



REPORT

Recognition of Excellence

Rainy River High School Indigenous Education

Regular Board Meeting:
October 4, 2016

For further information, please contact:
Casey Slack, Superintendent of Education
Jim Chorney, Principal, Rainy River High School



RAINY RIVER DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Indigenous Education Rainy River High School

Date: October 4, 2016
To: Trustees
From: Jim Chorney
Principal- Rainy River High School

Recommendation: It is recommended that the report be received for information only.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The RRDSB Strategic Plan highlights purposeful learning as a pillar for student success:
The unique historical and cultural story of our Indigenous community is embedded in the curriculum.

As noted in the Annual Operational Plan, schools work to expand the understanding and use of indigenous curriculum materials and resources in classrooms, across all subject areas, through coaching, co-planning/co-teaching, inquiry learning, and professional learning communities.

CONTEXT

At the provincial level, the Ministry of Education's Strategy guides school board and schools in improving indigenous education in Ontario, improving student achievement and well-being, and closing the achievement gap between indigenous students and all students. This strategy has been designed to improve opportunities for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students and to increase the knowledge and awareness of all students about indigenous histories, cultures and perspectives. <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/>

“First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students in Ontario will have the knowledge, skills, and confidence they need to successfully complete their elementary and secondary education in order to pursue postsecondary education or training and/or to enter the workforce. They will have the traditional and contemporary knowledge, skills and attitudes required to be socially contributive, politically active, and economically prosperous citizens of the world. All students in Ontario will have knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional First Nation, Métis, and Inuit traditions, cultures and perspectives.” (*First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework, January 2007*).



SUMMARY

Rainy River High School continues to incorporate indigenous culture in daily school routines and lessons. Students and staff contribute to a positive school climate by making cultural awareness an important aspect of being a student at RRHS.

Students have taken active roles in making hand drums, sewing bags, participating in the birthing ceremony of the drums, helping with the organization of feasts, designing cultural art mosaics for the courtyard, smudging for student wellness, planning and participating in student leadership meetings, and providing student voice to cultural events such as graduation and Indigenous Education week.

ROUTING

SPT/Senior Administration	September 27, 2016
Board	October 4, 2016
