue to promote and expand Cree Language Immersion Program;
- Ensure continued funding through proposal writing.



PRIORITY AREA

6. Technologically Prepared

OBJECTIVES

- Increased technology capacity at all levels;
- Ensure staff education is available;
- Create a long-term technology plan.



PRIORITY AREA

5. Building Confidence; Empowerment; Pride

OBJECTIVES

- Promote and encourage student involvement in sports and other extracurricular programs;
- Continue and enhance current OCN History Curricula;
- Enhance current grade 1-6 school-wide assessment (action-research study completed 2011-12).



PRIORITY AREA

2. Safe Environment (children, infrastructure and transportation)

OBJECTIVES

- Promote a safe, harassment free environment;
- Ensure workplace safety protocols are implemented;
- Ensure all policies are in place and adhered to.



PRIORITY AREA

3. Academic Readiness/Independent Learners

OBJECTIVES

- Support career/education goals for all learners;
- Support learners with lifelong challenges in partnership with community resources.



PRIORITY AREA

4. Holistic Approach/Fostering Respect

OBJECTIVES

- Develop and enhance school programs to include spirituality and ethics;
- Obtain leadership approval to include Bible readings & 7 Sacred Teachings.

