



March 8, 2019

**To Raymond Shanoush  
Sports Development/Councillor,  
Cree Nation of Eastmain**

Over the last 4 years, The Wabannutao Eeyou school has undergone significant positive changes in its learning environment. Over this time, we have launched and developed concentration periods aimed at better engaging the student population. These concentration periods have been focused in Sport, Cree Culture, Arts and Science.

Specifically, the Sport Concentration was developed with Raymond Shanoush under the Sport and Rec. department of the Eastmain Band. He had approached the school for many years to develop a sport etude program here in Eastmain. With over 65% of the student population applying for the Sport concentration, it is a critical element in recent success of the students. From a statistical basis, the school has:

- Increase graduation rate to 60% in 2018 from 16% 7 years ago - highest rate in the Eeyou Istchee
- Increased attendance
- Decrease in behavioural and student classroom issues.
- Significant Increase in Parental Involvement

With that said, there also has been a better support system from the community in general with the continued progression of the program. It takes a whole community to get behind the program and support the kids; we now have the community support.

The partnership with Sports Development and cross use of facilities and instructors has led to a much improved structure for learning both in and outside of sport. The concentration program could not be the success it is today without the help of Raymond Shanoush and the Eastmain Sports Development department in developing the program.

In order to continue the successful partnership, we will need to ensure continued cross use of facilities and instructional support. If there are any statistical or school related needs to support the program, feel free to reach out to me and I can provide more statistical evidence as to the impact the program has had on student success.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Trevor Mercer'.

Trevor Mercer  
WES Principal