



### MÉTIS

The Métis are a distinct Aboriginal people with a unique history, culture, language and territory that includes the waterways of Ontario surrounds the Great Lakes and spans what was known as the historic Northwest.

The Métis Nation is comprised of descendants of people born of relations between First Nation women and European men. The initial offspring of these unions were of mixed ancestry. The genesis of a new Aboriginal people called the Métis resulted from the subsequent intermarriage of these mixed ancestry individuals.

Distinct Métis settlements emerged as an outgrowth of the fur trade, along freighting waterways and watersheds. In Ontario, these settlements were part of larger regional communities, interconnected by the highly mobile lifestyle of the Métis, the fur trade network, seasonal rounds, extensive kinship connections and a shared collective history and identity.

### INUIT

The Inuit use several terms to describe themselves dependent upon dialect and region. However, the term "Inuit" is commonly used as it means "the people" in Inuktitut and generally refers to Canada's original people whose homeland is the Canadian Arctic which includes portions of the three Territories: Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut, in addition to Northern Quebec and Northern Labrador.

*(please refer to Métis Nation of Ontario website for legal definition)*

## DEFINITIONS

Terms used to describe Canada's original people have evolved over time with some becoming outdated and others misunderstood. Here are some basic definitions to help students self-identify and promote general awareness.

### FIRST NATIONS (STATUS AND NON-STATUS)

First Nation refers to Canada's original people whose history is interwoven with the creation of the 1876 Indian Act, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and subsequent government registry system.

**Status** refers to people registered under the Indian Act who identify with a First Nation community-ancestral land

**Non-Status** refers to people who identify with a First Nation community-ancestral land but are not registered under the INAC registry system.

Making Connections  
for Success

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[HCDSB.ORG](http://HCDSB.ORG)

Look under the Parent section,  
First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education  
We would be happy to answer questions  
or address concerns, please contact:

Lorrie Naar  
Superintendent of Schools  
905-632-6300 ext 127  
Or  
Sherry Saevil  
Aboriginal Liaison  
905-632-4814 ext 5687



Funded by the Ministry of Education

# VOLUNTARY CONFIDENTIAL SELF IDENTIFICATION FIRST NATION, MÉTIS, INUIT STUDENTS



SELF-IDENTIFICATION  
INFORMATION FOR  
FAMILIES

HALTON CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

# SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF OUR NATIONS

## WHY?

The Ministry of Education in Ontario has identified the success of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students as a key priority. In 2007, the Ministry launched the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* involving 72 school districts in the province. Three main goals provide direction for all school boards –

- 1 High levels of student achievement
- 2 Reduce gaps in student achievement
- 3 High levels of public confidence

## HOW?

Our Board established a Voluntary Confidential Self-Identification process for students of First Nation, Métis or Inuit ancestry from Kindergarten to Grade 12 to help:

- Collect accurate data on enrolment, student success and graduation rates
- Determine program needs
- Identify student supports

The information will help our Board to better assist First Nation, Métis and Inuit students to reach their education and career goals.

## PROTECTING STUDENT INFORMATION

Information collected from this process will become part of the Ontario Student Record. It is important for you to know that information about individual students (i.e., personally identifiable information) is protected and is not shared. Overall data, such



## WHEN?

as enrolment information, Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results and course completion, will be shared with the Ministry of Education and EQAO. This overall information will be collected from school boards across the province so that the Ministry can provide progress reports on the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* every three years. Visit [www.edu.gov.on.ca](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca) for more information.

Beginning in September 2011, Voluntary Confidential Self Identification for students of First Nation, Métis and Inuit ancestry will be part of the verification forms for all students in our Board. Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to identify their children, while students who are 18 years of age or older will be able to identify themselves as part of this initiative.

This is an example of what will appear on the verification forms:

**Aboriginal Student Self-Identification:**  
(please check off one of the boxes below if applicable: this self identification is voluntary)

- First Nation Ancestry
- Métis Ancestry
- Inuit Ancestry

For the purpose of voluntary self-identification, proof of ancestry is not required.

## EVERYONE WILL BENEFIT!

Some of the benefits may include:

- Enhanced cross-cultural learning opportunities for everyone
- Culturally appropriate learning opportunities
- New resource material to reflect the rich culture, history, languages and perspectives of Canada's original people
- New First Nation, Métis and Inuit curriculum initiatives.

## SEVEN GRANDFATHER GIFTS

Wisdom • Love • Respect • Bravery  
Honesty • Humility • Truth

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### Nine Catholic Values

Faith • Hope • Love • Truth • Compassion  
Service • Family • Forgiveness • Justice

