

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
Reporting to Public Session on Tuesday, June 28, 2022

1. Honouring Our Youth and Indigenous Valedictorian Address

Each year, the accomplishments of Indigenous youth in the Burnaby School District are recognized in an honouring ceremony. Thursday, June 2nd marked the first time in three years that the Burnaby community was able to gather in-person and celebrate students on this special evening.

The Ceremony was led by Gabriel George and the Tsleil-Waututh Warriors, Elder Carlene Thomas and Elder Dr. Roberta Price. There was so much joy throughout the evening. Students were blanketed and drummed in with local bringing strong positive feelings to each graduate.

The night was highlighted by the 2022 Indigenous Valedictorian Address by Samantha Harris. Samantha Harris is from the Nlaka'pamux (Ing-Khla-Kap-Muh) Nation surrounding Lytton, Lillooet, Spences Bridge and Merritt. Samantha shared a beautiful analogy of a canoe journey to represent the last few years. She spoke eloquently, and with great wisdom, honouring the past, present and future alongside her peers. Samantha provided an authentic message of community and hope and had the attention and respect of the entire audience. Samantha has had the respect of her peers for many years at Ecole Cariboo Hill Secondary. Indigenous Youth considered Samantha family, always feeling safe in her presence. She also enhanced the learning for all students, leading important initiatives and opening school-wide assemblies. It was an honour listening to Samantha's Valedictorian Address, and it was a very proud evening for students, families and school district staff.

This evening, Samantha Harris will share her Valedictorian Address.

Recommendation:

THAT the Board of Education receive this information.