



# News Release

September 25, 2007

## **Ministry recognizes the Surrey School District for education and community initiatives**

A Ministry of Education eight-member district review team has acknowledged several strengths and successes of the Surrey School District after an extensive five-day district review held in April.

“I’m very pleased with the results of this worthwhile process,” says Surrey Board of Education chair Shawn Wilson. “The review has been a validation of the excellent work of district staff and has confirmed the direction and priorities of our board as we improve and build on our successes.”

Among the findings in the report released earlier today, the review team recognizes:

- The district has developed a comprehensive literacy strategy using local expertise.
- The district’s Improving Student Learning Committee has a 13-year history of raising student achievement on provincial assessments, particularly Grade 12 exams, from below provincial average to at or above provincial average.
- Relationships are becoming increasingly positive with constituents throughout the district; trustees are focused, cohesive, knowledgeable & supportive in working towards “Success for Each Student” and; trustees and the superintendent are visible and proactive at events, including school visits, hosting regional forums for parents, meeting with ethnic groups and meeting with partner groups.
- The district, in keeping with its expanded mandate, is increasing the connection between school and community through programs such as the Strong Start Program, Welcome to Kindergarten and a new and innovative Community-Schools Partnership project.
- District multicultural workers are a valuable resource connecting schools with diverse communities,
- Aboriginal support staff plays a very important role in championing the cause of Aboriginal student success and there is a vibrant celebration of Aboriginal achievement through awards and ceremonies.
- The district has a strong leadership development program.
- The district has robust apprenticeship and career programs which provide a wide range of opportunities for students to find relevance in secondary education and to transition smoothly to post-secondary opportunities.

The review report also identifies areas for additional focus by the district, including sharing strong practices throughout the district, increasing parental involvement and improving the success of Aboriginal learners.

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Surrey School District superintendent Mike McKay acknowledged the efforts of staff throughout the district as reflected in the review report.

"The review team carefully considered the many quality attributes of effective school districts," says Mr. McKay. "The comments shared by the team, both in the report and verbally, are a good news story and a celebration of tremendous teamwork throughout our community. The report also identifies specific areas for focused attention as we move forward."

The complete report is available at [www.sd36.bc.ca/general/reports/districtreview0607.pdf](http://www.sd36.bc.ca/general/reports/districtreview0607.pdf)

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