



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 another way for parents, guardians, and students over the age of 18 to voluntarily self-identify as First Nation, Métis, or Inuit if they choose to. The Board is partnering with local First Nation, Métis, and Inuit leaders and community members on this voluntary self-identification initiative.



March 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 on this form is collected under the authority of the Education Act, RSO 1990, Ch. E.2 as amended, sections 169.1, 170(1), and 171(1). 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 data will be used to better support student achievement and well-being and will inform our School Board and school improvement planning process. It will also inform future decisions about programs, research and partnership opportunities.

The analysis of the survey information will focus on aggregates by Board and schools, not individual students. 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

STUDENTS

at the Rainy River District School Board



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

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 improving student achievement and personal well-being for all of our students, in part by ensuring that they leave secondary school with 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 students and families to identify as having First Nation, Métis, or Inuit ancestry.
- Self-identification is a personal choice and no proof of ancestry is required.
- All parents/guardians of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students, and students who are 18 years or older, have the right to self-identify.
- 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. School staff will check all information coming in against existing information so that no student will be counted twice.

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

The Rainy River District School Board is committed to providing equitable, inclusive, and engaging educational opportunities for all of our students, including our First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students. This commitment is grounded in our shared understanding of developing a school culture where all our students feel understood, valued and respected.

Specifically we will use the self-identification data to help:

- increase academic achievement for First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students;
- close any achievement gaps that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, and
- increase graduation rates.

The benefits to you and your children may include:

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

Confidentiality will always be respected

- The Rainy River District School Board is committed to respecting the confidentiality of all our students.
- 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 only by staff to determine programming, service, and support needs for students of First Nation, Métis, or Inuit ancestry.
- The School Board will not release any information on individual students, 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 (over 18) or my child (under 18) as:

- ☐ First Nation
- ☐ Métis
- ☐ Inuit
- ☐ Non-Indigenous

Student Name: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____
dd mm yyyy

School: _____

- ☐ I understand that this information will be handled in the same manner as the information contained on my/my child's Ontario Student Record (OSR) and in line with the Education Act.

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____
(Student if over 18; Parent/Guardian if under 18.)

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 between home and school.