



NEWS RELEASE

Winnipeg School Division congratulates Truth and Reconciliation Committee

June 3, 2015 (Winnipeg, MB) – The Winnipeg School Division (WSD) and its Board of Trustees congratulates the Truth and Reconciliation Committee of Canada (TRC) as today it marks the end of its formal mandate. The TRC worked tirelessly, through enormous emotional, spiritual and legal challenges, through seven national events, and over seven thousand witness testimonies to discover and reveal the truth about residential schools in Canada.

“The work of school divisions like WSD is to provide leadership in education, one that fully depicts the history of our country,” said Trustee Sherri Rollins, Chair of the WSD Advisory Council on Indigenous Education. “The Winnipeg School Division has demonstrated a long standing commitment to Aboriginal Education, and anticipating the recommendations of the TRC further resolved this year to review and strengthen our Aboriginal education policy responding to the call of the TRC to foster an educational environment for all children that supports reconciliation.”

Aboriginal education initiatives are woven throughout Nursery to Grade 12 curricula across all WSD schools. Some examples of these include Aboriginal literature and author studies, Elders in the classroom, Arts programs that include Aboriginal music, visual arts and dance and traditional Aboriginal structures and perspectives of sustainable development in science.

“Through the work of the TRC, Canadians have a better understanding of our country’s indigenous peoples and the supports needed in our education system to create a better future for all of us,” said Mark Wasyliv, Board of Trustees Chair. He said the addition of a full time Aboriginal Elder in the most recent WSD budget is just one of many supports needed in the community.

“WSD employs Community Support Workers for Aboriginal students and families,” said Wasyliv. “They are liaisons, strengthening each school’s connection with both the home and the community. They facilitate workshops for parents, maintain community rooms in schools and promote programs and activities that encourage and support these relationships.”

The WSD Advisory Council on Indigenous Education will include members of the community and meets for the first time in the fall of 2015.

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