



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

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## **MEDIA INVITE**

### **Winnipeg School Division hosts parent event focusing on supporting our trans and gender diverse children and youth**

**January 21, 2020 (Winnipeg, MB)** – Winnipeg media are invited to join Winnipeg School Division (WSD) students, staff and special guests at the Prince Charles Education Resource Centre on Wednesday, January 22 as it hosts the panel discussion “How to Best Support our Trans and Gender Diverse Children and Youth.”

"This event really is for everyone, so they can learn more about the resources and supports that are out there," said WSD Healthy Minds Specialist Fiona England. "This is a chance to learn more about trans and gender diverse issues. Often people may not have a lot of information or experience around this topic. We'll have many professionals and organizations that are great sources of information and support."

The night will feature a two-hour panel discussion and Q and A session from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Speakers include Dr. Simon Trepel, a child and adolescent psychiatrist who also works with the Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre and the Gender Dysphoria Assessment and Action for Youth Clinic (GDAAY). Other speakers include: Thomas Wardell, Family Navigation Coordinator for the Mood Disorders Association of Manitoba; Dene Guillas, School Equity and Inclusion Coordinator with the Rainbow Resource Centre; Naomi Finkelstein and Alba Lopez Gomez, parents of transgender young adults; and Brock Corydon School Principal Ara Morris, who has experience in supporting trans and gender diverse students.

"Many people want to know more information and be more supportive but they are unsure of where to go or what to do," Ms. England said. "This event brings supportive community partners, agencies, families, community and school together so people can connect, learn, collaborate and know they are not alone."

**When: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 22, 2020**

**Where: Prince Charles Education Resource Centre Room A, 1075 Wellington Avenue**

WSD was established in 1871 and currently has 78 schools, 33,000 students and 6,000 employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

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