

Explanation of the new Board of Education governance structure.



December 2021 – Our Foundation

Your Voice Made This Possible.

- ▶ **96% community Support:** In December 2021, Seabird Island Members voted 96% in favour of Education Jurisdiction.
- ▶ **Law-Making Protocol Approved:** This referendum also approved our Education Law-Making Protocol.
- ▶ **Authority Given:** Members authorized Chief and Council to amend education laws through community consultation, not additional referendums.
- ▶ **Democratic Foundation:** Today's process is a direct fulfillment of the mandate you, the community, already provided.

*Everything we're doing today stems from
YOUR democratic decision.*



July 2022 – We Took Control

Our First Education Law Was a Major Victory

What We Achieved:

- ▶ Ended outside control of our education system.
- ▶ Chief and Council became the ultimate authority.
- ▶ Started building education that reflects our values.
- ▶ Continued community input through the existing Education Committee.

The Challenge We Discovered

- ▶ **Committee structure created delays in decision-making**
- ▶ Responsibility was shared but ultimate authority remained with Chief and Council
- ▶ **Layered approvals slowed important decisions.**

Result: great foundation, but governance structure needed strengthening.

Why We are Strengthening Our 2025 Law

From Good to Great – Making Our Self Government Even Stronger

What We Learned (2022-2025):

- ▶ The Education Committee Process was well-intentioned but too arm's length from Council
- ▶ Ultimate accountability resides with Chief and Council.
- ▶ Community deserves fast, clear decision-making.
- ▶ Professional governance training would strengthen our leadership.

The Solution: Direct governance through a Board of Education

- ▶ Same elected leaders you voted for.
- ▶ Same democratic accountability.
- ▶ Better structure for efficiency and clarity.

Building on success, fixing what we learned.

How the 2022 System Worked

Three Steps, But Complicated

1

Staff:

Day-to-Day work

- ▶ Drafted policies, manage budgets, implement programs.

2

Education Committee:

Community voice

- ▶ Made recommendations to Chief and Council to approve or reject policies and budgets.

3

Chief and Council:

Final decisions

- ▶ Approved or reject recommendations.

The challenge: Too many steps slowed decisions.
Committee had responsibility but not authority.

The Solution: A Board of Education

Your Elected leaders, Focused on Education Excellence

Who leads Our Education System Now:

- ▶ Not Ottawa or Victoria – those days are over.
- ▶ Your Elected Leaders: Chief and Council.
- ▶ 2022 Law: Chief and Council had final say through Education Committee process.
- ▶ 2025 Proposed Law; Chief and Council lead directly through a Board of Education.

Why this Board Structure Works Better:

- ▶ Direct Accountability: Clear Line from your vote to education decisions.
- ▶ Faster Decisions: Streamlined process.
- ▶ Professional Governance:
 - At least 3 Chief and Council members.
 - Receive expert training (FNESC, FNEA)
 - **They DO:** Set vision, approve budgets/policies, hold system accountable.
 - **They DON'T:** Manage daily school operations (that's staff's job)

Same democratic control, better structure for our future!

Key Differences – 2022 vs. 2025 Law

Aspect	2022 Law: Education Committee	2025 Proposed Law: Board of Education (subset of Chief and Council)
Governing Body	Education Committee	Board of Education (subset of Chief and Council)
Final Authority	Chief and Council approval required after Committee recommendation.	Board of Education has direct authority, streamlining decisions, under Council oversight
Decisions	Layered approval process	Streamlined process
Training	None	Formal FNEsc & FNEA training
Parents' Committee	Limited, voluntary membership	All parents automatically members
Reporting	To Chief and Council through portfolio holders and CAO	Quarterly and annual community reports
Legal Liability	Higher risk due to arm's length structure	Structure with clear legal standing

Benefits of the New Board Structure

Leadership:

Education governance directly aligns with Chief and Council's elected leadership and governance manual.

Decisions:

Board authority reduces delays and duplication in decision-making.

Stronger Parent Voice: All parents automatically included in Parents' Committee with clear Terms of Reference.

Professional Management:

Board governs; Director of Education, Principal, and Vice Principal, and staff manage daily operations, reporting through the CAO to the Board.

Legal Protection:

A Board structure reduces liability by providing clear authority, formal training, and stronger governance compared to an arm's-length Education Committee.

Better Accountability:

Regular quarterly and annual reporting to community builds transparency.

Parents' Committee – What Changes?

Everyone Included:

All parents of Lalme'lwesawtexw students automatically become members.

Clear Rules:

Board-approved Terms of Reference, based on provincial standards, outline roles and expectations.

Input Opportunity:

Parents' Committee can suggest changes to Terms of Reference; Board makes final decisions.

Respectful Environment:

Respectful Workplace Policy creates safe collaboration space while protecting parents' right to advocate.

Strong Voice:

Committee provides feedback directly to Board and school leadership.

Good Governance:

Follows standard practices where committees receive authority from boards, preventing confusion and potential conflicts.

Next Steps

-
- a.** Chief and Council review revised Education Law and Education Advisory Committee Terms of Reference for final instructions to legal counsel
 - b.** Council introduces motion to amend existing Education Law with revised terms
 - c.** Notice given to Seabird Island Members of proposal to amend Education Law
 - d.** Not less than 30 days after giving notice, a community meeting must be held
 - e.** Public comment may be made for not less than 30 days from the day of the community meeting
 - f.** If no comments or changes to be made, Council may approve at next meeting
 - g.** If changes are proposed to be made by Council, the consultation process repeats

