



BUFFALO TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Irma School attends CASS First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Gathering to feature Irma School's Journey of Reconciliation

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Buffalo Trail Public School students from Irma School showcased their learning at the College of Alberta School Superintendents (CASS) First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Gathering from April 24 to April 26, 2023, with the theme "Decolonizing Education: Truthing Our Way Forward" in Edmonton. The conference features various schools and educators from across the province who have found innovative ways to walk the path of reconciliation.

One of the conference organizers contacted Jenny Thomson at Irma School to share the school's journey of reconciliation. Irma School brought a group of grade 11 and 12 students who were part of the group that started the journey when they were in grades 7 and 8. This group of students shared their five-year journey of reconciliation, which is an excellent opportunity to showcase the great learning experiences at BTPS.

Irma School has been actively involved in the journey of reconciliation, and the students have gained a deep understanding of Indigenous cultures, traditions, and history. The school's initiatives have included inviting elders to speak with students, attending Indigenous events and ceremonies, and incorporating Indigenous perspectives into the curriculum.

The conference's theme, "Decolonizing Education: Truthing Our Way Forward," emphasizes the importance of "truthing," an action attached to learning the truth according to Elder teaching. "Truthing" means facing uncomfortable and necessary truths and taking action in relation to those truths. We acknowledge that the action of truthing holds with it great responsibility.

The CASS First Nations, Métis & Inuit Education Gathering provided a platform for Irma School to share their experiences and insights with other educators and schools. This opportunity not only highlighted the positive impact of the school's initiatives but also inspired other schools to continue their journey towards reconciliation.

For more information about the conference, please visit the CASS website. Staff, students, parents, guardians and the community support Irma School and their journey of reconciliation.

BTPS believes that all schools have a role to play in supporting reconciliation and learning foundational knowledge of First Nations, Métis and Inuit. By integrating Indigenous perspectives and knowledge into the curriculum BTPS schools provide a more inclusive and accurate understanding of Canadian history and culture. BTPS schools are committed to working with Indigenous partners and communities to promote Indigenous ways of knowing and learning, to build relationships based on respect and understanding, and to support Indigenous student success. We recognize that this is an ongoing journey, and we are committed to continuing to learn and grow in our understanding of reconciliation.

