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The Book of Negroes
Demo Inc.



Grades 12
English Language Arts



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Nisga'a and Haida Gwaii - Small Districts Realize Big Savings in Time and Money



The Nisga'a and Haida Gwaii school districts are among the smallest in the province and face unique challenges in trying to connect their students to the array of effective educational resources. Their partnership with ERAC is essential. Haida Gwaii has 675 full-time equivalent students, Nisga'a has 436.

"We're isolated," said Haida Gwaii Superintendent Angus Wilson,

"we're completely cut off." When it comes to resources, "we don't have a lot of options. We can't just pop down to the store. The little library is great, but it is little. Prince Rupert is a six-hour ferry ride away and it's not all that big.

"Our relationship with ERAC has been quite successful and allows access to materials at considerable savings."

ERAC membership comes with SOCAN licensing, copyright-free NFB videos, media awareness information and evaluation services provided by trained and qualified B.C. educators.

In the 2009/10 school year, and going through ERAC, Haida Gwaii spent \$50,000 on a variety of resources such as the ERAC Bundle (which includes products from EBSCO, World Book, Gale/Cengage and Queen's Pringer BC), Microsoft software, Smart Boards, books and videos. Without ERAC's bulk purchase rates, it would have spent \$88,700, resulting in a **saving to the district of \$38,700.**

"We're still a \$10-million business. But if we can pay \$1,000 instead of \$1,500, it's a big deal," Wilson said.

He also pointed out the **importance of ERAC's evaluation service.** "It's not just the size thing. It's being busy." As superintendent of a small district, he said, "I'm involved in everything.

"We have no education staff in the district office. We have no one to go research some new product. We have to rely on someone else, like ERAC, to do this work for us."

To confirm his confidence in ERAC, he sent out a survey last year asking staff whether membership with the association was worthwhile. He learned that 40 Kindergarten to Grade 12 teachers were taking advantage of the materials. He said he was pleased to see that so many were accessing the resources on a monthly basis. "It was actually quite a few."

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"ERAC provide us with a value that we couldn't get otherwise, especially when we're dealing with large corporations like Adobe and Microsoft. People like me are constantly being bombarded by vendors. I usually tell them to email me information and I look at it on a case by case basis, but I follow ERAC's lead."