



In 2007, the Ontario Ministry of Education outlined their commitment to deliver quality education to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students through their First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework. Under this framework, all Ontario school boards must implement a voluntary, self-identification process.



Currently in the Rainy River District School Board, parents, guardians (for students under the age of 18) and students over the age of 18, have the opportunity to identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit on school registration forms and course option sheets.

This brochure offers way for staff to voluntarily self-identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit if they choose.



April 2017

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with your school principal or contact the Education Centre at 807-274-9855.

Resources

Ministry of Education's Indigenous Education Strategy and the new First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/policy.html>

Council of Ministers of Education's Indigenous Education Action Plan:
<http://www.cmec.ca/532/Programs-and-Initiatives/Aboriginal-Education/CMEC-Aboriginal-Education-Plan-2015-2017/index.html>

Rainy River District School Board:
www.rrdsb.com

Photos

The photographs used in this brochure were taken at Rainy River District School Board schools, and at events and activities attended by students and staff.

The School Board strives to provide an environment where our students, staff, families and community feel included and feel a sense of belonging. This happens when they see themselves reflected in their school or workplace — when their culture, language, and heritage are embedded with the day-to-day life of the school. One of the Rainy River District School Board's Strategic Goals of Purposeful Learning is to embed the unique historical and cultural story of our Indigenous communities into the curriculum.



Notice of Collection

Personal information will be kept confidential, in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)* and protected and governed by the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA)*, R. S. O. 1990 C. M56, unless individuals self-identified staff and applicants grant the right to share specific information.

The information collected will be used for four primary purposes:

- to help provide better access for students to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit cultural programming;
- to help provide better access for students to information about postsecondary pathways (workplace, apprenticeship, college, university, or community living) and funding support;
- to increase school awareness about the diverse needs of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit learners, and
- to foster and support actions that effectively address these diverse needs and that increase student achievement and well-being.

The analysis of the survey information will focus on aggregates by School Board and schools, not individual staff members. The information collected on this form is confidential and will be protected.



Rainy River District
School Board



I am First Nation, Métis, or Inuit.

I am Proud.

Voluntary & Confidential Self-identification for
First Nation, Métis, and Inuit

STAFF

at the Rainy River District School Board



First Nation, Métis, or Inuit Self-identification Form Staff

The Rainy River District School Board is committed to strengthening our relationship with local Indigenous community members to enhance our delivery of educational programs and services that ensure that First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students have opportunities and resources to achieve academic success and to further their personal well-being.

We are also committed to ensuring that our Board reflects the diversity of the school communities. We want students to receive a more complete, accurate and authentic understanding of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit people than past generations have.

What is voluntary self-identification?

- An opportunity for staff to identify as having First Nation, Métis, or Inuit ancestry.
- Self-identification is a personal choice and no proof of ancestry is required.
- Staff self-identification information will be collected for all staff, whether permanent, occasional or third party.
- If you wish to self-identify and are unsure of whether or not you have already done so at your school, please fill out this form. All information coming in will be checked against existing information so that no staff member will be counted twice.

Why is the Rainy River District School Board asking me to self-identify?

The Ministry of Education's Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Educational Policy Framework identifies the goal of a high level of student achievement, and outlines "a significant increase in the number of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit teaching and nonteaching staff in school boards across Ontario" as one of the performance measures for attaining that goal.

(Source: Ontario Ministry of Education, Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework, 2007)

In an effort to support and ensure continued student success, Rainy River District School Board invites employees and applicants to participate in voluntary self-identification. The Rainy River District School Board believes that Indigenous staff could volunteer as mentors, share their culture and help foster an environment where Indigenous students can reach a high level of achievement. Voluntary self-identification would also provide the Board baseline data of the number of Indigenous staff currently employed. Data will be used to improve services to students and programs for staff.

Confidentiality will always be respected

- The Rainy River District School Board is committed to respecting the confidentiality of all our staff.
- The Indigenous self-identification information will be used as a means to enhance Indigenous education programming within the School Board.
- Data collected will be stored securely and overall data will be used to improve services to students and programs for staff.
- The School Board will not release any information on individual staff members, as this goes against the law and our own Board policy.

In reference to the Rainy River District School Board's Policy 2.90 First Nation Metis, and Inuit Voluntary Self Identification, please visit:

<https://www.rrdsb.com/sites/www.rrdsb.com/files/brdadmin/policies/section2/2.90%20Self%20Id%20Policy%20to%20Board.pdf>

I wish to identify myself as:

- ☐ First Nation
- ☐ Métis
- ☐ Inuit
- ☐ Non-Indigenous
- ☐ I do not wish to participate

Name: _____

Position: _____

School: _____

- If you have knowledge/experience in the area of Indigenous cultural knowledge/traditions and practices, would you be willing to share your gifts and talents? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, in which areas do you have this knowledge/experience?

- ☐ I understand that this information will be handled in line with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Signature: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____
dd mm yyyy

Please submit the completed form to your school. Please feel free to put the form into an envelope prior to submitting should you wish to ensure confidentiality of this information.

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