Indigenous Education Department News

November 2026 - January 2027

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

A Cultural Learning Hub



A Season of Connection

There is often a sense of calm that comes with this time of year. While we embrace the beauty of the season, the Indigenous Education team has also been busy connecting with schools and communities across the TCDSB.

In recent weeks, we have had the privilege of supporting learning related to the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Treaties Recognition Week, sharing teachings, stories, and perspectives that help ensure Indigenous voices are heard, honoured, and respected throughout the TCDSB. We are grateful for every opportunity to learn alongside students, staff, and families, and to continue building meaningful relationships across our school communities.

The Indigenous Education Department supports schools across the entire TCDSB, and we recognize that we may not always be physically present in every school community every day. However, please know that we remain committed to supporting students, families, and staff, and we encourage you to reach out whenever we can be of assistance.

Whether you would like to connect, collaborate, or invite us into your school, we are only an **email** away.

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

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Upcoming Events from the Indigenous Education Department

REGISTRATION IS open for both events!

The Indigenous Education Family Event

Beading Strawberries

Join us on Saturday, November 28th to learn how to bead a strawberry! This family-friendly event is open to beginner through to advanced beaders.
Beading kits are provided and are suitable for ages 12+ with parental supervision. A 12-and-under option will be available for children attending in person.

Can't make it in person? Join us online and bead along from the comfort of home! Lunch will be provided for in-person participants.

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Location: Catholic Education Centre (CEC). 80 Sheppard Ave. E. The CEC is close to the Sheppard Yonge subway staiton and underground parking is available!

Click here to see the flyer here with full details.

Click here to register for the event. Or scan the QR code on the flyer.

The Annual Indigenous Education Winter Dinner

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

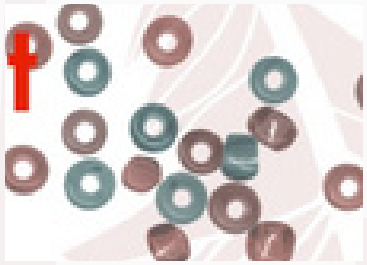
The Indigenous Education Annual Winter Gathering is back! Join us on Friday, December 11th for a special evening of community, culture, connection, and celebration. Enjoy great food, exciting prizes, entertainment, and activities for the whole family.

All ages are welcome. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Date: Friday December 11, 2026
Time: 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Place: Catholic Education Centre (CEC) (80 Sheppard Ave. E.)

Click here to see the flyer here with full details.

Click here to register for the event. Or scan the QR code on the flyer.





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Community Spotlight

See below for some of the exciting things happening in our community, both within the TCDSB and beyond!



We want to highlight and celebrate your achievements in future newsletters! Send us an email and let us know what you have been up to!

TCDSB Student Selected to Represent Team Canada in Lacrosse

In this issue, we are proud to highlight the incredible achievements of TCDSB student, Tristan. Recently, Tristan was selected to represent his team on the international stage, a remarkable accomplishment that reflects his dedication, talent, and hard work both on and off the lacrosse field. You can read more about this achievement in the news bulletin linked **here**.

Beyond his success on the lacrosse field, Tristan is a valued member of our Indigenous Education community. Through his volunteerism and leadership at events such as the Haudenosaunee Games last year, he continues to make a positive impact on those around him. We are proud to celebrate all that he contributes to our community.

We are honoured to celebrate Tristan and look forward to all that he will accomplish in the future.

Our Community In the News

Truth & Reconcilitation in the News

Check out snippets of the Truth and Reconciliation Symposium hosted by members of our Department at the CEC on September 30th. Clip starts at 3:39.

Stanley Cup lands in Pikangikum for 'dream' visit in a community obsessed with hockey

Important News & Updates

Volunteers Needed for the Indigenous Education Winter Dinner!

Need Volunteer Hours? We've Got You! We're looking for secondary students to help make our Annual Indigenous Education Winter Dinner on December 11th a unforgettable evening!

Volunteer from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and help with crafts and activities, serving food, welcoming guests, and more. TTC tickets and dinner will be provided to volunteers!

Want to join us? Email Indigenous.Education@tcdsb.org to state your interest! We will get back to you with more details.

Literacy & Numeracy Tutoring

Take advantage of tutoring opportunities throughout the 2026–2027 school year to build confidence, strengthen your skills, and reach your goals!

Foundational literacy and numeracy tutoring available through JonAyves Learning Club & Chapter One.

Click **here** to see the Indigenous Education tutoring flyer.

Have questions, or would you like to register? Email: Indigenous.Education@tcdsb.org.

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.



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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.

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day at the TCDSB



On September 30, students, staff and school communities across the TCDSB came together to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and honour the Survivors, families, and communities impacted by Residential Schools.



(Top) Author David Robertson visited Loretto College School to speak about truth, reconciliation, and the importance of observing this day with humility and respect.



(Second from Top) Jason Johnson joined the community at Father John Redmond Catholic Secondary School to share teachings on the importance of Truth before Reconciliation.



(Second from Bottom) Students from Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts showcased their learning through artwork that was displayed at the Truth and Reconciliation Symposium held at the CEC on September 30th.

(Bottom) Students from Chaminade participated in the Orange Heart Project, demonstrating how learning can inspire meaningful reflection and action.

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!*

As the days grow cooler, we're sharing some words that remind us of the cozy sights, tastes, and feelings of fall and winter!

waazakonenjigan | oháhsera | waashayyow | light



aniibiishaaboo | iekanerahtóhon | li tea | tea



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Community Links & Resources

The Wellness Medicine Wheel

Many Indigenous teachings across Turtle Island emphasize the importance of caring for all aspects of our well-being. Being healthy is about finding balance and caring for the whole self.

While Medicine Wheel teachings vary, the teachings shared here connect the North with spiritual health, West with physical health, South with mental health, and East with emotional health.

Take some time to explore the wheel and discover ideas and activities that nurture every part of yourself. By paying attention to each area of well-being, you can create a greater sense of balance and connection in your life.



Don't know where to start? Take a look at the next few pages for Community Links and Resources!

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Community Links

Did you know the quality of your friendships and relationships are positively connected to lifelong health? Here are some organizations that can help you stay connected.

The Indigenous Network Holistic programs and services that support the spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical well-being of Urban Indigenous peoples.

ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency Youth programming.

Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres Programs and a gathering space for Urban Indigenous community members to connect, build community, and access culturally based services and supports.

Ojibiikaan Programs for all ages that promote Indigenous food sovereignty, food literacy, nutrition, and sustainable food systems.

24/7 Helplines:

Hope 4 Wellness Hotline The Hope for Wellness Helpline is available to all Indigenous people across Canada, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Kids Help Phone Help for Indigenous Youth across Canada.

Post Secondary Links

Here are some organizations that support Indigenous Education and Success. See below for some helpful links and get up to date with future newsletters for more information!

Miziwe Biik provides academic, financial and employments services to Indigenous peoples in the GTA.

Students | Indspire Supports the education of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students through scholarships, bursaries, mentorship, and career development programs.

Future Generations Foundation Supports First Nations people through funding for educational, employment, vocational training, post-secondary, and cultural learning opportunities.

Metis Nation of Ontario Provides support and services related to housing, education, and overall well-being.



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)

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

November 7th - International Inuit Day

November 8th - National Indigenous Veterans Day

November 16th - Louis Riel Day (Ontario)

December 21st - Winter Solstice

March 31st - National Indigenous Language Day

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

May 20th (2027) - Moosehide Campaign Day

June (All Month) - National Indigenous History Month

June 21st - National Indigenous Peoples Day/Summer Solstice

Follow Us:

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YouTube:
@IndigenousEducationTCDSB25

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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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