



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Gerard Winn, Director of Education

Date: September 23, 2024

Subject: **September 30th: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation**

Origin: Jessica Outram, Superintendent of Education

Purpose

Durham Catholic District School Board renews its commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, acknowledging the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation as a day of solemn reflection.

Background

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation started in 2021. It is a day to honour the children who never returned home from residential schools, and offer thoughts and prayers to the Survivors, their families, and all those impacted by this painful history. Acknowledging the history and the truth of the ongoing impacts of residential schools is essential to the reconciliation process.

Information/Analysis/Research

This is a time for Durham Catholic District School Board school communities to demonstrate a renewed commitment to Truth and Reconciliation by learning about the impacts of colonization, collaborating with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit community and partners, and utilizing holistic approaches to student success.

In the last two years, there have been curriculum releases that are beginning to embed the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action. This means that the responsibility of classroom teachers to include Indigenous knowledge, perspective, culture, and history has increased.

By engaging staff, students, and families in deepening their learning about residential schools, Treaties, as well as the ongoing contributions of Indigenous knowledge, culture, and perspective, Durham Catholic District School Board prioritizes Indigenous

Education across the system. By learning as action for social change, educators in Durham Catholic District School Board are guided by Ontario curriculum and three foundational documents:

- [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action](#)
- [Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit Calls for Justice](#)
- [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People](#)

Next Steps

As we continue with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan *Inspire 2026*, we will continue to collaborate with our Indigenous Education Circle and our Student Indigenous Education Circle and work to deepen understanding of Indigenous education across the curriculum. We will review the Land Acknowledgement, exploring ways to support meaningful action, and continue to walk the path together as Treaty people. Resources have been shared with schools to support learning.

GW/JO