



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Date: June 26, 2018

GPPSD appoints Ken Dunfield as District Principal: Indigenous Programming

A long-time educator and school leader with the District

Grande Prairie, Alberta – The Grande Prairie Public School District is pleased to announce the appointment of Ken Dunfield to the position of District Principal: Indigenous Programming. The newly structured position will be responsible for fostering community relationships, establishing partnerships with community Elders, supporting the work of the school-based liaison positions, and supporting the work of schools as they focus on learning opportunities for both staff and students. A long-time educator and school leader with the District, Ken brings a personal connection to his work and is passionate about developing system supports to focus on eliminating the achievement gap that exists between First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners and other learners in the system.



“I am both very excited and honoured to take on this role. I feel that my connection to the community is a strength I can build on and provide a basis for the hope and possibilities of moving forward with our District’s Indigenous programming during this time of Reconciliation,” said Ken Dunfield.

“As we worked with the community to inform our work around restructuring our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit programming, one of the elements that became very clear was the need for a leader with strong relationships with the community. Ken has a passion for supporting our system work with our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students. His experiences and existing



GRANDE PRAIRIE PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

Every Student Succeeds

   GPPSD2357

relationships make him the ideal candidate to champion this work, both within our District and the community as a whole. We are excited to support his work in this area”, said Superintendent Sandy McDonald.

Additional to the appointment of Ken is the announcement that the District will be hiring two school liaison workers, bringing the District team to 5 members. The focus of their work is on relationship building at the schools and with families and supporting culturally directed learning opportunities. The District also plans to build on its ‘elder in residence’ program which is currently supported by Elder Darlene Cardinal at Alexander Forbes School and Hillside Community School. Comprehensive planning is underway to support the Calls to Reconciliation to impact the experiences of all learners in the Grande Prairie Public School District.

About Grande Prairie Public School District (GPPSD):

The Grande Prairie Public School District is a learning community in the city of Grande Prairie responsible for the education of over 8,300 students (Preschool to grade 12) in 18 schools. The Grande Prairie Public School District is proud to provide a variety of Preschool, French Immersion, Montessori, Christian Education, sports-focused and International Baccalaureate programs serving to students and parents of the Grande Prairie community. GPPSD believes in creating a nurturing environment where “Every Student Succeeds.” Visit us online at www.gppsd.ab.ca and follow GPPSD2357 on Facebook and Twitter.

-30-

Media Contacts:

Mr. Sandy McDonald

Superintendent of Schools

Grande Prairie Public School District No. 2357

780-532-4491

sandy.mcdonald@gppsd.ab.ca

Mr. Mohammad Haidar

Communications Specialist

Grande Prairie Public School District No.2357

780-532-4491 Ext.1013

mohammad.haidar@gppsd.ab.ca