

INDIGENOUS INCLUSION INITIATIVE

School Sports NL has always welcomed the participation of our indigenous schools and students in our programs. However, we have not been as proactive as we can be in embracing and welcoming them and their culture and doing what we can do to advance the calls for action from the Truth and Reconciliation Report. We would like to take steps to change that.

There are many areas within SSNL programs that we can be more inclusive to indigenous populations and at the same time, educate all participants in our programs about the culture of the indigenous populations in our province. Individuals from our member schools and communities with a strong indigenous presence have been invited to work with SSNL to develop programs that promote

- Inclusion of indigenous students in the existing SSNL Varsity programs
- Inclusion of indigenous students in the existing PN programs
- Development of new programs that involve traditional indigenous games for all students in the province
- Review of the existing SSNL policies to ensure cultural appropriateness
- Education of all students in our programs about the traditional games and culture of indigenous students

Newfoundland and Labrador is home to 3 distinct indigenous groups – Inuit, Innu and Mi'kmaq – and it was important to ensure each group had an opportunity to help us to develop this initiative. The following individuals have been invited to ensure representation of all groups, however, we are open to any other individuals who can help meet the goals that will be developed.

- Todd Winters – Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Circle
- Rhonda Martin – SSNL Regional Director, Northern Peninsula
- Nicole McLean – Athletic Director, Amos Comenius, Hopedale
- Michael Button – Athletic Director, Sheshatshiu Innu School
- Paul McDonald – Athletic Director, St. Annes S'etanewey
- Shane Welcher – program Specialist, Indigenous Education, NLESD
- Katrina Moores – Provincial Lead for Partnerships and Initiatives, NLESD
- Julie Dicker – Principal, Jens Haven Memorial School, Nain
- Michaela Alexander – Athletic Director, Bayview Academy