

## **Voluntary Self-Identification for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Students**



**Show Your Pride:  
Heart, Mind, Body and Soul**

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**Dr. Marie Battiste, Mi'kmaw educator in her work argues,  
"Indigenous students need to see themselves reflected in their  
environment in order to have a sense of belonging and have their  
identities validated."**

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Dear Parents, Guardians, Caregivers, and Students,

At the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario (CDSBEO), we are committed to creating a culturally, academically, and emotionally safe environment for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students.

The CDSBEO is committed to excellence in Catholic education for all students. We know that a high quality, well-rounded education includes the integration of First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultures, perspectives, and histories in all subjects from Kindergarten to Grade 12. We believe that when we support each other in heart, mind, body and soul, our students become socially just, empathetic, knowledgeable citizens.

The CDSBEO responds to the articles from the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the Calls for Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQI+ people. Through self-identification Indigenous pupils can be met with unique supports and culturally responsive supports and programming within the Board and with community partners. In doing so, the CDSBEO responds to the Ministry of Education Indigenous Education Framework to help close the achievement gap between Indigenous students and all students.

The CDSBEO encourages parents, guardians, and caregivers of Indigenous children to support the self-identification of your child. If you have any questions regarding the confidential and voluntary self-identification program, please reach out to your local principal. We are committed to supporting your children and we thank you for your trust in sending your children to our Catholic schools.

**The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario is committed to ensuring all students succeed. Our Catholic schools provide educational programs and services for students with a variety of learning needs and abilities. To better meet the unique strengths and needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students we are encouraging participation in voluntary self-identification.**

## What is Indigenous Self-Identification?

- It provides an opportunity for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students to identify their ancestry;
- It is voluntary;
- It is confidential;
- It can be done when registering or updating student information, or at any time by contacting the principal at your school. Forms can be found online on at [www.cdsbeo.on.ca/our-programs/indigenous-education/](http://www.cdsbeo.on.ca/our-programs/indigenous-education/).

## Why Should You Participate?

- To support Indigenous student success and well-being;
- To be included in experiential and funding opportunities specifically for First Nation, Métis and Inuit learners;
- To provide responsive and reflective programming to individual schools;
- To receive 1:1 Indigenous Graduation coaching and tutoring opportunities;
- To build stronger partnerships with Indigenous parents and communities;
- To support Indigenous students' pathways beyond graduation such as access to post-secondary.



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***Today and every day, let's hold a vision of happy healthy children surrounded by the love and care of their families in safe, vibrant communities. Every child matters and our little ones have an inherent right to safety, love, and happiness.***

*- RoseAnne Archibald, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations*

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## Self-Identification Form

Pupil's name (surname, first name, middle name): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My child is of Indigenous ancestry.

☐ First Nation

☐ Métis

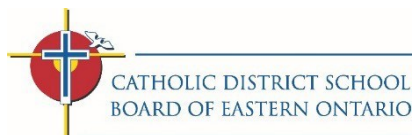
☐ Inuit

Parent or Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: All parents/guardians of Indigenous students, and students aged 18 of age or older, have the right to voluntarily and confidentially self-identify. Through self-identification the Board is able to collect relevant information which helps to provide programs and strategies supporting the needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit learners. The information is being gathered in accordance with section 29(2) of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.*

***If you have already completed this form for your child, it is not necessary to re-submit every year.***

If you have any questions, please contact **Stéphanie Nelson** for more information at **343-774-2097** or [stephanie.nelson@cdsbeo.on.ca](mailto:stephanie.nelson@cdsbeo.on.ca).



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