



## Our Faith - Our Future

### Truth and Reconciliation

### Nurturing God's Family

## Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board (SMCDSB)

### An award-winning First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Initiative (K-12)

### Implementing the Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework (2007)

#### SMCDSB Team

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# Boozhoo, Tansi, Oodlakud, Greetings!

## First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Highlights School Year and Summer Programs / 2015 – 2016

Our board began implementation of the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* in 2008. This work is based on our award-winning consultation process, on-going discussions with partners, and voluntary self-identification data to help us fulfill goals outlined in *Our Faith – Our Future* with highlights as follows:

### Using Data to Support Student Achievement

- Total number of Voluntary/Confidential self-identified students of First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry (under 300)
- Participation in Self-Identification is six times higher than first reported during board wide launch in 2009
- Number of First Nation and Métis students is comparable
- Inuit student population is low with a gradual increase
- Success strategies are driven by student data and need

### Supporting Students

- Summer Program Credit Recovery (pilot) at Beausoliel FN
- Summer Camp (K-3) with First Nation, Métis and Inuit infusion
- Lunch & Learn to promote leadership, well-being, cultural awareness, positive identity and sense of community
- Lunch & Learn locations at schools with high First Nation, Métis and Inuit student populations (PFO, STH and DOM)
- Alternate Academic Support (pilot) during BFN ferry cancellation
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit Student Success Strategist / school team approach to promote well-being and achievement

### Supporting Educators

- Joseph Boyden whole school event at St. Theresa's Catholic High School in Midland promoting PD, infusion and cultural awareness
- Faceless Doll workshop at St. John Vianney - Métis Nation of Ontario
- Math initiative – two elementary schools (SAN, CMA)
- Circle of Life Skills Wheel incorporated in provincial AQ Course (Special Education Specialist Certification)
- *We Are All Treaty People* – Treaty Kits (K-12) for all 51 schools

### Engagement and Awareness Building

- On-going internal opportunities / TRC Unity Blanket initiative
- Board, parish and community / TRC Unity Blanket Activity
- Partnership building / Feather Carrier Leadership for Life
- Board wide distribution of locally developed resources - Voice of Our People DVD / Viewing Guide and Culture Card
- Co-chair of First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Advisory Circle with coterminous school board(s)

## MOVING FORWARD...

- First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education presentation - OCSTA April AGM
- Participation in regional Aboriginal Education Forum in April
- OHRC – new smudge policy /access for staff /students (personal use)
- First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Day Pow-wow at Springwater Park on June 9<sup>th</sup> (Barrie Native Friendship Centre / coterminous school board / Springwater / community partner initiative)
- St. John Vianney / Michael Carty Catholic Education Grant Application – to partner with an elementary school in Arviat in the promotion of Catholic values, leadership, cultural awareness, respect for diversity, authentic voice, classroom resources and use of technology to build community

### Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action: Provincial Schools (K-12)

The Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Report outlines **94 recommendations** in a *Call to Action* to undo historic injustices that continue to impact Indigenous Peoples in Canada. With all sectors of society and levels of government called upon, **three recommendations** are specific to **publicly funded provincial schools (K-12)**:

#### Recommendation 62 (historical / contemporary contributions / resources)

- i) Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, treaties, and Aboriginal peoples historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for K-12 students.

#### Recommendation 63 (resource development / leading practices / capacity building)

We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including:

- i) Developing and implementing K-12 curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools;
- ii) Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history;
- iii) Building student capacity for inter-cultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect;
- iv) Identifying teacher-training needs relating to the above.

#### Recommendation 64 (religious studies / infusing TRC segment / authentic voice)

We call upon all levels of government that provide public funds to denominational schools to require such schools to provide an education on comparative religious studies, which must include a segment on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and Aboriginal spiritual beliefs and practices developed in collaboration with Aboriginal Elders.

### A Year of Mercy - Nurturing God's Family

Treaty kits distributed to all elementary and secondary schools include a LEGO Wampum Belt to showcase the 1764 Treaty of Niagara - a critical alliance in the creation of Canada. As we continue to learn about our shared history and Third World Canada - you are invited to consider what the Truth and Reconciliation *Call to Action* to all Canadians means to you.