

Indigenous Education Department News

September 2026 - October 2026



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WELCOME BACK!

We hope you had a restful and restorative summer, with opportunities to connect with family, community, and the land. As we welcome a new school year, September brings a renewed sense of energy, connection, and possibility to our schools.

September is also a time for reflection as we recognize Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30. Let us hold space for one another during this time, caring for ourselves and each other and finding strength in our families, communities, cultures, and connections.

As we move through the year together, may we continue to care for and support one another with kindness and understanding.

Please read on to learn more about our upcoming events and initiatives.

Baamaapii | Ó:nen | Boon swayr | Until next time/See you later/Goodbye

In This Issue:

Upcoming Events

Important News
& Updates

Reflecting in
Gratitude

Culture &
Language

Community Links
& Resources

Indigenous Days
of Significance

Contact
Information



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Upcoming Events from the Indigenous Education Department

Save the Date!

The Annual Indigenous Education Winter Dinner



We're back, and this year promises to be even bigger and better!

The Indigenous Education Annual Winter Gathering returns to the Catholic Education Centre on Friday, **December 11th**! Join us for an unforgettable evening of community, connection, and celebration as we break bread together and enjoy cultural activities, and exciting entertainment. You won't want to miss it! This event is for all ages.

The Indigenous Education Family Event

Join us on Saturday November 28th to learn to bead! This is an event for families of all ages, while beading is suitable for ages 12 +, there will be activities for younger children who attend in person. Beading kits are included and lunch will be served.

Date: Saturday November 28th

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Place: To be determined.

**Virtual and in-person options will be available.*

More information will be shared in our November newsletter, including a link to register.

Date: Friday December 11, 2026

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Place: Catholic Education Centre (CEC)
(80 Sheppard Ave. E.)

More information will be shared in our November newsletter, including a link to register. We can't wait to celebrate the season with you.



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Important News & Updates

Indigenous Self-Identification with the TCDSB

Self-Identification helps our department ensure programs, resources, and opportunities reflect and support you and your family.

For more information and to Complete the Self-Identification form: [here](#).

For questions, please email:
Indigenous.Education@tcdsb.org.

The Indigenous Education Website is Changing!

Have you checked out our updated website?

There's lots to explore! Visit our updated website to stay connected with what's happening in Indigenous Education, discover upcoming events and resources, and see what we've been up to. And don't forget to check back, we have even more updates coming soon!

The Indigenous Education Website on tcdsb.org:
[Indigenous Education](#)



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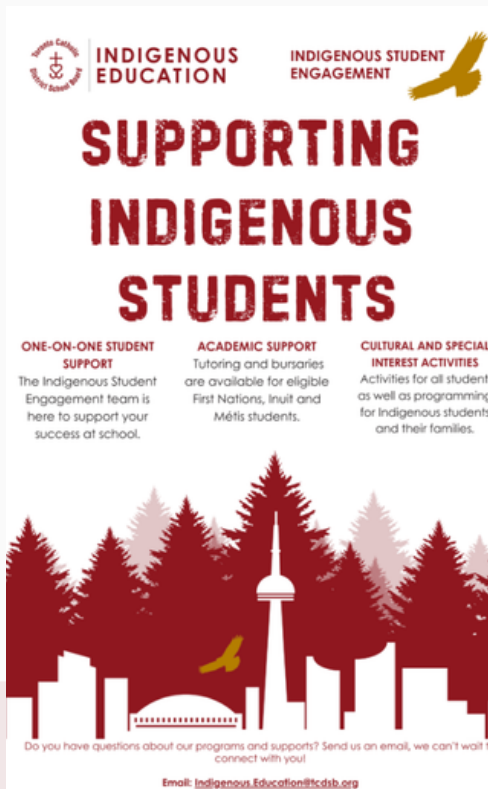
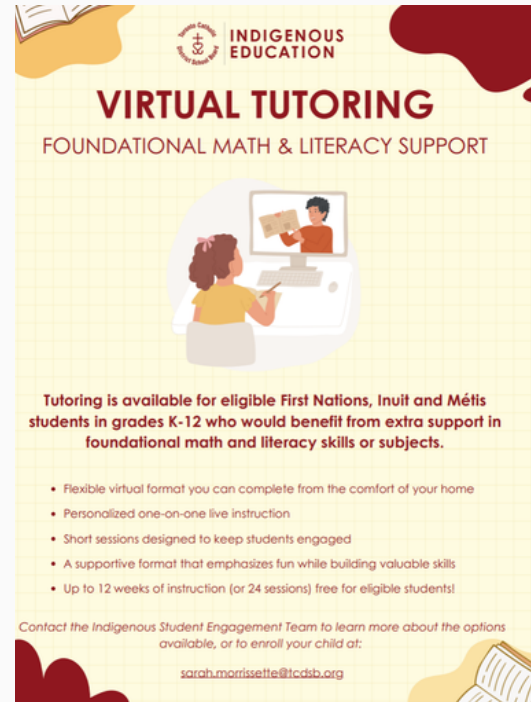
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Tutoring

Tutoring is back for the 2026-2027 School year!

Click [here](#) to see the Indigenous Education tutoring flyer.

Would you like to register? Email: Indigenous.Education@tcdsb.org.



Indigenous Student Engagement at the TCDSB

The TCDSB Indigenous Student Engagement team offers culturally grounded support, including programs, mentorship, advocacy, and transition planning.

Need support or have questions? Email us at: Indigenous.Education@tcdsb.org.



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Reflecting in Gratitude

Join us as we take a minute to pause and appreciate the people, experiences, opportunities, and connections that have enriched our Community over the last few months.

Indigenous Education Paabamashi Summer Camp 2026

This summer students from across the TCDSB enjoyed an unforgettable week-long overnight camp experience at Lake St. George, partnership with TRCA, immersing themselves in the beauty of the outdoors and the richness of Indigenous culture.

Campers had the opportunity to learning directly from Elders and Knowledge Keepers throughout the week. From gathering around the fire to crafting their own hand drums and raw hide medallions to take home, students built lasting friendships, deepened their cultural connections and created memories that will stay with them for a lifetime.

STAY TUNED: keep a look out for upcoming newsletters for a chance for your child to attend summer 2027!



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Our Languages, Our Strength

These languages represent just a few of the many spoken by First Nations, Inuit & Métis people across Turtle Island.

We'd love to hear from you! Do you speak a different language? Or do you have a different translation? Send us an [email](#) so we can feature you in a future newsletter!

Anishnaabemowin * translations sourced from: [*The Ojibwe People's Dictionary*](#)

Kanien'kéha ** translations sourced from: [*Kanien'kéha \(Mohawk\) \[Eng\] | FirstVoices*](#)

Michif *** translations sourced from: [*The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture*](#)

okonaas * | karáhkwa **
| koovaart * | blanket**



maamigin * | entsitewahwe'nón:ni **
| mowshookoona * |**
gather them*/we gather/gather*****

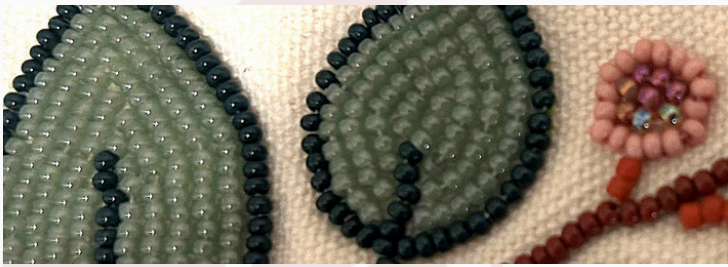


dibaajimowin * | Hánio teniwennahnó:ten oká:ra **
| aen nistwayr * | story*/let's read a story**/story*****



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Community Links

Here's to a happy and health new school year! This month we are sharing a few health services throughout the GTA and beyond.

Finding Our Power Together Finding Our Power Together (FOPT) is an Indigenous-led service organization working to support the wellness and thriving of Indigenous communities across Turtle Island.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Hope for Wellness Helpline is available to all Indigenous people across Canada. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Anishnawbe Health Toronto is a fully accredited health centre providing health, mental and cultural services.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Student & Family Resources

We're here to support you as the new school year gets underway! Explore the links below for helpful resources, information, and ways to stay connected.

- **Truth and Reconciliation Day (Sept. 30th).** Check out the [Orange Shirt Society](#) website for more details and resources.
- **University of Toronto: The Future Indigenous Applicant Day event** will be on October 19. To learn more, and to register, click here: [Future Indigenous Applicant Day event](#).
- **Children's Book Bank.** Check out the [Children's Book Bank](#) for free books and literacy programs for children across Toronto.
- **Indspire.** Check out [Indspire](#) for more information on support available for Secondary and Post-Secondary Indigenous Students!
- **Toronto Public Library.** Check out the [TPL Website](#) to see opportunities to connect with Indigenous Cultural programs.
- Not finding what you're looking for here? Please email us at Indigenous.Education@tcdsb.org and the Indigenous Student Engagement team would be happy to help!



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Indigenous Days of Significance

2026 - 2027 School Year

Please note that this list is not exhaustive and may not include all Indigenous observances, commemorations, and celebrations.

September 30th - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Day/Orange Shirt Day)

May 20th (2027) - Moosehide Campaign Day

November 1st - 7th (2026) - Treaties Recognition Week

June (All Month) - National Indigenous History Month

November 7th - International Inuit Day

June 21st - National Indigenous Peoples Day/Summer Solstice

November 8th - National Indigenous Veterans Day

November 16th - Louis Riel Day (Ontario)

Follow Us:

December 21st - Winter Solstice

Instagram:

March 31st - National Indigenous Language Day

[@Indigenouseducationtcdsb](#)

YouTube:

[@IndigenousEducationTCDSB25](#)

May 5th - National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two Spirit +/Red Dress Day



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Indigenous Education Department Contacts



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Indigenous Education Council Members

Elder Wendy Phillips, Co-Chair, Elder-in-
Residence

Rhianna Crozier-Lee, Community & Recent
TCDSB Graduate

Sean Kinsella, Community

Andre O'Boinsawin, Co-Chair, Head of
Indigenous Affairs, TCDSB

Roy Fernandes, Superintendent of
Indigenous Education, Equity, Community
Relations, TCDSB

*Are you interested in joining the Indigenous
Education Council at the TCDSB?*

*Click here for my information: [Indigenous Education
Council](#)*



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