

ALLYSHIP

Allyship is a lifelong process to build better relationships through respect, accountability, honesty, courage, wisdom, humility, and truth. The honour of being an ally is bestowed upon you by the people you seek to ally yourself with and is not self-defined.

It is a consistent, active process that can be painful and confusing as one re-evaluates their position of privilege and power to work with people who are sometimes considered marginalized. A marginalized group of people is considered such when that group is excluded from policy, services, and/or opportunities.

Reconciliation relies heavily on allyship. Without allies, reconciliation cannot happen.



Salisbury Composite High School, Sherwood Park, AB: Indigenous Studies class (grades 10/11/12) have been participating in Secret Path Week by learning about Chanie's story, the history of residential schools, and Gord Downie's reconciliACTION. In addition to beading DWF buttons, they also participated in a Walk for Wenjack and have been sharing what they have learned with friends, families, and their school community.



Learn more
about Allyship.



Mi'kmaq linguist and musician, Bernie Francis, visited École Acadienne de Pomquet and Paq'tnkek FN School in Pomquet, NS for an Artist Ambassador visit to learn about the importance of language and culture. Above, Bernie Francis, Chris Demers, Christina Sylliboy, and students from both schools are seen enjoying traditional Acadiane stew called Fricot and as well as a favourite Mi'kmaq moose meat stew.

Inquiry Questions

1. What does an ally look like?
2. How can people understand what privilege and power are?
3. How can an ally take guidance and direction from the people they wish to work with?
4. Why is it important for allies to do their own research on the experiences of the people they seek to work with?
5. As an ally, why is it important to admit when you don't know something, ask questions with humility, and lean into discomfort?

"We have to try. Starting out with good intentions and a good heart is what matters most." - Dr. Kate Beane (Flandreau Santee Dakota and Muskogee Creek)