

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Artist in Residence in Prairie Spirit School Division

*Saskatchewan hip hop artist works with students*

Saskatchewan hip hop artist Brad Bellegarde is Prairie Spirit's first "Artist in Residence". Bellegarde, who performs under the name "InfoRed," will be working with students in the school division during the 2016/17 school year. He is a Nakota/Cree member of the Little Black Bear First Nation and lives in Regina, where he is currently completing an internship with CBC Radio.



*Hip Hop artist Brad Bellegarde at Stobart Community School in Duck Lake in October.*



Bellegarde will be working with students throughout Prairie Spirit, focusing on the communities of Duck Lake, Blaine Lake and Leask, exploring the role hip hop plays in Indigenous cultures. He will also demonstrate how rap has become a contemporary form of storytelling.

Bellegarde will focus on building relationships with students by sharing his personal journey. He will be working alongside students in developing their knowledge of themselves and expressing themselves through rap. Elements of the curriculum will be addressed through writing and hip hop.

The "artist in residence" position will be supported through the Division's music education budget, the PSTA and various grants. As a First Nations artist, Bellegarde's work supports the school division's overall strategy for First Nations and Métis education.

Bellegarde appeared at the Vancouver Olympics and received the prestigious Gillis Purcell Scholarship to intern with the Canadian Press in Ottawa last summer. He will be participating in Prairie Spirit's Resonate music conference for the third time next April.

He presented to the Prairie Spirit Teachers' Association (PSTA) assembly in August, on the theme: *Rap as the New Buffalo: the role of Hip Hop in Indigenous Education*.

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*Prairie Spirit School Division serves over 10,000 students in 45 schools and 28 communities surrounding the City of Saskatoon.*

For more information, please contact:

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