



May 16, 2022

Dear Families of Current Grade 10s,

The 2021-2022 school year has brought many positive changes as schools have reopened and reconnected with communities and activities. Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation are one of the core pillars of North Vancouver School District's Strategic Plan and are echoed in the Provincial Government's passing of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.

As part of the Province of British Columbia's commitments to truth, reconciliation, and anti-racism, the **Ministry of Education has updated the BC Graduation Program requirements. Moving forward, the Ministry is implementing an Indigenous-focused graduation requirement for all students in BC. Under the new model, students who are currently in Grade 10 will be the first group to complete these updated course credit requirements by the end of their grade 12 year.**

To ensure that all Seycove's current grade 10 students will meet the new graduation requirement, Seycove will be offering **BC First Peoples 12** next school year (2022-2023). All current Grade 10 students will be given a new course request verification form this week that includes this new graduation requirement. Counsellors will be speaking with grade 10's directly to discuss their course selection options for next year with this new course added to their timetable. A description of the course is included below:

BC FIRST PEOPLES 12: BC First Peoples 12 is a course that examines how Indigenous people have shaped the past and future of British Columbia and Canada. Through the lens of anthropology, topics will include pre-history, traditional lifeways, worldviews, languages, the processes and repercussions of colonialism, assertions of rights, and cultural appropriation. BC First Peoples 12 celebrates the diversity and complexity of cultures that have demonstrated remarkable resiliency and that continue to resist and challenge Canada's colonial history. BC's First Nations are a highly visible and important part of the contemporary fabric of our province; BC First Peoples 12 offers students the background and context needed to understand our world today. This course is available to students in grades 11 and 12 and meets the Graduation Requirement for a senior Social Studies course as well as the Graduation Requirement for a course with an Indigenous Focus.

We are taking a thoughtful and measured approach in offering courses with an Indigenous Focus. For the 2022-2023 school year, we are beginning by offering BC First Peoples 12, however; in the future, we hope to expand our Indigenous-focused course offerings to also include Contemporary Indigenous Studies 12, and/or English First Peoples 10,11, and 12. Course offerings are reviewed by the school in advance of each new school year and not all courses may be offered each year. Students who do not fulfill this new Graduation Requirement in their grade

11 year by taking BC First Peoples 12, must be sure to complete this requirement in their grade 12 year. If students choose to wait until their grade 12 year, careful course planning and consideration will need to take place to ensure students meet this requirement, while also considering timetable constraints/conflicts and post-secondary entrance requirements. **Should you have any questions, please contact Ruby Willems, Grade 10 Counsellor.**

We are looking forward to expanding our course offerings to Seycove students in the area of Indigenous studies. This new Indigenous Focused graduation requirement will provide all BC students with the necessary time and opportunity to develop deeper understandings of the experiences, cultures, and histories of Indigenous peoples in Canada, in support of the K-12 mandate to develop Educated Citizens.

Listed below are further resources for your information:

- For further information from NVSD related to the Strategic Plan: [Strategic Plan 2021-2031 - North Vancouver School District \(sd44.ca\)](#)
- For further information from the Provincial Government related to: [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)
- For further information related to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports: [Reports - NCTR](#)

Thank you,



Sarah Best
Principal, Seycove Secondary



Caren Hall
Vice Principal, Seycove Secondary