

**Policy Number and Name:** 203 Indigenous Perspectives, Partnerships, and Outcomes

**Policy Section:** 200 Stakeholder Relationships

**Effective Date:** November 23, 2023

**Revised Date:**

**Purpose:**

The principle of Truth and Reconciliation and the implementation of the Calls to Action are significant goals of the Division and the Board. The goals of Reconciliation are highlighted within the Board's Strategic Plan and was established in response to *Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action* and is underpinned by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Division is committed to working together with our Indigenous Partners on the journey toward Reconciliation.

**Policy:**

The work of Reconciliation is rooted in learning. Prairie Spirit Learners will possess intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect with and for Indigenous Peoples of Canada (Calls to Action 63.3). Commonly understood as "walking a mile in another's shoes", empathy is a powerful teacher and that helps all learners to build understanding of neighbors and of self. The work of Reconciliation obliges us to do just that. Infusion of First Nations and Métis content, perspectives, and ways of knowing in provincial curricula and Indigenous pedagogy into the classroom benefits both students and teachers by engaging participants in a relational understanding about the similarities and differences between First Nations and Métis and non-indigenous worldviews. Learners will gain from experience with both Indigenous and western methodologies within educational settings in order to deepen their understanding that worldviews are integral to the ways all people experience, engage, participate in, and contribute to society (Inspiring Success, p. 7). The Division commits to learning about worldviews and perspectives from and alongside our Indigenous neighbors, communities, and partners for the benefit of all learners and stakeholders.

Relationships and partnerships with Indigenous neighbours, communities, and organizations allow us to learn and grow together. When we enter partnerships with shared values and goals, the work and the learning is informed and enriched through collaboration and multiple perspectives. The Division will grow stronger by nurturing and fostering authentic partnerships with Indigenous neighbours, communities, and organizations, and, in doing so, supports the Inspiring Success sector framework principle of authentic engagement in all aspects of the education system (Inspiring Success, p 14).

A shared and prosperous future for all is dependent upon the success of all people. The Division aspires to ensure that all learners achieve goals, regardless of gender, culture, and ancestry. We monitor our successes and make informed decisions aimed at equitable outcomes among all. In the Division, we commit to goals of Truth and Reconciliation as a pathway toward a prosperous and shared future for all learners across all levels of the Division. Indeed, all Saskatchewan citizens are called to the opportunity of reconciling our shared history and building a brighter future. Creating an attitudinal shift and new understanding means that, "everyone has a role to play in reconciliation and a responsibility to seek inclusivity." (Inspiring Success, p. 6)

- 1) The Board commits to grounding the work of Reconciliation in authentic learning that is informed by and with Indigenous voices and perspectives within our partners, neighbours, communities, and organizations.
- 2) The Board will nurture and foster partnerships at all levels with First Nations and Métis neighbours, communities, and organizations.
- 3) The Board will direct the Director to First Nations and Métis education within the Division (*Inspiring Success: First Nations and Métis PreK-12 Education Policy Framework* and the SSBA Framework).
- 4) The Board commits to innovative and evolving methods of recruitment and ongoing retention of employees with the background, knowledge, and leadership skills to help achieve these goals.
- 5) The Board recognizes that First Nations and Métis education is about taking steps to eliminate systemic racism and bias in student assessment, improving outcomes, as well as the quality of education, for Indigenous students. These steps will increase understanding for all learners about the contributions, content, perspectives, and ways of knowing of First Nations and Métis peoples.