

SCHOOL DISTRICT 63 (SAANICH)

EDUCATION DIRECTIONS COMMITTEE

**Report to the Board of March 15, 2023**

Committee Members: Trustee Silzer, Chair  
Trustee Vandall  
Trustee VanWell

Staff Support: Carly Hunter, Director of Instruction, Learning & Innovation  
Paul McKenzie, Assistant Superintendent

Partner Representatives: Ashley Sonosky, COPACS  
Don Peterson, STA  
Kelly De Klerk, SAA  
Leila Sinclair-Wise, SAA  
Nola Welsh, CUPE – regrets  
Sean Hayes, SAA

Other Attendees: Chair Dunford, Trustee Elder, Trustee Hickman, Trustee McMurphy, Dave Eberwein,  
Jason Reid, Peter Westhaver, Rae Dennett, Jessica Underwood, Kim Graves, Landon  
Underwood, Mary Kaercher, MaryLynn Heron and Melissa Austin

**Tuesday, March 7, 2023**

**3:00 pm**

**A. PRESENTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

1. Pulling Together: Bayside Canoe Club  
Kim Graves and Landon Underwood shared the significant benefits of the Bayside Canoe Club to support the entire community and support reconciliation.
2. Intergenerational Partnerships at Cordova Bay Elementary School  
MaryLynn Heron and Mary Kaercher shared the positive relationships that arises from the shared community building and the interactions between members of the Cordova Bay 55 + and the Cordova Bay students.

**B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

No Items.

**C. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

No Items.

**D. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

1. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Paul McKenzie
2. SIDES - POLS Update - Paul McKenzie

**E. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Teacher/Librarians – Spring 2023
2. School Plans – Spring 2023

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To: Education Directions Committee

Prepared By: Assistant Superintendent Paul McKenzie

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Subject: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Date: March 1, 2023

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### Overview

On February 7, 2023, the B.C. government announced that September 30 will be declared a provincial statutory holiday. Although schools have observed this day the past two years, the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** will be enshrined in B.C. law to give more people the chance to honour the strength and resilience of residential school survivors and remember the children who never came home.

For the purposes of the school calendar, this day is to be observed as a statutory holiday.


### 2023 Calendar

In 2023, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation falls on a Saturday. The decision from the BC government, and recommendation from BCPSEA, is for districts to honour the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on Monday, October 2.

### Summary

The Saanich School District calendar for 2023-2024 currently reflects Monday, October 2, 2023 as a statutory holiday and no further changes are required.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul McKenzie  
Assistant Superintendent

PM/skd

# SAANICH SCHOOL DISTRICT (63)

## 2023/2024 CALENDAR

JULY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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31						

JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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31						

APRIL						
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28	29	30				

MAY						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JUNE						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Instructional  
 Non-Instructional

Vacation Period  
 Closure

Statutory Holiday

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To: Education Directions Committee

Prepared By: Assistant Superintendent Paul McKenzie

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Subject: SIDES Provincial Online Learning School – Mapping Forward

Date: March 1, 2023

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## Background

On December 17, 2021, School District 63 submitted an expression of interest form to the Ministry of Education and Child Care on behalf of South Island Distance Education School (SIDES). This expression of interest resulted in SIDES being awarded Provincial Online Learning School (POLS) status for a three-year term commencing on July 1, 2023.

Starting in the 2023-2024 school year, only schools with POLS status will be able to cross-enroll students from outside of district boundaries. All other online learning (OL) schools will become District Online Learning Schools (DOLS) and will only be able to register local students. With a significant majority of SIDES students residing outside of SD63, achieving POLS status will allow SIDES to remain one of the largest and most well-respected online learning schools in the province.

## Implications for 2023-2024 and Beyond

Eighteen (18) public online learning schools and sixteen (16) independent online learning schools were awarded POLS status for the three upcoming school years (September 2023 - June 2026). While this represents a sizable percentage of the online schools in the province, there will still be an estimated 2100 students displaced for the 2023-2024 school year due their current OL school operating as a DOLS next year. And while students will be able to register with any Provincial Online Learning School, it is anticipated that students will continue to select OL schools close to them - a significant fact considering that neither SD61 nor SD62 will have POLS operating next year. In fact, the Westshore Learning Centre in SD62 will be the DOLS with the second largest number of displaced students in the entire province. If these students wish to register with OL schools on Vancouver Island, SIDES and NIDES (in the Comox Valley) will be their only options.

## Fulfilling the POLS Mandate in SD63

It is difficult to predict exactly how many displaced students will choose SIDES for the 2023-2024 school year, but there is no doubt that there will be upward pressure on overall enrollment. In fact, several students and specialty programs who will be displaced next year have already reached out to SIDES administrators to explore the possibility of registering for the 2023-2024 school year.

One such program, the Canadian Sport School (CSS), is of particular interest. This program runs out of the Pacific Institute for Sports Excellence (PISE), and registers 30 students each year. These students are high performance athletes who split their days between their home school (in SD61, 62 or 63) and PISE. In order to be able to spend half days training at PISE, these students must take OL courses to earn enough credits to graduate. Until this year, the Westshore Learning Centre in ..

SD62 has provided these students with their OL courses and other academic supports (teacher time, administrative time, etc.).

With the Westshore Centre's DOLS status next year, this program is looking for a new home. SIDES' proximity to PISE and its status as a POLS makes them an obvious destination.

### **Programming Notes / Actioning Forward**

1. It should be noted that SIDES will not collect any fees from the Canadian Sport School students, and any supports offered (e.g., teacher time) will be fully funded by student enrollment claims.
2. In order to support the current program design, it will be necessary to add several courses to the SIDES course guide. Some of these courses will be Board Authorized/Authority (BAA) courses and will require Board approval. We anticipate that we will be able to bring these BAAs to the April Education Directions Committee meeting for consideration.
3. If approved, these courses will allow for the continuation of the highly successful CSS program, but will also be available to other SD63 students as well as students in other parts of the province who choose to register at SIDES.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul McKenzie  
Assistant Superintendent

PM/skd