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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Education

### **THIRD AGREEMENT BUILDS ON PROGRESS OF ABORIGINAL STUDENTS**

CAMPBELL RIVER – School and community partners have worked hand-in-hand to sign the third Aboriginal education enhancement agreement in Campbell River today and support learning for the more than 1,120 Aboriginal students in the district, announced Education Minister Margaret MacDiarmid.

“I congratulate the whole community for coming together to inspire the success of our students,” said MacDiarmid. “This collaborative approach between community partners, families and students supports increased participation and success for all Aboriginal learners.”

Campbell River’s newest agreement has four primary goals:

- To improve literacy and numeracy for all Aboriginal students in the district.
- To improve the transition rates of Aboriginal students at every grade level.
- To increase the number of Aboriginal students who graduate with a Dogwood Certificate, ensuring all Aboriginal students are well-prepared and knowledgeable of how to achieve their career and life goals.
- To increase all Aboriginal students’ sense of pride and ensure they have opportunities to participate in and learn about their heritage and culture.

“Campbell River school district’s third Aboriginal education enhancement agreement is further evidence of the excellent relationship that exists between the school district and our Aboriginal community,” said Greg Johnson, district principal of Aboriginal education. “The goals of the third enhancement agreement have been identified by our Aboriginal community and district as being key leverage points for our Aboriginal students achieving academic and emotional success. Just as importantly, the agreement will promote greater parent involvement and will allow all students and educators to gain a better understanding of Aboriginal heritage and culture.”

To date, 50 school districts have signed an Aboriginal education enhancement agreement, including a number of districts that have signed their second. In 1999, Campbell River was one of the first districts to sign an Aboriginal education enhancement agreement. Campbell River now joins Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows as the only school districts to have signed a third agreement.

School districts that have signed Aboriginal education enhancement agreements have seen impressive results for Aboriginal students.

Aboriginal students in the Campbell River school district made significant gains over the course of the district's second enhancement agreement from 2004-05 to 2008-09:

- In Grade 10 English, participation rates increased from 50 to 80 per cent and the number of students achieving a C+ or better increased from 27 to 45 per cent.
- In Grade 10 Science, participation rates increased from 87 to 91 per cent and the number of students achieving a C+ or better increased from 37 to 46 per cent.
- In Grade 10 Essentials of Math, the number of students achieving a C+ or better increased from 23 to 50 per cent.
- In Grade 12 English, the number of students achieving a C+ or better increased from 42 to 48 per cent.

Aboriginal education enhancement agreements are just one component of the collaborative process the Province is undertaking to improve Aboriginal student achievement. Others include the B.C. First Nation Education Agreement and developing Aboriginal content for the K-12 curriculum.

The Province is investing an estimated \$61.5 million a year – \$1,160 per student – for Aboriginal education in 2010-11. The funds are used to support Aboriginal language and culture programs, Aboriginal support service programs and other localized Aboriginal education programs.

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