

City of Winnipeg Indigenous Accord

Manitoba Teachers' Society

Self-Identified Goal

In order to honour Call to Action # 62, the Manitoba Teachers' Society will work with educational partners in Manitoba and Canada to provide professional learning opportunities for educators to enable them:

- To incorporate Indigenous perspectives/teachings at all grade levels in all curricular areas,
- To understand a corrective history of Canada and its relations with Indigenous peoples,
- To fully appreciate the intergenerational impacts of residential schools and ongoing processes of assimilation, and
- To advocate for changes to all curriculum, policies and practices that will ensure full inclusion of Indigenous educators, students, families and communities in Manitoba schools.

More than a Decade of Action

The Manitoba Teachers' Society has been actively raising awareness of Indigenous history, peoples and issues within its membership and the educational community at large for more than a decade.

The Society has:

- had a committee of Indigenous teachers monitoring trends in Indigenous education and advising on internal policy directives for the past 15 years,
- commenced annual, mandatory Indigenous awareness training in 2008 for all staff and elected leadership of The Society,
- provided Indigenous awareness training for all Presidents of local teachers' associations in Manitoba for the past two years,
- required all local teachers' associations to identify a member of their executives to be responsible for Indigenous education initiatives and issues in their local areas,
- provided all local teachers' associations with a certificate that acknowledges the Indigenous peoples of their respective areas with the acknowledgement written in the languages of the Indigenous peoples,
- provided two day training seminars for executive members responsible for Indigenous initiatives,
- encouraged Indigenous members of The Society to self-identify on the member data base to facilitate improved communication on issues that affect their work and employment,
- conducted focus groups with Indigenous members to encourage involvement in educational leadership positions,
- in cooperation with Manitoba Association of School Superintendents, hosted two major conferences for educators with a focus on Indigenous education initiatives. Each conference attracted more than 800 participants.
- provided support for the Council of Indigenous Educators of Manitoba, an affiliate of The Society,
- provided a variety of annual workshops related to Indigenous education open to all members,

- assisted schools and school divisions throughout the province with organizing professional learning opportunities to raise awareness and understanding through the provision of Indigenous presenters or recommendations of presenters,
- regularly liaised with education partners through joint meetings of Interorganizational Indigenous Committees for the past 6 years.
- hosted two gatherings of Emamawi Witasoskemitowak, bringing together educational representatives committed to enhancing our effectiveness in improving educational success of Indigenous students in provincial schools,
- embarked on further collective initiatives related to reconciliation through liaison with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, Indigenous Inclusion Directorate of Manitoba Education and Training, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Aboriginal Business Organization, and other Indigenous organizations.