

## The Story of Siwal Si'wes: our forefathers' teachings



In the late 1980's, the Late Agnes Giesbrecht, the Late Robert Charlie, and the Late Virginia Joe met to discuss the creation of a vision for the Indigenous Department of Mission Public School System. Heather Hansson (former District Counsellor for Indigenous Youth) and Mel Jack (former Indigenous Liaison Worker) requested self- taught Kwakwaka'wakw artist, the late Roy J. Hanuse, to create a design that would capture and portray the Indigenous Department of Mission Public Schools District 75. Once Roy completed the design, Mel and Heather then enlisted Dr. Gwen Point, who, in collaboration with Elders from Coqualeetza, named the design. The design was then gifted the name ***Siwal Si'wes: our forefathers' teachings***. A traditional ceremony was held at Fraserview Elementary School (now Fraserview Learning Centre) to celebrate the naming, with the Honourable Steven Point as the speaker of the house. *(Information received from Mel Jack & Heather Hansson, February 2020).*

### Our Mission

Working as a community, we will enhance student empowerment by developing the skills, wellness, confidence, and self-reliance necessary for our children and youth to flourish and prosper throughout their life journey.

### Our Vision

Recognizing and nurturing strengths, students will thrive as individuals, thus contributing to the well-being of their families and communities while preserving tradition.