



INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

The Portage la Prairie School Division acknowledges that schools in our division are located on Treaty One land, as well as the traditional territory of the Ojibway, Dakota, and Cree peoples and the homeland of the Métis nation.

Indigenous peoples is a collective name for the original peoples of North America and their descendants. The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Indigenous peoples: First Nations, Inuit and Métis.

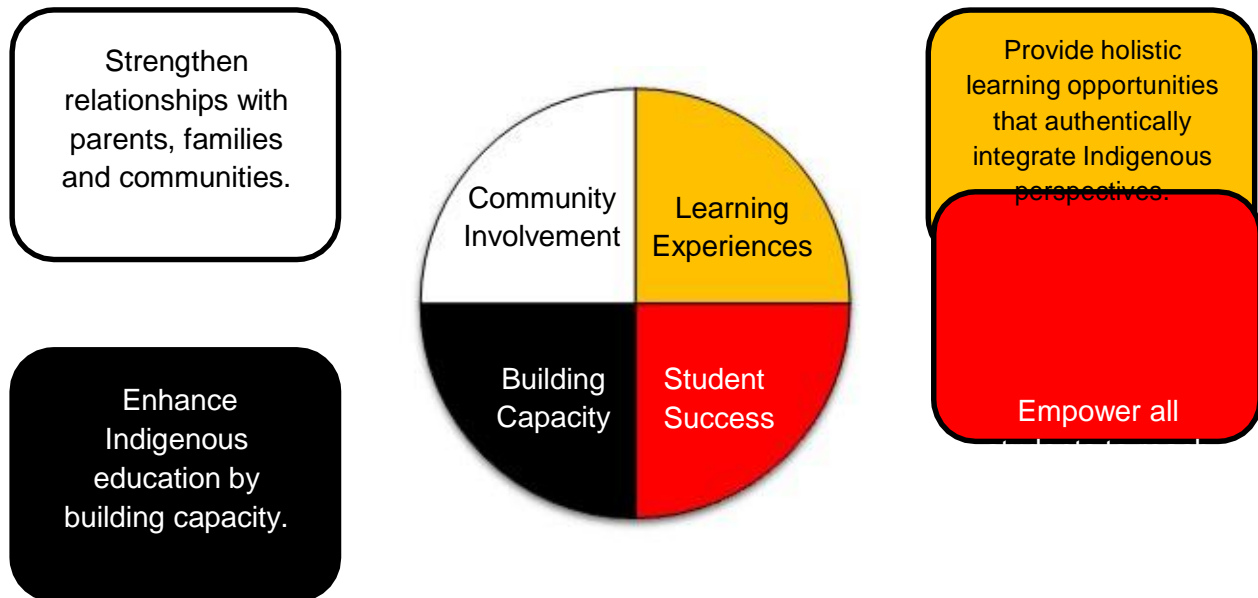
The Portage la Prairie School Division recognizes Indigenous education as an important step in the path towards reconciliation.

The Portage la Prairie School Division believes Indigenous education benefits all students.



Indigenous Education Guiding Principles

This is a living, breathing document. Changes will be made as initiatives and goals change over time. The following guiding principles are meant to strengthen the Portage la Prairie School Division’s commitment to enhance Indigenous education.





1) **Learning Experiences**

- a) Recognize that Indigenous education benefits all students.
- b) Integrate Indigenous perspectives into curricula by providing opportunities for all students to develop an understanding and respect for the worldviews, histories, languages, cultures, identities, traditional knowledge and values, contemporary lifestyles, and contributions of Indigenous peoples.
- c) Strive to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #62 to deliver age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Indigenous peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada for K-12.
- d) Offer students opportunities to learn from Indigenous Elders and guest speakers, opportunities to participate in land-based education and opportunities to participate in Indigenous cultural learning experiences, while respecting the beliefs of all students.
- e) Ensure schools are safe and culturally respectful spaces that promote positive self-identity and foster a sense of belonging and purpose amongst all students.

2) **Student Success**

- a) Recognize that student success is holistic, encompassing the academic as well as mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of each student.
- b) Recognize every student is an individual and has a story.
- c) Create an environment of inclusion by providing all students with opportunities for success.
- d) Work to improve the literacy and numeracy achievement of all students.
- e) Work to improve graduation rates of all students.
- f) Support students who transition to the Portage la Prairie School Division.
- g) Help prepare students for post-secondary education and/or employment opportunities.

3) **Community Involvement**

- a) Develop and continue to enhance connections and positive relations with parents, families, and communities.
- b) Provide opportunities for parents, guardians, families and communities to become involved with their child's education.
- c) Develop and continue to enhance partnerships with First Nations communities and outside agencies and organizations.

4) **Building Capacity**

- a) Provide staff with professional development opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to properly integrate Indigenous perspectives.
- b) Provide staff with recommended resources to enhance best practices in the integration of Indigenous perspectives.
- c) Promote Indigenous representation throughout the division.
- d) Reflect Indigenous education in division, school, and classroom planning.



Smudging Procedure

In cooperation with the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate's recommendation to permit smudging at schools, the following guidelines are provided and shall be followed whenever smudging occurs at a school or as part of a school event. In all cases, it is expected that the smudge facilitator informs the school administrator in advance to allow for the expectations identified below to be put in place and followed.

5) Permission

- d) Parent/guardian permission is required for participation in smudging. All students must return the permission form (Appendix A) to the school prior to smudging.
- e) Information about the purpose and process of smudging must be communicated with parents/guardians, staff and students (Appendix B).
- f) Parents/guardians, staff and students require advance notice, minimum of one week, that smudging will be taking place to give them time to ask questions and/or express concerns.

6) Location

- f) The school administrator, in consultation with the divisional Workplace Health and Safety Officer, will determine designated area(s) where smudging can occur.
- g) Designated area(s) must be identified as spaces where smudging occurs (Appendix C).

7) Participation

- h) When introducing smudging, it is recommended to include an Elder or cultural teacher who can explain smudging, the medicines, the teachings and the practices.
- i) Smudging may be part of a learning experience in a classroom, part of a course, during an event, and/or a regular part of the school day, supervised by a trained staff.
- j) It is recommended to use sage as the medicine/mixture. Ensure that the medicine/mixture is of minimal quantity proportionate to the number of people participating in the smudge.
- k) Upon completion of the smudge, place the residual medicine/mixture in a container. Once the container is full, place the residual medicine/mixture outside in a thoughtful manner such as at the base of a tree.
- l) Ensure that smudging does not pose a health risk to students, especially students with severe asthma and respiratory issues.
- m) Ensure that participation in smudging is always voluntary.



Portage la Prairie School Division recognizes the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's sixteen distinctive calls to action in matters of education, culture and languages, and education for reconciliation. Portage la Prairie School Division recognizes that these calls to action serve as guiding principles for the future of our students, both indigenous and non-indigenous.

In the spirit of these calls to action, Portage la Prairie School Division will implement formal and consistent actions that will acknowledge and recognize Treaty Lands and Indigenous Territories in our schools and at various public school and/or divisional events.

Acknowledgement and recognition actions will include:

- A formal treaty acknowledgment will be placed in Portage la Prairie Division buildings and divisional website.
- The Treaty Acknowledgement will be read at divisional public and/or community events and gatherings including but not limited to board meetings, public consultation meetings significant school and/or community special events, celebrations and gatherings.
- The acknowledgement should be made at any appropriate time during the opening remarks.

Portage la Prairie School Division's English and French language acknowledgement and recognition public announcements of Treaty Lands and Indigenous Territories are as follows:

The Portage la Prairie School Division acknowledges that schools in our division are located on Treaty One land, as well as the traditional territory of the Ojibway, Dakota, Cree and Anishinaabe peoples and the homeland of the Métis nation.

La Division Scolaire de Portage la Prairie dirige ses opérations sur les terres traditionnelles des peuples Ojibwés, Dakotas, Cris et Anishinaabés, et sur la patrie de la nation métisse. La Division Scolaire de Portage la Prairie respecte les traités qui ont été conclus sur ce territoire.