ACKNOWLEDGING TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

The Board of Education of School District No. 40 (New Westminster) believes that Acknowledging Traditional Territory is a way to honour and show respect to the original inhabitants of this land. This practice enables the wider school and district community to share in Aboriginal cultures, and leads to better relationships and understandings. Observing this practice connects participants with the traditional territory, and provides a welcoming atmosphere to the land where people are gathering.

Any school district staff may Acknowledge the Traditional Territory. It is not necessary to have an Aboriginal person from the territory do the Acknowledgement. However, the only people who would “Welcome” guests to the territory are the First Nations people who are traditionally/originally from the territory.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory is performed at graduation and other large celebrations, such as assemblies, Board meetings and facility openings. For some of these events, staff may consider inviting a member of the local First Nation to perform a Welcome instead of an