



The Gord Downie
& CHANIE WENJACK FUND

North Vancouver School District Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools Project

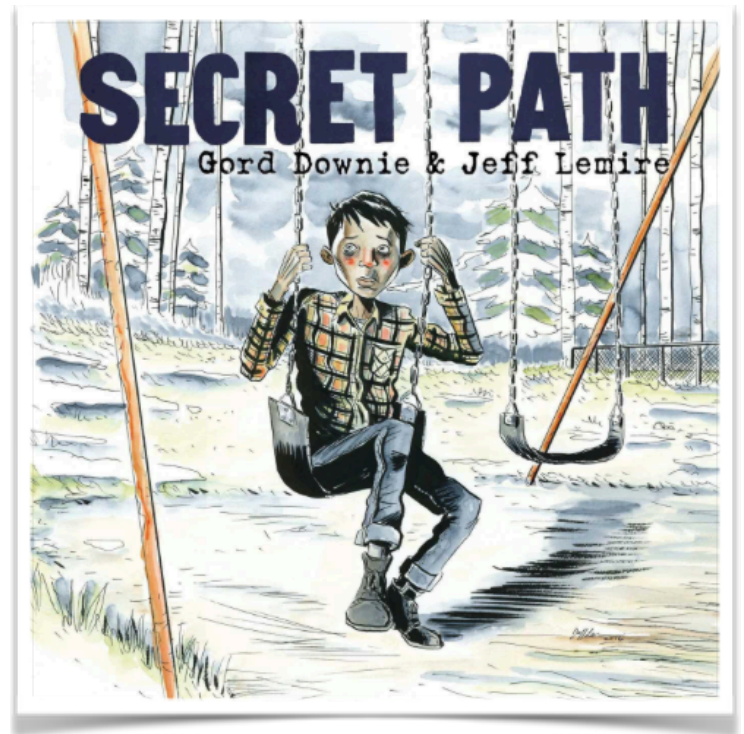
Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools Project 2018-2019



The Secret Path Film Presentation: April 29, 2019

On April 29, 2019, the NVSD Indigenous Education Team hosted a community screening of the film, *The Secret Path*, at Centennial Theatre in North Vancouver.

Six schools are currently participating in the Downie Wenjack Legacy Project. **The Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools Project** is a program that provides “opportunity for classrooms/schools to lead the movement in awareness of the history and impact of the Residential School System on Indigenous Peoples” (downiewenjack.ca). North Vancouver School District was honoured and greatly humbled that Mike Downie, from the Downie Wenjack Legacy Foundation was in attendance for this special evening. The NVSD Indigenous Education team believes that through three pathways of education: students, staff and community, that a greater understanding of the truth and the shared responsibility towards reconciliation.



The evening event was well attended with 576 in the audience, including staff, students and community members.

We would like to thank the Coast Salish people, specifically the Skwxwú7mesh Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, whose unceded traditional territory the North Vancouver School District resides on. We value the opportunity to learn, share and grow on this traditional territory.



The evening began with opening remarks by Brad Baker, NVSD District Principal of Indigenous Education and a traditional welcome by Vince White, District Principal Learning Services: Inclusive Education. NVSD staff including Superintendent Mark Pearmain, Assistant Superintendents Pius Ryan and Chris Atkinson, and Director of Instruction, Arlene Martin all shared about professional and personal growth and understandings of Indigenous history and the impacts of residential schools.

Throughout the evening students and community members also shared personal stories and song. Stewart Gonzales, Squamish Nation, a Indian Residential School Survivor, shared his personal experiences of attending both Indian Day School and Indian Residential School. Stewart's words were powerful, impactful and deeply moving.

The Carson Graham Choir shared the *Coast Salish Anthem* and *Oh Canada*, while Mountainside Student Emma Jeffrey sang two original songs. The Windsor Choir sang the Tragically Hip song, *Ahead by A Century* and *The Secret Path*.



Carson Graham Secondary Choir



Windsor Secondary Choir

Mike Downie, from the Downie Wenjack Legacy Project also shared his thoughts and personal experiences with *The Secret Path* and moving forward with his brother Gord Downie's vision for a better community and country who understand and acknowledge the history and impacts of residential schools and are taking action.





School Visits with Mike Downie

There are currently six schools participating in the Downie Wenjack Legacy Project. École Windsor Secondary, Norgate-Xwemélch'stn, Ns7e'yxnitm la Tel:'wet Westview, Carisbrooke, École Sherwood Park and Ridgeway Elementary.

As part of Mike Downie's visit to North Vancouver School District for the screening of *The Secret Path*, Mike Downie took the time to visit the six schools who are currently participating in the Downie Wenjack Legacy Project. Mr. Downie had the opportunity to hear from students about what they have learned and their personal understandings of the history and impacts of residential schooling.

Norgate Xwemélch'stn, Ns7e'yxnitm la Tel:'wet Westview, and École Sherwood Park.



Mike Downie at Norgate Xwemélch'stn

On Monday April 29, 2019, school visits included Norgate Xwemélch'stn, Ns7e'yxnitm la Tel:'wet Westview, and École Sherwood Park. At Norgate, Rob Smyth, Principal and students welcomed Mr. Downie with a breakfast reception and students shared about their personal reflections. Mabel-Leona Nahanee shared a song and personal reflections which was followed by the Norgate Drum Group.

At Ns7e'yxnitm la Tel:'wet Westview students also shared their personal reflections and understandings, including their art and poetry. Wyatt Skye presented his rap called *Residential*. Mike Downie was joined at Westview by Indian Residential School survivor and artist Charles Jospheh.

Residential
Life is a paradise but not for me
I just wanted to play with my family
Residential School now this is a tragedy,
Now of course this had to be
And now my thoughts are after me,
No one else knew that we got beat
All we had was bread or raw meat
We just wanted to go home or play in the lake
Treating people that way was a mistake
We dreamed the day that we could leave
To play with our family or we could weave
You might call it a school while we call it a prison
Over the years one person has rise
I don't want to be in here, no more
I'm glad I'm not a kid any more
I just bought an orange shirt at the store
Nothing happened like this before
This is worse than the war
By Wyatt Skye



In the afternoon, Grade 7's from École Sherwood Park listened to Mike Downie and Charlers Josphe and also shared their understandings and learning from participating in the Downie Wenjack Legacy Project. École Sherwood Park gifted Mike Downie a drum, painted by FNSW Gordon Dick.



Carisbrooke Elementary



Carisbrooke, Ridgeway and Windsor

On Tuesday, April 30th, School Visits included Carisbrooke, Ridgeway and Windsor Secondary . At Carisbrooke, Mr. Downie was welcomed with a school assembly and gallery walk of student work. Sarah Mazzei and her students at Ridgeway shared their learnings through circle and presented Mr. Downie with a gift created by students. At Windsor students met with Mike Downie and Charles Joseph in the theatre for a conversation, song and then students shared their work.



Ridgeway Elementary



Windsor Secondary

Downie Wenjack Legacy School Project T-Shirt Fundraising

North Vancouver
School District
the natural place to learn!

1944 DOWNIE WENJACK 1988
FUND

LEGACY SCHOOL PROJECT



As part of the NVSD's work with the Downie Wenjack Fund, we are selling T-shirts to give back. Six schools in the NVSD developed and implemented plans to strengthen community through RECONCILIATION. We are proud to have done this work in honour of Chanie Wenjack and Gord Downie. If you are interested in purchasing a T-shirt, please fill out the bottom of this form, then scan and email it to: abed@sd44.ca. Once your order is available, we will contact you.

COST:

Adult Shirts - \$20

Youth Shirts - \$15

SIZES AVAILABLE:

Adult Sizes – S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

Youth Sizes – Youth M, Youth L

Name:

Size Requested:

School Connection:

Please provide payment at time of pickup. Cash or Cheque accepted. Cheques should be made out to NVSD

Please submit order by May 15, 2019

***Go Forward
with
Courage***

