



Annual Indigenous Education Report

To: Program and School Services Committee

Date: 5 April, 2023

Report No.: 04-12-4506

Strategic Direction

- Truth and Reconciliation
- Transform Student Learning
- Create a Culture for Student and Staff Well-Being
- Provide Equity of Access to Learning Opportunities for All Students
- Allocate Human and Financial Resources Strategically to Support Student Needs
- Build Strong Relationships and Partnerships Within School Communities to Support Student Learning and Well-Being

Recommendation

It is recommended that the *Annual Report 2022: Indigenous Education in the Toronto District School Board*, as described, be received.

Context

In March 2014, the Ministry of Education released an updated Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework Implementation Plan to guide the work of school boards through to 2016. In a subsequent memo to all Directors of Education in November 2017, the Ministry further directed school boards to develop plans for responding to the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada: Calls to Action*, as they relate to education.

Aligned with the Provincial Policy Framework, the Toronto District School Board's current Indigenous Education strategy is grounded in supporting student achievement and well-being by centering Indigenous perspectives across the curriculum; building system-wide knowledge and awareness of Indigenous perspectives, contemporary realities, histories and achievements through structured staff development and direct support to schools; and providing wrap-around supports for Indigenous students and families of Toronto's extremely diverse urban Indigenous population.

Implementation of the Board's Indigenous Education strategy is the mandate of staff at the TDSB Urban Indigenous Education Centre. Led by a System Superintendent of Indigenous Education, this team of Indigenous education professionals comprises:

Council of Elders (4)
Centrally Assigned Principal
Centrally Assigned Vice-Principals (2)
Office Assistants (2)
Child and Youth Counsellor
Social Workers (4)
Itinerant Student Success Teacher
Itinerant Cultures and Traditions Instructors (1)
Community Liaison Workers (2)
Instructional Leaders (4)

Collectively, UIEC staff develop and deliver a broad range of programs, initiatives, resources and services to students, staff and communities across the Board, covering the Seven Canopies of Indigenous Education:

- Professional Learning
- Student Well-Being and Voice
- Community Engagement
- Programming, Curriculum Development and Implementation
- Research, Development and Innovation
- Partnerships
- Truth and Reconciliation, Relationships, Governance and Policy

For a comprehensive overview of the UIEC team's current activities in each of these areas, please see the annual staff report, *Annual Report 2022: Indigenous Education in the Toronto District School Board* (Appendix A, attached).

Action Plan and Associated Timeline

UIEC staff will continue develop and implement strategies to support the achievement and well-being of Indigenous students throughout the Board, including

- culturally-relevant curriculum, enhanced learning opportunities, direct wrap-around supports (counselling, traditional healing programs, youth groups, etc.) that focus on the unique needs of urban Indigenous students, families and communities; and
- system-wide professional learning to enhance staff capacity by building understanding of Indigenous sovereignty, self-determination, perspectives, cultures, histories and current contexts, as well as trauma informed practices and cultural safety.

Resource Implications

Indigenous Education has been highlighted as one of the eight proposed strategic drivers that will assist the Board of Trustees in developing the operating budget. This is an important step in ensuring that budget funding decisions continue to support Indigenous Education in the TDSB. UIEC staff will continue to work collaboratively with TDSB central departments (e.g., Professional Support Services, Employee Services, etc.) and Indigenous community partners to provide supports and develop enhanced learning opportunities for Indigenous students across the system.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Annual Report 2022: Indigenous Education in the Toronto District School Board

From

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