



Message from Randy Constant, Director of Education concerning the withdrawal of Cumberland House Cree Nation from the Authority to students and parents of Bernard Constant Community School.

August 18, 2022

The elected leadership of the Cumberland House Cree Nation (CHCN) has informed the Authority that it intends to withdraw from the Authority and no longer wishes to receive Indirect Services (Second Level Services) from the organization. CHCN plans to establish its own Education Authority.

While such a decision is disappointing, members of Chakastaypasin Band, James Smith Cree Nation and Peter Chapman Band need to know that ECFNEA will continue to provide the students at Bernard Constant Community School (BCCS) with the same quality professional services that the parents and students have become custom to receiving from staff. There will be no change in the broad spectrum of educational supports that have been provided to the students and their parents/guardians in previous years.

The ECFNEA is still fully functioning, and the Nipawin Sub-office continues to remain the base of operations for staff of the Authority. The staff of the Authority will regularly attend BCCS to work in concert with the school's administration staff, teachers and teaching assistants to continue with improvements in the learning process for students.

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will continue to provide the Authority with funding for educational services at BCCS. The expansion of the Practical Applied Arts Program and renovations to BCCS required to accommodate the increased programming will continue. The portable classrooms will be provided by ISC to alleviate overcrowding in some of the classrooms.

The Chiefs and Councils of the three First Nations in the community are cognizant of the CHCN's action and continue to be fully supportive of the Authority administering Education Services in the community.

As of August 16, 2022, CHCN has no representatives on the ECFNEA's Board of Directors. The current board members representing the community, Ellise Burns, Bobbi-lee Head and Camellia Sanderson continue to serve. Replacements for the Chairperson and Vice-chairperson will be announced to the community in the upcoming months.

The staff of the Authority and Pauline Mckay, Superintendent of Education and myself will continue to collaborate with the staff of BCCS and students and parents to make the learning experience beneficially positive for all. School recommences at BCCS on August 31, 2022, with a full complement of teachers and teaching assistants in place to start the new school year.

If you have any concerns, please address your questions directly to me. You can reach me by email, randyconstant@ecfnea.ca or call the Nipawin Sub-office at 1-888-321-ECFN (3236).

Randy Constant
Director of Education