

## SECTION 1 - DEVELOPMENT

## SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 91 Nechako Lakes

<b>Challenge</b>	<b>How the challenge was addressed</b>
<p>Engaging in meaningful dialogue with all First Nations covering a large geographic area and diverse interests.</p>	<p>The school district had commissioned an independent Aboriginal needs assessment. The work done for the assessment around consultation and community involvement provided a base for discussions for an EA. Given the recommendations and data from the assessment a series of meetings and discussions were initiated and followed-up on over a period of 3 years.</p> <p>The process began by the districts First Nations Education Council (FNEC) studying existing EAs and formally recommending the process begin. Discussion and consultation with all First Nations in the district began and continued in all communities and venues. Continual contact review and discussions occurred.</p> <p>The end result was a signed letter of intent by to agree to work together to develop an Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement to take effect in September 2003.</p> <p>Draft writing included representatives from FNEC, BLNTU, CUPE, PVP, trustees and senior district staff. The draft was widely circulated for feedback.</p> <p>An EA signing ceremony was held June 15 2004. Discussions are underway to re-engage with Aboriginal communities one year before agreement expires.</p>