

Press Release
School District No. 52(Prince Rupert)

“Lies, Dammed Lies, and Statistics”*

Once again we have been pummeled by the Fraser Institute Report. Based on their analysis we have “slipped backwards”.

This is simply incorrect.

The Fraser Institute report is a statistical analysis of a number of criteria selected by the Fraser Institute. We believe that their analysis is flawed for a number of reasons:

First, the analysis does not collect a time series of data on each criterion. To assess how well a child is doing, you need to collect data over a period of time. Not all children start from the same place and it is therefore inappropriate to measure them on the same benchmark.

Second, the analysis does not include all the criterion that are important in assessing how well schools are teaching students. The only criterion that the Fraser Institute measures are those for which data is readily obtained.

The School District appreciates the attempts of the Fraser Institute to bring a level of comparability to school performance. We would welcome representatives of the Institute to come to Prince Rupert and discuss how their analysis might be improved.

We would like to share with you the following statistics from the Ministry of Education

Six (6) Year Dogwood Percentage (%) Completion		
Student Category	School District No. 52	Province
All Students	76%	79%
First Nation Students	57%	48%
Non First Nations Students	88%	81%

We are not however satisfied with these statistics either! There is a long way to go, but we believe that the Employees of the School District should be applauded for the skill and effort that they display on a daily basis to improve the future of our children.

*attributed to Mark Twain