



Media Release

December 16, 2022

Indigenous Role Model posters released for School District 22

A series of posters produced by School District 22's Indigenous Education department will be providing youth with positive images of Indigenous people in a variety of careers. "It is important for our Indigenous youth to be able to imagine or picture themselves being successful," says lead teacher Sheryl Newton. "This series of posters is another way in which we are inspiring success for all students through our First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education initiatives. This first series named focusses largely on Syilx role models from Okanagan Indian Band (OKIB). "The series comes out of the ideas developed in our Equity Action Plan and we would like to thank the members of the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee," shared Newton at the December public meeting of the Board of Education.

The posters, unveiled at a public meeting of the Board of Education on December 14th, will come to life throughout the school year as some of the individuals whose careers are featured will meet with youth who may be interested in a similar career path. "We selected Indigenous people representing careers that youth may be familiar with and careers that they may not have thought about, such as a fire and rescue captain or visual development modeler and concept sculptor," adds Newton.

"When we focus on role models and Indigenous people who have achieved success, we provide First Nations, Métis, and Inuit youth with positive connections to their identity," says Superintendent Perkins. The posters will be shared with all School District 22 schools, OKIB, and the Board of Education offices.

School District 22 and the Indigenous Education department thank Sheryl Newton for being the creative lead on the project and all the role models who participated:

- Dominique Alexis – Events and Project Manger – UBCO
- Frank Arnouse – OKIB Fire and Rescue Captain
- Dina Brown – Registered Occupational Therapist
- Jenelle Brewer – Consultant/Wild Fire Recovery Manager
- Howie Kruger – Plumber/Gas Fitter
- Rylie Marchand – MMA Fighter
- Stefany Mathias – Actor/Director/Writer
- Eustache – Red Seal Chef

- Maritza Louis – Visual development modeler and concept sculptor
- Vanessa Smith-Tso – Teacher
- Daniel Eustache - Welder

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