

**September 23, 2022**

**Memorandum to:** Directors of Education  
Secretary/Treasurers of School Authorities

**From:** Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

**Subject:** **Supporting Reconciliation Through Education**

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September 30, 2022, marks the second National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The education sector has a critical role to play in Truth and Reconciliation. Educators have the opportunity to build knowledge and shape an understanding of the lasting impact of the Indian Residential School system. Nurturing overall awareness and appreciation for Indigenous histories, knowledge, perspectives and contributions is essential to reconciliation.

Many school boards have already begun this work by developing collaborative relationships with their Indigenous Education Councils, implementing Truth and Reconciliation Action Plans and/or Indigenous Education Strategic Plans, as well as incorporating Truth and Reconciliation actions into their Board Action Plans.

As in previous years, to prepare for this important day, boards, teachers, support staff and administrators should:

1. Engage early and often with Indigenous Education Councils, Indigenous staff, partners and communities to co-develop an approach to the day that reflects the needs and input of partners;
2. [Register](#) for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation four-day series of events, workshops and lectures; and,
3. Ensure student absences on September 30, 2022, for the purposes of attending National Day for Truth and Reconciliation events outside of school are recorded as “General Absences” rather than “Regular Absences”.

Additionally, for the first time this year, the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation will be hosting a [live event in Mississauga](#), the ancestral and treaty lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, also recognized as land rich in pre-contact history that includes both the Anishinaabek and Onkwehon:we, and continues to become the home for many Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. The event will feature some of Turtle Island’s best Indigenous performers to help students learn about Indigenous culture, languages, and traditions. School boards are invited to register for

the live-stream or to access tickets for students to attend the event in-person visit: [Gidinawendimin - We Are All Related 2022 - NCTR](#).

To support age-appropriate incorporation of Truth and Reconciliation into classroom learning, educators are encouraged to reference mandatory learning in the Ontario curriculum, such as:

1. [Science and Technology, Grades 1 to 8](#) \*New for September 2022
2. [Social Studies, History and Geography, Grades 4 to 8](#)
3. [First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies, Grades 9 to 12](#)
4. [Social Sciences and Humanities, Grades 9 to 12](#)
5. [Science, Grade 9](#) \*New for September 2022
6. [Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9 to 12](#), including the revised [Civics and Citizenship, Grade 10](#) course \*New for September 2022
7. [Native Languages, Grades 1 to 8](#) and [Native Languages, Grades 9 to 12](#)

Schools may also consider offering the [Grade 11 English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis and Inuit Voices](#) course to meet the Grade 11 English compulsory credit requirement and/or the [Grade 9 Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures](#) course, which may be used to meet the compulsory credit requirement in the arts.

The ministry is looking forward to hearing about board plans to mark this day, and any best practices boards have identified in support of reconciliation. Should teachers, staff or administrators have any questions about preparing for the 2022 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, they can reach out directly to the Indigenous Education Office Education Officers for their region:

Region	Education Officer	Email
Northwest	Patti Pella	<a href="mailto:Patti.Pella2@ontario.ca">Patti.Pella2@ontario.ca</a>
Northeast	Bryon Brisard	<a href="mailto:Bryon.Brisard@ontario.ca">Bryon.Brisard@ontario.ca</a>
Central	Ian McCallum	<a href="mailto:Ian.McCallum@ontario.ca">Ian.McCallum@ontario.ca</a>
Greater Toronto Area	Nick Bertrand	<a href="mailto:Nick.Bertrand@ontario.ca">Nick.Bertrand@ontario.ca</a>
Eastern	Romaine Mitchell	<a href="mailto:Romaine.Mitchell@ontario.ca">Romaine.Mitchell@ontario.ca</a>
Southwest	JoAnn Henry	<a href="mailto:JoAnn.Henry@ontario.ca">JoAnn.Henry@ontario.ca</a>
French Boards (all regions)	Shelley Duquette-Lafortune	<a href="mailto:Shelley.Duquette-Lafortune@ontario.ca">Shelley.Duquette-Lafortune@ontario.ca</a>

Please remember that content associated with the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation can be triggering for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students, families and communities. Access to mental health and well-being services should be integrated into planning and can include the sharing of the [Indian Residential School Crisis line](#): 1-800-721-0066.

Thank you in advance for working to ensure the 2022 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is meaningful for all students, teachers and Indigenous partners and communities.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

- c: Executive Director, Association des conseils scolaires des écoles publiques de l'Ontario (ACÉPO)
- Executive Director, Association franco-ontarienne des conseils scolaires catholiques (AFOCSC)
- Executive Director, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA)
- Executive Director, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
- Executive Director, Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE)
- Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer, Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association (OECTA)
- General Secretary, Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)
- General Secretary, Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF)
- Chair, Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW)
- Chair, Education Workers' Alliance of Ontario (EWAO)
- Co-ordinator, Canadian Union of Public Employees – Ontario (CUPE-ON)
- Executive Director, Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes (ADFO)
- Executive Director, Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO)
- Executive Director, Ontario Principals' Council (OPC)