



## Elder Advisory Council

*Valuing diversity is about the commitment and responsibility for passing on our culture through our stories and traditions every day of our lives. This is not a commitment to “write it all down” but to live it and model it.*

*(Thoughts offered by Elders about “valuing diversity” at the first ELC meeting, Oct. 2010)*

Elders are highly respected in their communities, having long discovered their gifts and purposes through their life experiences. Elders bring an understanding of their community’s history and traditional ways. Our CBE Elder Advisory Council was established in October 2010 and includes the following Treaty 7 representation from the following nations:

- Blackfoot
- Métis
- Stoney - Nakoda
- Tsuu T’ina
- Cree

Meetings with Elders occur four times per year with Calgary Board of Education representatives including our Chief Superintendent, Superintendent of Learning Services, Director Instructional Services, A Board of Trustee and our Supervisor and Specialist of Aboriginal Education.

The Elder Advisory Council works with the CBE towards the following goals:

- To engage and build bridges with members of numerous cultural communities to keep them informed around issues of diversity and provide a forum for two-way conversation to work closely to understand their educational needs.
- To give counsel and advice to the Board to help inform decisions and policy that support the concept of diversity and multiculturalism.
- To distinguish ourselves as a culturally competent organization.
- To create effective access to learning and a quality education for all students in addressing Alberta Education’s Goal 3 of improving the learning outcomes of our Aboriginal students.