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NEWS RELEASE

Winnipeg School Division marks fifth anniversary of Truth and Reconciliation with release of revised Indigenous Education Policy

December 17, 2020 (Winnipeg, MB) – In recognition of the fifth anniversary this week of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation 94 Calls to Action, Winnipeg School Division (WSD) is marking another milestone with its newly revised Indigenous Education Policy.

“The WSD Board of Trustees is grateful to the members of the Advisory Council on Indigenous Education and WSD staff for the work that has gone into updating and revising the Indigenous Education Policy,” says Betty Edel, Chair, Board of Trustees, Winnipeg School Division. “It is our responsibility as citizens and as leaders in our community to answer the calls to action, ensuring that future generations will learn of the diversity in Indigenous cultures, people and history.” Edel says the Board of Trustees is also committed to the call to action for Indigenous content in education.

WSD was the first school division in Manitoba to develop a policy to recognize its diversity and significant Indigenous population. The original policy, called The Aboriginal Education Policy, was introduced in June 1996.

“The newly revised and renamed Indigenous Education Policy reflects over 20 years of collective learning and growth about Indigenous values, languages and history,” says Pauline Clarke, Chief Superintendent and CEO, Winnipeg School Division. “We’ve made huge strides forward in this essential area of pedagogy, both for our educators and our students, and the revised policy is not only a guide for our future, it’s a celebration of our journey to get here.”

The Indigenous Education Policy reflects the TRC Calls to Action for education which includes the delivery and development of programs and services that enhance and encourage all staff, students, parents and members of the school community to be engaged in learning that integrates Indigenous Ways of Knowing and perspectives in relation to historical information, health and wellness, languages, arts and culture, teachings, protocols and traditions and restoring relationships.

“The revised policy is the result of an intensive and thorough consultation with the people of Winnipeg School Division – from students and families to custodians and teachers and administrators,” says Rob Riel, Director of Indigenous Education with WSD. “Through the work we have done on this policy, we are bringing more balance to all aspects of education in WSD.” Riel says the policy is the formal representation of all the community voices and provides a guide in WSD’s future planning.

“This is a commitment that recognizes the relationships built over time in coming together to create a new guide to lead Indigenous Education and its inclusivity,” says Riel.

WSD was established in 1871 and currently has 79 schools, almost 32,000 students and 5,000 full-time 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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Link to [WSD Revised Indigenous Education Policy IGABA](#)

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