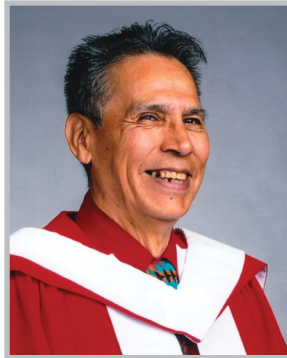


# Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack School



## Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack *(b. June 26, 1948)*

Elder Whiskeyjack is a lifelong learner who has dedicated his life to serving others. Whether he is mentoring or advocating for students or colleagues in the community, Francis's steadfast positivity and determination shines through.

A member of Saddle Lake Cree Nation, and a residential school survivor, Francis strives to walk a balanced, holistic path and live by the teachings handed down to him from his Elders. He is committed to sharing traditional knowledge and teachings, and promoting awareness and understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing.

Francis's background includes personal healing, health care promotion and cultural studies. He participated in the development of Edmonton's Urban Aboriginal Accord and was a board member for the Native Friendship Centre. In 2010 he was appointed as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Education and in 2019, he received an honorary doctorate of law from the University of Alberta. Francis is also an accomplished artist, musician and cultural advisor.

He maintains a close relationship with amiskwacy Academy, where he spent many years sharing his knowledge and teachings with students, something that continues today. He is greatly admired throughout the Division for his unwavering dedication to supporting and mentoring students.

Francis is an Elder with First Peoples' House at the University of Alberta, where he supports students and staff in a variety of capacities. He is also fluent in the Nêhiyawêwin (Plains Cree) language and promotes learning and retaining the language.

In addition to working with Edmonton Public Schools, he has worked for over 15 years as an Elder and cultural advisor at various community organizations including the University of Alberta, Alberta Health Services, MacEwan University, NAIT and Concordia University. An advocacy worker who goes the extra mile, Francis's tireless and sincere desire to work on behalf of Indigenous peoples has earned him tremendous respect throughout the Edmonton area.

Francis strives to incorporate thoughtfulness, kindness and curiosity in all of his endeavours. His hope for the new school is for students to feel welcomed, included and supported. Francis's profound impact on the Division and the community will inspire students for generations to come.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

**LOCATION**  
Meadows

**GRADES**  
10–12

**OPENING**  
September 2024

