

# Northland School Division

## 2021-2022 Triannual Report



Lexi Gladue, a grade 8 student, learned how to scale a fish during the Calling Lake School Ice Fishing and Winter Carnival. A big thank you to the local Elders, Knowledge Keepers and community members for helping to support these valuable learning experiences for Northland students!

Tansi, Edlánat'e, Hello everyone! We are pleased to present our second Triannual Report for the 2021-2022 school year!

This report highlights progress we have made with meeting or exceeding the priorities for Northland School Division (NSD):

1. Excellence in Learning
2. Excellence in Leadership
3. Excellence in Relationships

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and Administration, thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Robin Guild  
Board Chair



Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras  
Superintendent of Schools

# Excellence in Learning

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Anzac School and Bill Woodward School students were featured in an article written by Fort McMurray Today. The article highlights the outdoor classrooms and the land-based learning opportunities they have developed <https://tinyurl.com/adhv57vm>.

- Schools are continuing to focus on literacy through a practice of five strategies and SMART Learning. Literacy is stressed in all core subjects.



In recognition of World Read Aloud Day, a number of Northland staff read a story to students via Zoom. Dr. Nancy Spencer-Poitras, Superintendent of Schools, read *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak to Northland Online School students!

### Priority 1: Excellence in Learning

Students achieve or exceed the standards set by Alberta Education in literacy and numeracy.

**Outcome:** Student success is supported by staff who ensure all students feel supported and have a sense of belonging within their schools.

**Outcome:** The Division uses consistent literacy and numeracy practices to support the growth of educators and student achievement.

### Recent examples of how Northland achieves these outcomes

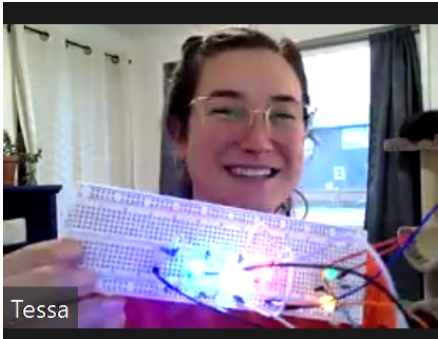
- Northland has developed a professional learning series for staff called Community of Practice. This approach to learning allows staff to learn and work together on common topics. For example, land-based learning, weaving Indigenous literature into instruction and teaching multi-grade classrooms.



In March, Father R. Perin School students participated in a fish camp at Winefred Lake. Students had the opportunity to learn from Elders and community members about the fish that inhabit the lake, how to catch a fish and how to prepare a fish for cooking purposes. Northland teachers use knowledge from these experiences to help students make connections to the curriculum.

# Excellence in Learning

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• A new relationship with Mindfuel Foundation is creating more opportunities for Northland students! A cohort of teachers participated in training to learn the basic use of Arduino kits, how to use the Arduino app and learned the coding pattern of turning lights on and off on a circuit. Teachers have received kits and are now offering this exciting learning opportunity to students.

• 1547 students have participated in 13 TELUS World of Science -

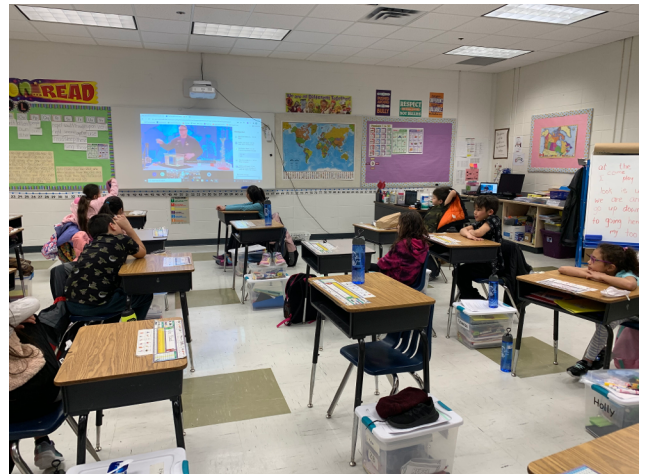


Edmonton events so far this in 2021-2022!

- Our Attendance Operational Plan continues to be crucial in monitoring attendance, driving improvement and success.
- NSD has a subscription to Field Trip Zoom. This resource gives students a live and interactive experience. Whether it's visiting the zoo or exploring a museum, the platform covers all subjects and students are able to see the world virtually.
- We celebrate student success using social media (Facebook, Twitter), websites, letters, Board Highlights, media releases, newspapers, community newsletters, radio and television.



With support from the Innovation in First Nations Education Grant Program, NSD purchased two CNC Router Tables! Students in Wabasca and Conklin will be using the machines to create sets of syllabics. The syllabics will be used by students in Cree and Dene language classes.



In March, grade 2 students participated in a TELUS World of Science - Edmonton session called exploring liquids!

# Excellence in Leadership

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### Priority 2: Excellence in Leadership

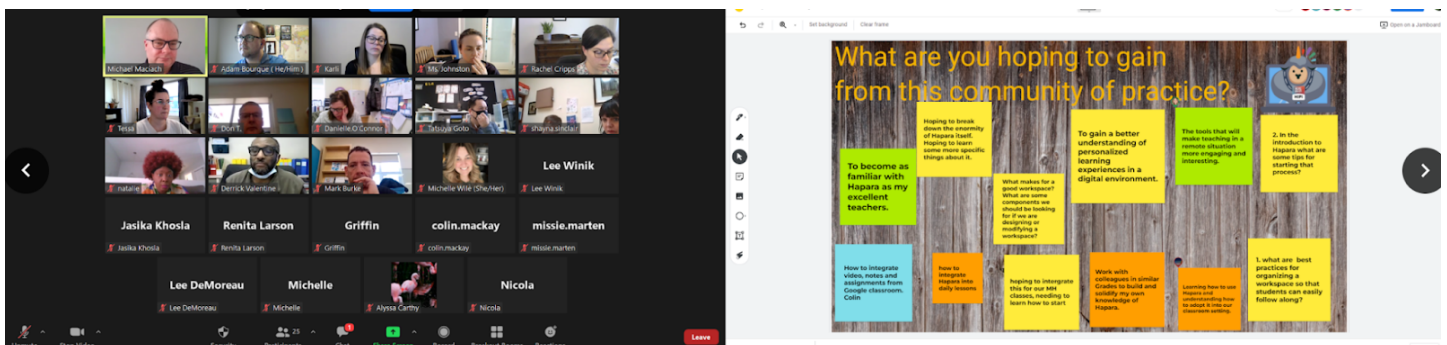
Through excellent leadership practices, everyone feels welcome and valued.

**Outcome:** Northland School Division employs a consistent process for reviewing school improvement and assurance.

**Outcome:** Northland School Division and school leadership models a welcoming learning and working environment that fosters a sense of belonging and pride for First Nations and Métis and non First Nations and Métis learners.

**Outcome:** Finances are well managed, decisions are supported by facts and stewardship is exemplary.

### Recent examples of how Northland achieves these outcomes



Here is a photo showcasing Northland staff participating in the professional learning series called Community of Practice. Staff learn and work together on common topics. For example, land-based learning, weaving Indigenous literature into teaching and teaching multi-grade level classrooms.

- **Research study shines a bright light on Northland School Division**
  - Northland recognized in a research study for its processes for implementing professional practice standards. 39 school divisions plus charter and private schools have been involved in the research study. Click on the link to learn more <https://tinyurl.com/mr9zpr87>.
- **Principal Meetings**
  - Senior Administration regularly host Zoom (video conference) meetings with principals. Professional learning is the main focus, developing leadership skills and current teaching practices.
- **Professional Learning**
  - Staff have regular opportunities to attend sessions related to leveraging the benefits of technology, literacy and numeracy.
  - Cree/Dene instructors regularly learn and practice techniques for recording videos to support language, culture and land-based learning development.
  - Elders and Knowledge Keepers educate instructors in their local context.

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Newly renovated home for Northland teachers!

- **Division Wellness**

- A variety of mental health supports are in place for all staff. For example, NSD recently created a brochure with important mental health information for staff <https://www.nsd61.ca/download/387411>.

- **Housing and Maintenance**

- Northland School Division (NSD) continues to prioritize housing improvement for teachers. 22 renovations have been completed! A number of other planned renovations have started.

- Construction is officially underway for the new Mistassiniy School <https://tinyurl.com/42zvrn8s>.

- NSD has set-up a permanent Career and Technology Studies (CTS) trailer in Paddle Prairie. A grand opening ceremony for the new CTS learning centre is in the planning stages.

- The new NSD home for Special Education, First Nations, Métis and Inuit and the Office of the Superintendent is located at the Northern Lakes College - Wabasca Campus.



Exterior and interior renderings of the new Mistassiniy School. Renderings subject to change.

# Excellence in Relationships

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Northland hosted a special presentation with award-winning and best-selling author Monique Gray Smith in March via Zoom Webinar! The presentation was called "Talking with and listening to kids about Truth and Reconciliation".

During this visit, Monique shared her personal journey of truth and reconciliation and how that journey has transformed her and her family. Throughout the evening, everyone in attendance learned ways to have conversations with children and young people about Canada's history, with a focus on Residential Schools.

If you were unable to join us, you can view the presentation on the Northland website [www.nsd61.ca](http://www.nsd61.ca).

accept a new logo design submitted by a community member. To collect vote totals, NSD used an engagement platform called Bang the Table <https://tinyurl.com/9xaeuuer>.

- In April, NSD hosted a community engagement opportunity focused on gathering input from parents, guardians and community members for its 2022-2025 Assurance Plan. To gather input, NSD used an engagement platform called Bang the Table <https://tinyurl.com/2p94yac6>.
- **Regular communication and relationship development with experts to help revitalize the Cree, Dene and Michif language**
  - There is an ongoing collaborative effort between schools and communities to revitalize Indigenous language learning, which will occur as schools are slowly returning to normal activities which involves Elders and Knowledge Keepers to the school.

### Priority 3: Excellence in Relationships

Develop and actively promote healthy relationships with students, parents/guardians, staff, community and educational partners.

**Outcome:** Parents and community members engage in their school community and are involved in their child's education.

**Outcome:** Parents, guardians, communities and education partners are informed and involved in Northland School Division (NSD) plans, programs and progress through ongoing and effective communication.

**Outcome:** Northland School Division fosters purposeful and productive working relationships to collaboratively advance division operations to support student learning.

#### Recent examples of how Northland achieves these outcomes

##### • Community Relations

- The Board and Administration maintain regular contact with the communities we serve. Conversations are arranged virtually and in-person to keep them informed about good news stories related to student learning and discuss important education topics.
- Superintendent communicates regularly with students, staff, parents and community members on how NSD is moving forward with respect to programming.
- NSD organized a community engagement opportunity focused on updating its logo. During the engagement, students, parents/guardians, community members and staff were invited to vote on logo options presented by the Board and Administration or to submit an alternative idea. In April, the Board passed a motion to

# Excellence in Relationships

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Group photo of Northland and TELUS World of Science - Edmonton (TWOSE) staff presenting at the CASS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Gathering.



identification cards while attending high school. In 2021, NSD signed a five-year agreement that will give students access to dual credit courses.

◦ In March, NSD organized a presentation to share its story about relationships and how it supports Truth and Reconciliation, student learning and leadership. Northland has established a culture of collective efficacy, which refers to staff having a shared belief on having a positive impact on student learning. During the presentation, Director of First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Debbie Mineault shared a number of resources Northland is currently using to achieve excellence in learning, while weaving Indigenous knowledge, language, culture and

the history and legacy of Residential Schools, into the lessons. For example, Northland educators are using technology tools and decoding strategies to help students learn to speak, read and write in Cree or Dene.

### How is Northland achieving these outcomes?

- **Relations with universities and educational organizations**

- Northland and TELUS World of Science - Edmonton (TWOSE) celebrated the partnership during a presentation at the CASS First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Gathering in March. Under this partnership, TWOSE is helping NSD teachers deliver innovative science-related experiences to students. With support from Northland Elders and Knowledge Keepers, TELUS World of Science-Edmonton incorporates Indigenous traditional knowledge alongside western science concepts.

- Northland students are flashing university identification cards while attending high school. In 2021, NSD signed a five-year agreement that will give students access to dual credit courses.



Bill Woodward School students tuned into their dual credit course at MacEwan University! Students are learning about social and emotional development of children in their Child and Adolescent Development course.



**NORTHLAND SCHOOL DIVISION NO.61**

*"Our students love to come to school in Northland"*