



School District No. 57 INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

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'Atsoo 'ink'ez 'Atsiyan K'eltsi | Ndezu'a Nekeyoh Nets'ut'en Grandmother and Grandfather Puppets | How we do things in our territory (Protocol)

Rationale: Why include 'Atsoo 'ink'ez 'Atsiyan K'eltsi as part of the SD57 Indigenous Education team support?

- To acknowledge the valued roles 'Atsoo 'ink'ez 'Atsiyan traditionally hold as Elders, knowledge keepers, valued members, and teachers for our families and our communities
- To use the 'Atsoo 'ink'ez 'Atsiyan puppets as teaching tools:
 - To support healing the disconnect caused by residential schools and the breaking apart of the traditional support systems
 - To reconnect our children with the 'Atsoo 'ink'ez 'Atsiyan personalities of kindness and acceptance
 - To honour and instill the Dakelh Holistic Lifelong Learning Values of: Self-Identity, Respect, Truth & Honesty, Responsibility and Community.
 - To aid in reclaiming, in the students' minds, the respect and the honouring of traditional Indigenous knowledges
- To use the humour and the appropriate language we understand our 'Atsoo 'ink'ez 'Atsiyan would use as they guide and teach us through their sharing and story telling

This is an important teaching and as such, necessitates respectful use in the handling, actions, and language used by each puppet handler.

Respectful Intent:

- ❖ Utilize puppets to encourage, empower, and nurture students' positive mental health and well-being.
- ❖ SD57 puppets are considered as family, and we should treat them as such.
- ❖ Use the humour and appropriate language that our 'Atsoo 'ink'ez 'Atsiyan would use as they guide and teach us through their sharing and storytelling (gentle tone of voice and respectful word choice).

The following behaviour is inappropriate and not permitted:

- rudeness
- foul language
- stereotypical mannerisms or voiced thoughts that may invoke negative associations with Indigenous cultures

**Remember the 'Atsoo 'ink'ez 'Atsiyan puppets are a teaching tools and not toys!
Please treat them with the same respect you would treat the elder that they represent.**

In special circumstances, if a student's spirit is touched by the use of the puppet, it is permissible for them to use the puppet under supervision (please teach them the expectations above before they use the puppet).

'Awetzeh

SD57 Indigenous Education & SD57 Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Holders Advisory Council

Adapted with permission from the Puppet Protocol by the School District of Mystery Lake Thompson Manitoba.