

## Syeyutsus Reconciliation Framework

Truth and Reconciliation is a significant goal of the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools (NLPS). The goal of reconciliation was established by the Board of Education in response to Canada's Truth & Reconciliation Calls to Action and is underpinned by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). In partnership, NLPS and Indigenous Knowledge Keepers are committed to continue working together on the journey of reconciliation.

Syeyutsus (*walking together*) is a Hul'q'umi'num expression for "walking in two worlds": living and honouring the teachings of the land and first peoples, while navigating the ever changing complexities of today's world and society. In today's context Syeyutsus suggests we strive to find balance between the traditional way of living and the contemporary lifestyle.

Syeyutsus begins by understanding and embracing the teachings of this land on which we live and work as a basis for our journey to truth and reconciliation. These complex knowledge systems can only be fully appreciated by first understanding and recognising the relationship between the land, language and culture.

The Syeyutsus framework is rooted in the knowledge that we are all relations in the cycle of life. Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools respects and cherishes the land our schools and offices are situated upon. The land and its resources touch every aspect of our life, and is the cornerstone of our connectivity. It is within this space we will strengthen our sense of belonging and interconnectedness to enhance all of our relationships in a thoughtful way.

Ancestral knowledge has taught us that by learning to walk in two worlds we will create a resilient, vital school system and an improved living and learning environment for all of our children and families. Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools commits to honouring the land and using this Framework to guide and inform by:

1. Working with our students, staff, indigenous Knowledge Keepers, and community partner groups in a spirit of respect, courage and vulnerability to bridge together different views and beliefs, in a restorative caring way.
2. Providing ongoing and meaningful learning opportunities for all students, staff, and community partner groups.

