

A Message from your College of New Caledonia Students' Union Chair Person

Hello readers,

My name is Eric Depenau and I am currently campaigning for a trustee position for School District #57.

Since this position requires a strong commitment to the community, something I am already a part and very proud of, I would like to tell you more about myself so that you may see me as a strong and suitable candidate.

I am a 21 year old student here at the College of New Caledonia and I have spent the last few years as a Wild Land Fire Fighter and an Infantry Reservist. As a student, I spend a lot of my time with my studies, but when I am not buried in books, I do what I can in our community.

In the past I have worked at the College of New Caledonia Student Union as the Quesnel Rep. I am currently representing our Prince George Chair Person (Recognize me??) and am also working at CNC on their Education council and Board of Governors. Working outside of the school setting has also given me the privilege to be active with Rotary, The Royal Canadian Legion, and the United Nations Association of Prince George.

Thanks to the experience which comes from the positions I have held, I have decided that it is time to take a stand to ensure the youth of our area are properly looked after. We know that times are currently tough and that there will continue to be hard decisions in the future. I want to be there when those decisions are made to ensure that every possible avenue is explored and that everything imaginable is done to help those impacted.

However, I can't do this without YOU.

I understand the challenges and barriers you face in regards to voting better than most. I am a student too, I live away from my home town, and I don't always know who to vote for. However, it is extremely important that you spend some time and get to know the people and the issues.

Regardless if you are in support of me, I hope that you are able to make some time in the coming weeks to learn about the people and the positions they are running for. The opportunity to contribute to the school district is something really special; the community's youth are our most precious resource. I want to be involved with School District #57 to ensure that the district's 14000+ students, 2000+ staff and the many, many parents get the support they need. The School board trustees can assist in facilitating the best possible outcomes for these groups and we must be confident that the very best people are working to see that this happens.

If I am fortunate enough to be granted the opportunity to contribute to the board, I will strive to bring a unique presence to the position. It was not that long ago that I myself was working my way through the secondary school system and I believe I have an understanding of the youth perspective that I feel others may not.

I have worked extensively with current college and university students, and the challenges students face are not new now that they are young adults, but are instead challenges they have carried with them from elementary and secondary school and this needs to be addressed.

Please follow my page on Facebook and send me your comments and questions and I will do my best to answer promptly. (I am also a fan of coffee if you would like to have a longer conversation). Best of luck in the semester, hang in there, Christmas/Kwanza/ Hanukkah/ Festivus is just around the corner.

Eric Depenau
College of New Caledonia Students' Union
Chair Person
Candidate for School District #57 Trustee

If no one pays attention or holds people accountable for what they do and say then they are free to do as they wish. This is a scary thought when we consider what is at stake, the education and well-being of our youth.