



## Cowichan Tribes

QUW'UTSUN SYUW'ENTST LELUM'

Cultural Education Department

5744 Allenby Road Duncan, BC V9L 5J1

Telephone (250) 715-1022 Fax (250) 715-1023

September 1, 2020

Dear Cowichan Tribes Parents,

Re: 2020/2021 School and Daycare Re-Start during COVID

I want to start by acknowledging the fears all of you have been working through since our Community shut down due to COVID-19. The thought of opening our family bubble up to send our kids to school is extremely stressful and may feel dangerous when our job is to protect our kids. I also want to acknowledge our school and daycare staff who will be returning to school with your children. All are eager but do share your stresses due to COVID.

As we have announced on our Elementary School FB page, which is in line with the other schools in our community, we are starting full-time, in-person instruction September 14<sup>th</sup>. Since the shut down in March we have been working diligently with the Pandemic team to prepare our schools, train staff, and implement COVID sterilizing cleaning protocols. We have completed some renovations to our Elementary School and Daycare as well as made many changes to the physical space at our schools and daycare to assist with social distancing in the shared spaces and physical changes using plexi-glass where social distancing is not possible. Your child's teacher will share details of the school processes with you during your orientation call/meeting.

I also want to assure all of you that our restart and our in-class instruction is based on our local infection rate. At any point if there is a concern in the Cowichan Valley or our Cowichan Tribes community we will quickly respond and inform parents of any changes we may need to make. Any decision we make in regards to our schools and daycare will not be based on the Ministry of Educations announcements. Decisions will be made in collaboration with our Pandemic Response team, our principals and managers, and our Acting General Manager. The safety of our children and staff is of the utmost importance and we are not moving forward with a "see what happens" mentality. We take this very seriously and we fully commit to safety first.

With that said our staff are staying prepared for full-time virtual learning if that becomes necessary. We want to be prepared so there is no interruption to your child(ren)'s learning and we can change how we offer instruction if it becomes necessary.

As we move through September we will be sure to keep parents updated on what is happening in our schools and our daycare. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher, the principal, or call me at 250-715-1022.

Sincerely,

*Stephanie Atleo*

Stephanie Atleo,  
Acting Director of Education

Cc: Derek Thompson, Acting General Manager  
Culture and Education Committee