

September 25, 2024

Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, AOE, BSc, LL.D (hon)  
Lieutenant Governor of Alberta  
3rd Floor, Legislature Building  
10800 - 97 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

Your Honour,

We are pleased to share the exciting news of the renaming of Prince Charles School to awâsis waciston School. This change reflects a deep commitment to honouring Indigenous language, culture, and the spirit of reconciliation.

The awâsis (Cree) language and culture program is the heart of the school. Every student participates, creating a unique learning environment where Indigenous knowledge is interwoven with the curriculum. Through ceremonies, seasonal feasts, traditional arts and more, students gain a profound appreciation for Indigenous heritage.

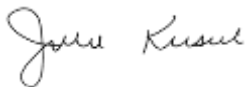
This renaming journey began with a desire to provide a connection with the school's culture and programming. We engaged in meaningful consultation with Elder Gisele Wood, Knowledge Keeper Trevor Gladue, Cree language teacher Sheri-lynn Bourque-Makey, and Cree Language Keeper Lloyd Martin. It was through ceremony that Lloyd Martin received the name for the school, awâsis waciston, beautifully capturing the school's nurturing spirit.

awâsis waciston translates to "child nest". As Lloyd Martin shared, "Any nest is a sacred space, where birds are looked after until they are ready and then they start to fly. So it is with a school, where students are taken care of and when they are ready, they leave the nest and learn to fly."

awâsis waciston honours the school's community, celebrates childhood, and embodies the Division's commitment to guiding students with respect, humility, integrity, and honesty.

We are proud to share this news with you and look forward to the continued growth and learning that will take place at awâsis waciston.

Respectfully,



Julie Kusiek  
Board Chair

