

Durham Catholic District School Board

October 2014



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

The Durham Catholic District School Board, in collaboration with the Oshawa and Durham Métis Council, the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and the Aboriginal Education Advisory Circle, supports the confidential and voluntary Aboriginal self-identification process for students of First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry.

In January, 2007, the Ministry of Education released the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* and in 2014 updated this direction in the recently released *Implementation Plan – Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Framework Policy – 2014*. Within this framework, the Ministry continues to support the goals of:

- Improving Aboriginal student achievement
- Developing resources and strategies that infuse the Aboriginal perspectives into the curriculum and,
- Promoting Aboriginal cultural awareness

To achieve these goals, a confidential and voluntary self-identification process is necessary so that students of Aboriginal ancestry can declare their First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry. Information collected is protected and governed by the Ontario Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Ontario Student Record Guidelines and all other related legislation. Self-identification data is used only to enhance and monitor the effectiveness of programs and not for individual identification of students.

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of students, or students over 18, are invited to declare their ancestral heritage by completing the First Nation, Métis or Inuit Self-Identification Form which is on the Board website and included with this letter. The completed form can be returned to the Principal of the school in a sealed envelope. **Please note that proof of First Nation, Métis or Inuit status is not required.** Parents/guardians of students under 18 and students over 18 may indicate their wish to be placed on a contact list for notification of First Nation, Métis and Inuit information and activities within the Board and community. Please note that if this is not clearly marked, families will not be placed on the contact list.

The Ontario Ministry of Education's Education Framework is available online at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/>.

For further information or questions, please contact the school Principal or the Aboriginal Education Consultant at (905)728-0946 ext. 2149 or by email at anna.mahura@dcdsb.ca.

Sincerely,

Anne O'Brien
Director of Education

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