



### ***Climbing Up the Ranks of Quebec School Boards***

The Board's action plan and its "No Excuses" focus on ensuring academic achievement and school accountability will continue to play a major role in creating new and higher levels of student achievement in the coming years.

Despite this well-placed confidence, the recent academic achievement results do not mean that we have successfully reached our high-level goals just yet; much work still needs to be achieved. Our schools and our staff, though, are becoming increasingly accomplished and proud in the recognition that the CSB and its schools are well on their way to achieving the goal of becoming a high-performing, high-quality school system.

Our major goal is to establish the Cree School Board as a high-performing school board and to raise the graduation level of the board to a place where we stand among the better performing Boards in the province. We feel confident that the Board's recent school improvement actions have put our schools on the right track.

We believe that nothing should prevent the Cree School Board from becoming one of the standout school systems in Quebec and in Canada. Holding firm to our school improvement focus, we expect that the Cree School Board will continue to improve its standing in the province year by year.

In celebrating this positive news on student achievement and graduation we wish to offer some reflections on the various elements that contributed to the Board's welcome progress. Congratulations, of course, must be given to our graduating students for their hard work and commitment throughout their secondary schooling.

Just as importantly though, we need to recognize and truly appreciate the efforts of our dedicated teachers and school leaders who guided and taught their students as they progressed from elementary school to that big day on the graduation stage. We also want to express our appreciation for the strong, consistent parental and family support that helped to ensure that our graduates reached the success they deserved to achieve.

### ***Looking Forward***

***"Whatever we expect with confidence becomes our own self-fulfilling prophecy."***

*Brian Tracy*

We hope that everyone involved or touched by Cree education will join us in looking forward with the confident expectation that progress and better and greater results await us in 2013.

## **Graduation Rates Up!**



**118  
Graduates  
in  
June 2012**

*"The Cree School Board believes in transparency and public accountability for results. Under the leadership of the Director General we strive to fulfill the aims of the CSB Council of Commissioners and to maintain public confidence in the competence and potential of the Cree School Board, its schools, and its staff. We are committed to building this public confidence by using proven school reform methods and by setting and reaching achievement goals and targets to ensure that all students are successful. As part of transparency and public accountability the Board wishes to share some results of its school improvement interventions aimed at increasing the graduation rate and increasing student achievement and academic success."*

*Joe MacNeil*

**Cree School Board |**

# **RESULTS**



# A Cree Nation of Graduates

## Clear Signs of Progress

The Cree School Board wishes to announce that the CSB 5-year graduation rate reached 15.9% by the close of the 2012 school year. This rate reflects the percentage of students who received their diplomas within 5 years after having begun their secondary studies in Secondary 1 in 2008. In total, 118 students graduated in 2012.

This is very good news for our students and their families as well as our schools, teachers, and administrators. We invite all members of the Cree Nation and all of our staff, friends, and colleagues to join us in celebrating the success of the 118 graduated students.

**The CSB School Improvement Effort is Working**

- A Turnaround School Board**  
In 2010 the leadership of the Cree School Board introduced its first ever *Strategic Action Plan*. The recent increase in the numbers of CSB graduates clearly indicates that the CSB *Strategic Plan* and its *School Improvement Plan*, is working.
- As a school board, we have become more precise at defining what we do and how we do it. Our *Strategic Action Plan* sets out our goals for improvement and now, after two years of implementation, we are pleased to be able to report that our strategic actions, our goals, and our school improvement initiatives are showing clear signs that we are doing the right things to improve the quality of education in Cree schools.

## What Our Progress Looks Like: The Results

By the end of the first year of implementation of the Plan in 2011, the graduation rate, which had been falling for more than 20 years, began to turn around and head toward better results. (See graph below)

The improved 2012 results add to the 2011 results which saw the graduation rate climb from its lowest point ever (1.6% in 2009) up to 7.7% in 2011.

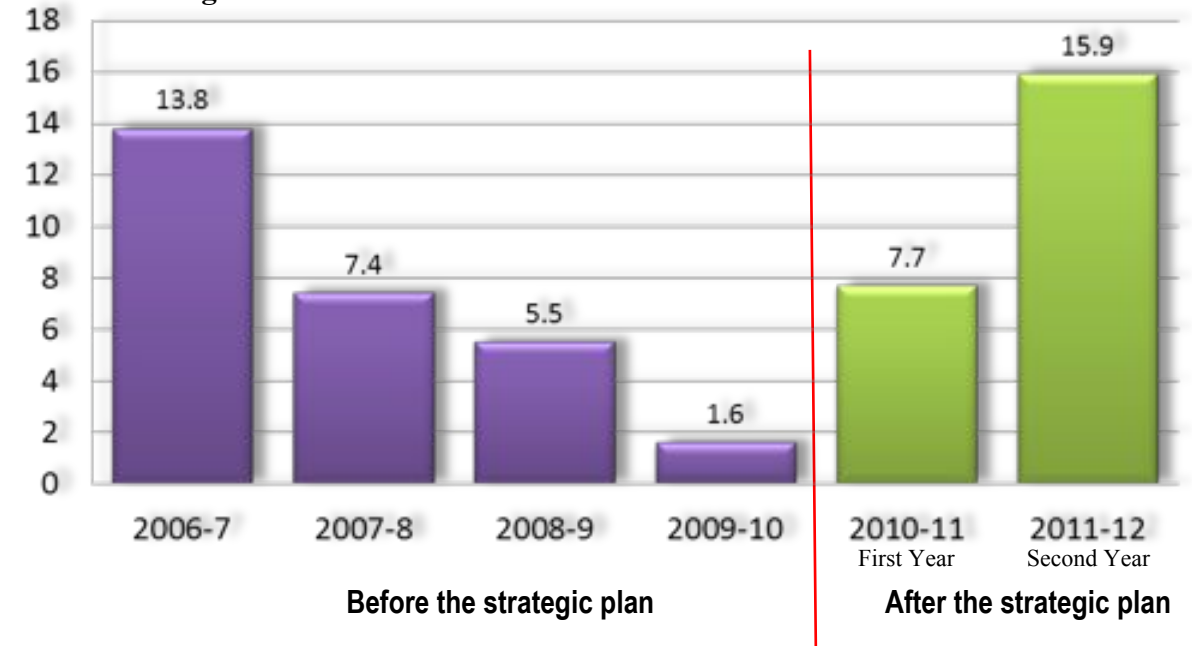
In total, since the introduction of the CSB Strategic Plan and our school improvement efforts, Cree schools have dramatically increased the number of students who graduated within the first five years of secondary school.

In 2009-2010 only 28 students graduated from secondary school. The 118 students who succeeded in 2012 represents a 300% increase over the 2010 results.

## Results that speak for themselves:

The graph below illustrates the Cree School Board graduation rate had been on a free-fall for far too many years. The graph below shows the pace of the alarming decline over the years from 2006 to 2009. On more positive terms, the graph also clearly shows how the graduation rate has now turned around. This information also clearly shows that the Cree School Board's strategic interventions have not only ended the free-fall, but have also inspired what promises to be the beginning of a pretty dramatic turnaround in Cree education.

Progress of the Cree School Board Graduation Rates from 2007 - 2012



# 63.1% of students in Secondary V graduated in June 2012