Letter/Proposal

RE: Proposal for funding to support Cree storyteller in Pre K class

To: Local Public School Board

My name is Danielle Desjardins and I am currently the Pre K teacher at L. Community

School. I am writing to you to request your approval to enrich our trans-disciplinary unit on Who We Are. It is important to provide our students with first hand experiences, which will enhance their learning. Our unit on Who We Are explores who the children are, who their families are and how they are connected to the community. It is my hope

to provide the students an opportunity to have a Cree Elder who is highly respected in the community to visit our classroom in order to tell traditional stories of the land and animals in which we live and how it relates to the children’s identity. Furthermore, the exercise of listening to and retelling of stories aligns directly with the Pre K language and literacy learning outcomes.

I would like to extend an invitation to a local Elder, a Cree storyteller, who has experience sharing stories in a classroom setting with young children. She has visited our school in the past and is comfortable sharing traditional stories and knowledge with our students. I would like to invite her to join us during our morning circle time to explain how knowledge is shared through storytelling and to share her stories about our connection to the land and other living things. In order to demonstrate respect for her sharing of traditional knowledge with us, the practice of offering a gift of pipe tobacco, and cloth is respectful protocol. I would like to request $50 for these items. It is also a respectful practice to offer an honorarium of $100.00 for spending the morning with us, sharing her culture and stories with the students. I would also like to request an additional $20.00 to reimburse her transportation to and from the school.

This visit adds to the students’ understanding of who they are and whom they are connected to within their families and the local community. Involving community members into the classroom plays a significant role in the lives of these children. I believe that it will contribute to the self-identity of our First Nations students in the classroom, and will help non-First Nations students have a better understanding of the First Nations culture in their community. Involving Elders and other community members into the school enhances children’s opportunities in school, and supports cooperation between the school and the local community.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or inquiries please feel free to email me at myemail@email.com.

Sincerely,

Danielle Desjardins

Pre K Teacher

L. Community School