



School District 59 Testimonial by **Ms. Shannon Delawsky**

I chose to work for School District 59 because I returned to this community after university to be close to my family. I have worked for the school district for 18 years. I have worked in two secondary schools, a middle school, and one elementary school, so I have experienced a variety of types of schools in the district. No matter what school you are in, people in this school district are supportive of each other and value collaboration. You can always find someone to help you, support you, mentor you within your school building. There is also a lot of opportunity to build your own capacity by participating in a variety of cutting edge education workshops. I believe our school district has an advanced philosophy around 21st century learning and we have a lot of newer technologies to support the use of technology while teaching and for students to use as well. I love the small community and knowing most of the students in the school. I also enjoy teaching students for multiple years. I hope you consider coming to Dawson Creek.

Sincerely,

Shannon Delawsky

Senior Science Teacher

Department Head

DCSS: South Peace Campus

School District 59 Testimonial by **Ms. Anita Kurjata**

I have been working as a teacher in School District #59 for over ten years now. I actively sought employment in Dawson Creek because I was born and raised in this community. Dawson Creek is my home and I want to ensure that students have a positive school experience and hopefully gain a love for learning. I began my teaching career as a high school English and Socials teacher; however, I was given the opportunity to pursue other teaching areas including learning assistance and coach mentor. I have been very fortunate to work with administrators and superintendents that have encouraged and supported self-growth and continued education. I am proud to work in School District #59 because there is a focus on relationship based learning and student based learning. Everyone from support staff, to teachers, to administrators, and the Superintendent are committed to discovering and employing strategies that will fit the needs of each and every student. Our district recognizes that all students have different needs and strengths and we commit ourselves to creating an educational plan that will empower each learner.

Sincerely,

Anita Kurjata

Coach Mentor

DCSS: South Peace Campus

School District 59 Testimonial by **Mr. Jeff Corcoran**

I moved to Dawson Creek and joined SD59 in 2015. I grew up in Kelowna and had never heard of Dawson Creek before moving here. The staff in my school were inviting and eager to share their experience. I had multiple mentors that helped me through that first difficult year. I stayed with SD59 because I've had opportunities that may not be present in other districts. I have the opportunity to teach my preferred classes. I have been able to travel with school groups and coach school teams. I've been a part of professional development within the district which has helped develop my skills and allowed me to grow as a teacher. The superintendent visits classrooms and knows each teacher by name. The school principals are engaged with student learning and focused on creating a positive school environment. Teachers have open doors and are willing to talk about teaching, but are also willing to listen after challenging days. SD59 is the most welcoming and supportive district I have worked for with the greatest opportunity for professional development and career advancement. This is the reason I chose to make Dawson Creek, and SD59, my home.

Jeff Corcoran

Teacher

DCSS: Central Campus

School District 59 Testimonial by **Mr. James McKechnie**

My name is James McKechnie, and I am a teacher at DCSS Central Campus in School District #59. I have been teaching in this district for 12 years, mostly at the Middle School level. School District 59 is unique, as we are one district overseeing three communities in Northern British Columbia : Dawson Creek, Chetwynd, and Tumbler Ridge. Within these three municipalities that the school district oversees, there is a common thread that brings us all together: becoming better teachers through the ability to learn and grow together as a Professional Learning Community. This growth is the reason I have remained in this district. There is no room to stagnate here, if you want to grow, you can!

I have experienced this opportunity for growth in many ways in my tenure here. Our district has hosted and worked alongside many world-class speakers and presenters who have opened up new worlds for us. Dr. Peter Liljedahl, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education and the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies in Education from Simon Fraser University, has worked with both primary, intermediate, and secondary teachers to give new strategies in math instruction over a two-year period. Sir Ken Robinson, who has championed the value of creativity in education, has worked with our teachers on several occasions.

Locally, I have had the opportunity to strengthen my leadership skills through a Leadership Academy that ran for a two-year period. In this Leadership Academy, leaders such as principals, vice-principals, and teachers participated in workshops hosted by senior School District admin that highlighted different aspects of the school leadership process.

I have also had the opportunity to travel and learn in workshops that have helped me in my career. I travelled to the International Institute in Restorative Practices in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania to participate in a one week Restorative Practices workshop. I also travelled to Toronto, Ontario with colleagues for an assessment conference with Damian Cooper.

As a parent who teaches in this district, I am thrilled that there are many extra-curricular programs offered for our children. Robotics, basketball, volleyball, rugby, band, dance, and art are just to name a few activities offered for students to participate in.

I am proud to work for School District 59 because it has provided tools for me to become a better educator, long-lasting relationships with amazing colleagues and leaders, and a rewarding career where the possibilities for growth and advancement are endless.

James McKechnie
Teacher DCSS Central Campus

School District 59 Testimonial by Ms. Sheryl Bowie

I have been teaching on the South Peace Campus for 6 years, having taken a full time position shortly after graduating. The timing was not great as I was in the midst of a family medical crisis, but the interview process was so inspiring that I took the job and have not looked back. The questions I was asked during the interview went straight to the core of why I wanted to be a teacher. I felt that there would be a good fit between my creative, progressive approach to teaching mathematics and School District 59. I was right.

Our current superintendent makes a habit of coming by our classrooms to visit, not to watch us teach, but to see how we are doing and share ideas. The administration at my school is supportive and encouraging. While not all of my ideas are implemented, I always feel there is a supportive ear and appropriate feedback. In SD 59, all the supervisors and administrators that I have worked with have come from backgrounds in teaching. When I was a new teacher they were able to provide me with mentorship and support until I got my feet under me. Our vice principal has co-taught classes with colleagues for the pleasure of being with the kids. When I was in the lower mainland, the leadership seemed to view our work in a more industrial light, here we are definitely performing a service to the larger community.

Finding good professional development for mathematics is a challenge. When we requested opportunities for professional growth, the district brought in experts and then supported our implementation of the ideas and concepts with which we were working. We had special learning days for two years with the full support of SD59. It was amazing.

I am really proud of the support provided for indigenous students, for students with exceptionalities, for the awareness of and willingness to accommodate students questioning gender and sexuality, and the efforts that are made to provide for new Canadians coming to our school. I am delighted to be part of an open-minded and welcoming community, where everyone is an important part of the process.

I worked in other districts, during practicums, as a TOC, and as a part-time teacher before I moved up here and I think the biggest difference between working for SD 59 and elsewhere is that here, I feel that I am necessary. I feel that if I were to leave, my absence would be felt - by my students and my colleagues, and even the admin team. I am treated with respect and welcome. It is wonderful to anticipate the first day of school with as much joy as I do the last day before summer.

S. D. Bowie, BSc., BEd.
Department Head, Mathematics
DCSS: South Peace Campus

School District 59 Testimonial by **Ms. Susan Lovell**

I am in my 28th year of teaching in School District #59. All my teaching has been in this school district. When I began teaching, all the available jobs were up North. I have family in the area and I wanted to teach so I headed up here.

I feel blessed by the opportunities that this school district has given me. Over the years, we have had so many focused professional development sessions over time, which is much more effective than one day workshops. Particularly, over the last few years, we have been involved in a Primary Literacy Project. We have had well known literacy experts come here; as well, we have had the opportunity to travel to Literacy Summits. I feel that professional growth is encouraged and cultivated in this district.

I have the opportunity to be a classroom teacher, a Reading Recovery teacher, and a District Literacy teacher. Since this district is small, it is easier for everyone to work together for the betterment of students. Students' academic achievement and well-being is put first.

Susan Lovell
Literacy/Numeracy Resource Teacher
École Frank Ross

School District 59 Testimonial by **Ms. Jennifer Hiebert**

Teaching has kept me on my toes and young at heart. There's never a dull moment! It has allowed me to learn everyday with my students, to be creative, to be challenged, and to work with many different people from many walks of life. Every day is a new day and I love that about teaching.

I have taught for School District 59 for 20 years now. I was born and raised in Dawson Creek and I plan to retire in Dawson Creek. I have taught all of the elementary grades, mostly teaching grades three and four. As well as teaching in the classroom, I have taken on other roles such as coach mentor, pro-d rep, union rep, workshop facilitator, and teacher in charge.

School District 59 offers many leadership and professional development opportunities. I've worked with many supportive and collaborative colleagues, administrators and board members. We've seen an increase in student achievement and success through programs such as the primary literacy project, aboriginal/coach mentor program, numeracy projects, the Reference and Regulation program and much much more. It is the collaboration between all of the different resource people within the school district (ie. LA teachers, counselors, speech and language, etc) that have shown the biggest impact of identifying student needs and meeting them. The staff, parents and students in my school have been amazing to work with and that's what brings me to school every day!

So what makes this a great place to raise my own children and build my career? Dawson Creek is a small city with many opportunities for both myself and my family. The people are the best in the world, both friendly and welcoming! Sports and art events/programs, concerts, camping, music, and outdoor activities are just a few of the great amenities Dawson Creek has to offer. You will find something to do in every season of the year.

Teachers make connections with their students every day, and building positive relationships are the key to great success in and out of the classroom. Come work for School District 59 - we would love to have you here!

Ms. Jennifer Hiebert
Canalta Elementary School

School District 59 Testimonial by **Ms. Maria Lauze**

My name is Maria Lauzé. I teach grade 1 and 2 French Immersion at École Frank Ross of Dawson Creek. Even though I have been teaching here for a short time (since September 2017), I have known the region and the town for a long time. Dawson Creek, and School District 59, is a wonderful place to live and work. I come from the outskirts of Québec city, and originally came here to gain some experience before, I thought, returning home. Now, after almost thirteen years of teaching in the area, this region has also become my home. I found here a wonderful community, full of great opportunities and helpful people. Learning to know this place, is adopting it. It is a marvelous place to work, to enjoy the outdoors, to raise a family, to try new experiences, all of this in a peaceful and friendly setting.

School District 59 Testimonial by **Ms. Sonja Gowda**

I've taught French Immersion K-7 with the school district since 1998.

I chose to move here for the job opportunity and then fell in love with the area.

I am proud to say that SD59 is very committed to supporting professional development

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School District #59: Peace River South

INNOVATIVE - CREATIVE - COLLABORATIVE - ENGAGING -
COMMUNITY EMBEDDED

The Peace River South School District (SD #59) is a progressive, forward thinking district located in the Northeast region of British Columbia near the Alberta border. The district offices are centered in Dawson Creek and also include the communities of Chetwynd and Tumbler Ridge. SD #59 offers K-12 programs at 20 schools with an enrolment of approximately 3,600 students.

The core business of SD #59 is ensuring a Quality Education for each Learner with the core value of Continuous Learning for All.

We have a strong belief in developing teachers, meeting students where they are, and providing a rich meaningful experience for all learners.