



# Smoke Signals

Autumn 2015

On Nov 2nd, we  
**welcome** our new  
District Principal,  
**Mr. Philippe  
Brulot!**

## A Message from the Acting Principal Christine Lauzon

Three months ago my personal and professional journey in the Aboriginal Education Department began. Although I have been subject to a myriad of learnings, gleaned from daily interactions with staff, students, parents and members of the community, they are insufficient for me to boast of any significant level of expertise. I am grateful to my new colleagues for their knowledge and patience when introducing me to Aboriginal teachings and traditions.

My initial introduction began when Aboriginal Education met International Education during the summer break. This is where I learned the significance of the button blanket, the beauty of Metis floral beadwork, and stories around birth totems. The teachings about animals and nature, drumming and singing were also shared. Experiencing these traditions as a student participant added to their meaningfulness.

Suwa'lkh School is where I participated in Talking Circles, learned the implications of the talking stick and how oral history and respectful communication are key to Aboriginal culture. I also had the opportunity to taste bannock and Metis soup, and was also taught how to weave cedar.

Alongside cultural traditions, the School District Enhancement Agreement, the goals of the Truth and Reconciliation Report and the new BC curriculum are all proof that we are focused on a positive direction with the education of our young people. As I leave the Aboriginal Education department and hand the paddles over to a new leader I have confidence that the staff will promote this purpose in all their future achievements and accomplishments.

Once again, thank you to the staff of Suwa'lkh and the Aboriginal Department for their ongoing commitment to our students. I wish everyone great success for the balance of the school year.

As of November 2nd, we warmly welcome Mr. Philippe Brulot to the position of District Principal of Aboriginal Education.

Respectfully,  
Christine Lauzon, Acting Principal



### IMPORTANT DATES

Fri., Oct. 23—Pro-D—Classes not in session  
Tues., Oct. 27—Harvest Moon Community Dinner  
@ Maillard Middle—RSVP now due  
Wed., Nov. 11—Remembrance Day—Classes not in session  
Fri., Nov. 20—District Closure—Classes not in session  
Fri., Dec. 18—Last day of classes before winter vacation  
Mon., Jan 4—Classes back in session



## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015

I have had a wonderful start to the school year and feel welcomed by everyone in the Aboriginal department. I would like to thank everyone for being so kind, generous and helpful.

My name is Charla Oun and I am a middle school resource teacher for the Coquitlam School District. I have been teaching in Coquitlam since 2001 but this is my first year working with the Aboriginal Education Department. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to collaborate with teachers and provide unique and engaging lessons around the First Peoples Culture. I look forward to working with all of the middle schools and providing them with resources and lessons to enhance the new curriculum. I wish everyone a happy and healthy journey ahead.



Charla Oun  
Resource teacher  
coun@sd43.bc.ca

Henle? Kw! (Greetings!)

I am proud to be an Aboriginal Youth Worker for the Aboriginal Education Department in Coquitlam School District 43. My elementary schools this year include, Eagleridge, Glen, Parkland, Riverview Park and Walton. At these schools it is my pleasure to support the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical growth of each child as well as encourage children to enjoy life-long learning. Dawn Marks, our Cultural Support Worker and myself have recently started our annual, After School Program Tuesdays at Eagleridge Elementary and Thursdays at Walton Elementary. This program includes supporting activities and events that allow children to develop a sense of belonging and identity as a First Nations person.

Raised in the Williams Lake area in British Columbia, "I learnt early that I had to work hard to get what I wanted." After graduating High school, I pursued a career as a Nurse, Fashion Designer, Mother and the last 16 years as a Youth Worker. I have a natural desire to assist in meeting the needs of youth and their families. "We have been challenged by our youth, to inspire them. I believe with the extra support available to this generation, the future holds more promise to our youth to-day."



I am a proud member of the Lower Nicola Band, an Interior Salish Nation of the Thompson peoples. My passions include, photography, hiking, nature, world travels and most of all, spending time with my husband, two grown daughters and 5 year old grandchild.

K uk scemx (Thank you)

Carrie Clark  
Aboriginal Youth Worker  
cclark@sd43.bc.ca



## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015

My name is **Dawn Marks**. I am the Aboriginal Support Worker that will be working in Maple Creek, Minnekhada, Scott Creek, Eagle Ridge, Glen, Walton and Westwood. I will be supporting students in and out of the classroom with academic support and cultural teachings.

My First Nation ancestry comes from the Shíshálh Nation and from Sts'ailes. I have been with Aboriginal Education for the past 6 years and I look forward to working with your children.

The Aboriginal Pullout program is a class that is for Aboriginal students to learn cultural activities and learn academic strategies. I have begun by learning about the medicine wheel and with an activity called "Who am I". Students were taking a look at memories, role models and important people in their lives that help to shape them into who they are today.



Dawn Marks  
Aboriginal Support Worker  
dmarks@sd43.bc.ca

Gala ' Kas la (that is hello in my language),

My name is Jackie Toombs, I am an Aboriginal Youth Worker for SD 43. This is my fifth year in this District but I have been supporting students and families for over 20 years.

I am from the Nam'gis Nation in Alert Bay which is on the northern end of beautiful Vancouver Island. I proudly say my hometown is the home of the tallest totem pole in the world.



This year I am assigned to Middle Schools throughout the District and AYLC (Aboriginal Youth Leadership Council) with Dannielle Batisse and Anthony Marrello. A few times a week I will be at Suwa'lkh School as well.

In my role as Youth Worker I provide afterschool programs, offer 1:1, as well as group and family support. I am looking forward to working with the students and families I already know and meeting and supporting new students and families as the year continues.

Jackie Toombs  
Aboriginal Youth Worker  
jtoombs@sd43.bc.ca





## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015

Hello,

My name is Monique Dutour. I recently joined the Coquitlam School District as a Casual Youth Worker. I am privileged to currently be a part of the Aboriginal Department as my ancestry is Cree Métis. It is a pleasure to be working within this department along with the remarkable staff.

I have also been making strong connections with students, families and staff at Westwood, Mountain Meadows, Mountain View, Meadowbrook, and Leigh Elementary Schools. As I grew up in Port Coquitlam, it is exciting to be working in some of the schools I attended as a child. Working with ABED since last May, I have been honoured in this short amount of time to have taken part in various cultural activities and teachings such as Mother Earth Day, Rites of Passage and Button Blanket ceremonies to name a few. I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the talking circles, drumming and making traditional crafts such as talking sticks with a class at Seaview and medicine bundles at Cape Horn for Aboriginal Day. Throughout these experiences it is with great pride that I have learned so much more about my culture and traditions. I am grateful to be a part of such an amazing group of individuals. All My Relations.



Monique Dutour  
Aboriginal Youth Worker  
mdutour@sd43.bc.ca

I hope everyone had an awesome summer and enjoyed all the great weather we had. With the school year starting we have an opportunity to start fresh or to build on our successes of last year.

This year I will be working at six different elementary schools in the district, as well as spending some time at Suwa 'lkh. I look forward to becoming part of each of the schools, and providing support within classrooms. Furthermore it will be an honour working with many of the families in the district, and providing support throughout this school year.



This year I look forward to working side by side with coworkers in our department as we provide after school programming in our school district. This is a great time for our students to create new friendships and build on already developed relationships. I hope to see as many of our youth join in on our programs and gain some amazing memories and experiences.

All My Relations,  
Ryan Williams, Aboriginal Youth Worker  
rywilliams@sd43.bc.ca



## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015

Hi, my name is Dawn Brown. I am the Elder and Artist for the Aboriginal Education Department. I have been employed with School District 43 since 1997 and I have been volunteering since 1989.

Dawn Brown  
Elder

dabrown@sd43.bc.ca

My Grandmothers and Grandfathers come from the Algonquin Nipissing people, the Swampy Cree people, the Red River Metis, and not to forget the part of my family that is from a small village in Hungary called Ormezo Szabolcesmegye.

Whether facilitating a Talking Circle or putting some paint on a canvas, I look forward to this year—knowing the rich storytelling and lives that cross my path will be meaningful and fulfilling for all.

It is with genuine and a generous heart that I welcome our new District Principal Philippe Brulot. I am both looking forward to this new adventure, while I am nervous at the same time.

It is with a sad heart that we say goodbye to Laurie Ebenal. Laurie had a vision of change and we as the team have built what I believe to be the most amazing team of people.

I am so sad to see Christine leave our department. We will miss her gentle nature. She is and will always be considered as a member of our Aboriginal Education family.

Hello,

My name is Dannielle Batisse, I am of Ojibway ancestry and I belong to Mattachewan First Nations located in Northern Ontario. This is my third year working as an Aboriginal Youth Worker for School District #43. I am very excited to continue supporting Aboriginal students and their families throughout the tri-cities.

This year I will continue servicing all of the secondary schools and alternative programs. As well, I will be working with Cape Horn Elementary and Moody Elementary and helping Anthony & Jackie with AYLC. I look forward to seeing some familiar faces as well as meeting some new friends along the way.

Dannielle Batisse  
Aboriginal Youth Worker  
dbatisse@sd43.bc.ca





## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015

It is a privilege to be working with the same Elementary schools as last year since I am strongly connected to many students and families. I am also thankful for the new relationships I have formed and look forward to what this year has to bring.

It has been an exciting start to the school year as I have been a part of many drumming circles and I would like to extend my gratitude to Kirk Gummow, a teacher in our department who has shared his drum teachings with me.

Krista

Krista Clancy  
Aboriginal Youth Worker  
kclancy@sd43.bc.ca



My name is Kirk Gummow and I am honoured to be once again working in the Aboriginal Education Department as Elementary Resource Teacher. Having grown up on the prairies of Alberta, in Barhead to be exact, I would like to once again acknowledge and honour the Coast Salish People for sharing their territory with me. I am truly indebted to those who have been caring for this beautiful place since time immemorial.

I look forward to another year of supporting the integration of Indigenous teachings and pedagogy into the classroom and expanding upon the relationships that I have initiated and fostered thus far. My interests at this time centre around place-based education and the continued use of the drum, Talking Circles and personal narratives as a way to draw out, share and connect with each other.



A highlight for me thus far was drumming with the wonderful leadership students at Seaview and their families as we led the commencement of their annual community Thanksgiving celebration dinner.

Warmest Regards,  
Kirk Gummow  
Resource Teacher  
kgummow@sd43.bc.ca





## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015



Tansi!

My name is Lori Halcro. I am Scottish Cree Metis and am honoured to be back for my Eleventh year as a Youth Worker in the Aboriginal Education Department. I grew up in Coquitlam and found out about my Cree/ Metis ancestry when I was an adult .

This year I will be working with students and their families at these five Elementary schools: Irvine, Ranch

Lori Halcro Park, Porter, Rochester and Coquitlam River.

Aboriginal Youth Worker I look forward to an exciting year!

lhalcro@sd43.bc.ca

Hello everyone my name is Greg Hallifax and I am a Youth Worker with Aboriginal Education. I hope all of you had an amazing summer holiday and have settled into the new school year with the transition of the fall season!

This year my focus again is working with, and supporting K-5 students as well as their respected families. The elementary schools that have been assigned to me, and will continue to service are as follows: Central; Birchland; James Park; Cedar Drive; Kilmer; and Mary Hill.

Another role I have recently taken on is to be the CUPE local 561 representative for the provincial Aboriginal Working Group. This is a committee that is composed of CUPE members from all over the province of British Columbia. Members are represented from as far as Dawson Creek, all the way to Vancouver Island. The focus of this Aboriginal Working Group is to meet and discuss how we can communicate efficiently with each other to promote change. In other words, making sure that any information in regards to Aboriginal gatherings of high significance is properly communicated to our Aboriginal families and friends all across the province. I look forward to sharing more information with everyone as I continue to educate myself on how to get the information to all of you. I will have more information in the next newsletter.



Greg Hallifax  
Aboriginal Youth Worker  
ghallifax@sd43.bc.ca

Have a wonderful fall season and I hope to see some of you at the Harvest Moon dinner on October 27<sup>th</sup>!!!!



## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015

My name is Anthony Marrello and I am honoured to be one of the new Resource Teachers in the Aboriginal Education Department.

I look forward to visiting a wide range of classes and subject levels in each of our district's secondary schools. This being my first year in the department, I am grateful for the learning opportunities I have already experienced and the many more to come over the course of the year.

One of the exciting highlights has already included a visit to Simon Fraser University's annual Indigenous Day with a group of Dr. Charles Best Secondary students. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone all the best for a successful school year!



### Aboriginal Youth Leadership Council

Greetings! We are looking forward to another exciting year filled with outdoor adventures, leadership opportunities, and community initiatives. This year the Aboriginal Youth Leadership will be headed by Resource Teacher Anthony Marrello, and Youth Workers Dannielle Batisse and Jackie Toombs. We are currently on our first Outward Bound Expedition. Ten leadership students embarked on a three day voyageur canoe expedition through the Indian Arm. These students will have the opportunity to practice wilderness skills, team-building and personal growth outside the classroom. This is the first of three exciting trips we have planned for this year.



In addition, our leadership students are in the process of organizing a winter outreach initiative. The focus of this project is to support those who are less fortunate in the community. We look forward to sharing stories from our outdoor adventure as well as our outreach project!

Anthony Marrello  
Resource Teacher  
amarrello@sd43.bc.ca





## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015

From the desk of Terri Mae Galligos, ancestral name: Siłaqas, łəʔamən (Sliammon) nation  
θux<sup>w</sup>ens ʔiys k<sup>w</sup>ət<sup>θ</sup> k<sup>w</sup>ɔnomε - It is really good to see you

Respectfully, I acknowledge the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, namely the Kwikwetlem nation. The meaning of Kwikwetlem is "small red salmon" or unique sockeye salmon that once ran in large numbers in both the Coquitlam river and lake. A similarity between my nation and the traditional territory on which I work is that the salmon are a respected food source sustaining our communities since time immemorial.

I enter my 21<sup>st</sup> year as District Aboriginal Resource teacher with vigor and gratitude. Some aspects of my role as Elementary Resource Teacher include:

- Adding Aboriginal content to subject areas and processing 'Request for Services'
- Distributing relevant curriculum on Aboriginal veterans
- Attending Early Childhood development meetings and networking with STRONGSTART facilitators
- Representing the BCTF and CTA as Local Aboriginal Education Contact (LAEC)
- Informing schools and their staff of the "First Peoples Principle of Learning"
- Participating in the Revised Curriculum and Early Network sessions
- Attending local Teacher-Librarian meetings
- Maintaining the Aboriginal Resource Centre & Library
- Recently appointed Teacher representative on the District Aboriginal Education advisory.

I see myself as being like the unique sockeye salmon bringing gifts of teachable moments and constructive dialogue throughout the School District and its communities.

In closing, I would like to share the following websites:

<http://destiny.sd43.bc.ca/cataloging/servlet/presentadvancedsearchredirectorform.do?l2m=Library%20Search&tm=TopLevelCatalog>

Aboriginal Education Resource Centre

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/those-who-served/aboriginal-veterans/history>

Aboriginal Veterans

[https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/curriculum\\_intro.pdf](https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/curriculum_intro.pdf)

BC's redesigned curriculum - Introduction

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum>

BC's New Curriculum - DRAFT

<http://www.firstvoices.com/>

First Voices Interactive Language App

<http://sliammonfirstnation.com/>

Sliammon First Nation

cečhaθeč - Thank you

Terri Mae Galligos  
Resource Teacher  
tgalligos@sd43.bc.ca





## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015

### Community News

I'm looking forward to another year of hosting community engagement events throughout our school district. In fact, the first event, next week, is the Harvest Moon Community Dinner. This year it takes place on Tuesday, October 27 at Maillard Middle School (1300 Rochester Ave, Coquitlam) and is hosted in partnership with Spirit of the Children Society and Kwikwetlem First Nation.

Doors open and children activities begin at 4:30pm; Buffet Dinner at 5:30pm and Cultural Entertainment is scheduled from 6:30 -7:30pm. If you wish to attend, and to ensure we have enough food, please be RSVP by this Friday, Oct 23rd to [mlacroix@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:mlacroix@sd43.bc.ca) or call 604-945-7386.



This past summer was a busy one. We hosted six weeks of summer camps at Kwayhquitlum Middle School. These are always a fun time for our campers, as they are kept busy with a variety of recreational, social, educational and cultural activities. A good lunch is provided each day for the campers as well.

We also were involved in hosting the All Nations Festival. This multi-faceted festival platform involved a coalition of community partners and stakeholders. Important work was done for two days at the Kwikwetlem Colloquium, hosted at Douglas College. The colloquium aim is to advance the careers of professional Indigenous artists, academics and researchers in Coast Salish Territory through programming, education, outreach, and networking. We look forward to continuing on the success of this inaugural event for next year.



Our next community gathering will be the Winter Moon Community Dinner. Flyers will be sent out before Christmas so you can RVSP early for it!

If you have not received an email from our office, that means we do not have your email address or it has been bounced back undelivered. Please contact Mona with updated information throughout the school year.

Malcolm Key  
Community School Coordinator  
[mkey@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:mkey@sd43.bc.ca)



## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015

Greetings to All,

I am very happy to remain as a permanent fixture in this department. In the short seven months that I have been here, I have learned and continue to learn so much from this incredible staff.

I had the privilege of assisting Dawn Brown at the International Education camps held at Riverside Secondary this past summer. Witnessing the Chinese children immerse themselves in the Aboriginal teachings was magical. The growing partnership between the International and Aboriginal Education departments is one to be proud of and one the department is looking forward to expanding in the future.

My days in the Ab Ed District office at Pitt are full and overflowing. The job is diverse, the Culture engaging and the colleagues entertaining. I witness the growing bond amongst all to continue expanding Aboriginal Resources and supporting the students and families in our school district.

I can only hope, going forward, that I can live up to the standard of knowledge, compassion and learning that is so prevalent in this department.



Mona Lacroix  
District Secretary  
mlacroix@sd43.bc.ca

### How to place an Aboriginal Education Request for Service:

Go to the Aboriginal Education Department's home page

[http://my43.sd43.bc.ca/departments/  
AboriginalEd/default.aspx](http://my43.sd43.bc.ca/departments/AboriginalEd/default.aspx)



- Click on the icon "Request for Service"
- Click on "New", then "New Item".
- Fill in the pop up page, including your name, school, vision and date of service.
- Click on "Save" and your request has been submitted!

The assigned staff member will contact you within 48 hours of the request to begin the planning process.





## Smoke Signals—Autumn 2015

### Aboriginal Education Bursary Information

Every year, the Aboriginal Education Department offers two bursaries, the Brenda Kearns Bursary and the Aboriginal Education Department Bursary.

**The Brenda Kearns Bursary** was established in the fall of 2006 to honour the memory of Brenda Kearns, and to provide funds to assist an Aboriginal student in pursuing a post-secondary education. This \$300 bursary shall be granted to one graduating Aboriginal student.

#### The criteria for the Brenda Kearns Bursary:

- Currently graduating from one of the School District #43 (Coquitlam) secondary schools;
- Has been involved in the Aboriginal program and taken on a leadership role in that program
- Has demonstrated acceptable academic achievement for future entry into a training program at an institute of higher learning. This includes trades, apprenticeships, and post-secondary programs.

**The Aboriginal Education Department Bursary** is open to any Grade 12 Aboriginal student in School District 43.

For this \$500 bursary, the student need not belong to our program.

#### The criteria for the Aboriginal Education Bursary:

- Excellent academic standing
- Acceptance in a post-secondary institution
- Volunteer work with an Aboriginal focus

The application for these two bursaries follow this article or can be found at  
<http://my43.sd43.bc.ca/departments/AboriginalEd/Courses/Post-secondary.aspx>

and are due **May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016** to:

***Anthony Marrello c/o Pitt River Middle, 2070 Tyner Street, V3C 2Z1***

For further information, **speaK with your Secondary School Counsellor**