

Message from the Director of Education Treaties Recognition Week

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) announced that Ontario has designated **November 6 to 12, 2016 as Treaties Recognition Week** in order to promote public education and awareness about treaties and treaty relationships.

All TCDSB students, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, are enriched by learning about the histories, cultures, contributions and perspectives of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples in Canada. Treaties Recognition Week is designed to provide an ongoing opportunity for our school communities to link this learning to our everyday lives through our programs and activities.

It is in this spirit that the Toronto Catholic District School Board stands in solidarity with Indigenous peoples in Canada and asks schools to incorporate the following daily acknowledgement in the Opening Exercises that we live, work, play, and learn on Indigenous lands.

This daily recognition should begin on Monday, November 7, the first day of Treaties Recognition Week. The suggested text (with phonetic pronunciation) is as follows:

Out of our deep respect for our Indigenous heritage, we acknowledge <insert your school name> is situated upon traditional territories. The territories include the Wendat, Anishinabek (A-ni-shna-bek) Nation, the Haudenosaunee (hoh-DEE-noh-Shoh-nee) Confederacy, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nations, and the Métis Nation. We also recognize the enduring presence of Aboriginal Peoples on this land.

The Board will be undertaking research to ensure, where possible, the acknowledgement is customized to reflect a specific Indigenous peoples and lands associated with the school's site. This will be provided at a future.

Thank you for undertaking this initiative that reflects our Catholic values of peace, inclusion and respect.

Regards,

Angela Gauthier
Director of Education