



## Honouring Indigenous, History Cultures and Traditions

**Board Received:** January 30, 2017      **Review Date:** February 2021

### **Policy Statement:**

The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes it has an important duty to first and foremost act in the best interest of students and reflect the community it serves.

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada concluded its work resulting in 94 far reaching Calls to Action, including a number specifically focused on education, covering residential school history, recognition of treaties and the effects of colonialism, in order to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation.

The Six Nations and Mississauga of the New Credit Native reserves are located in our board community and the legacy of the residential schools continues to be felt today by the indigenous population of Six Nations and New Credit. As part of reflecting its community, Grand Erie can support the Calls to Action of the TRC through a set of actions which serve to honour Indigenous, history cultures and traditions.

### **Accountability:**

1. Frequency of Reports – As needed
2. Criteria for Success – Increased understanding of the history, cultures and traditions Indigenous population

### **Procedures:**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was formed as a result of recognition of the cultural genocide and assimilation inflicted upon Indigenous people in Canada for generations and in concluding its work, created 94 Calls to Action including a number specifically focused on education.

### **The Grand Erie District School Board:**

- Will read an acknowledgement statement (suggested example below) at the opening of each Committee of the Whole and Regular Board Meeting and ensure that the acknowledgement statement is read at all Grand Erie meetings.
  - The Grand Erie District School Board recognizes the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people, as the traditional peoples of this territory. We acknowledge and give gratitude to the Indigenous peoples for sharing these lands in order for us to continue our work here today.
- Will encourage schools to include the acknowledgement of the Indigenous people of the land in their opening exercises and at other school events as deemed appropriate by the Principal

- Will build understanding of the Indigenous knowledge, culture, and history, including the impact of residential schools and perspectives into curriculum delivery.
- Will support the development and implementation of learning resources that work to heighten the understanding of Indigenous history, cultures and traditions.

**References:**

*Honouring the Truth, Reconciling the Future, the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, 2015*