

# Our Progress at a Glance



Here's a snapshot of what we've accomplished from April to November 2008.

## Hire staff

An Aboriginal Education Specialist was hired to work with one of our Superintendent of Schools to implement our Aboriginal education project.

## Internal Working Group

This group was established to provide insight on existing educational needs and programs, and to share what works well and what can be improved for Aboriginal students attending our schools.

## Elders' Advisory Council

This group was established to guide and advise the project from an Aboriginal perspective with a focus on culture, Aboriginal identity, local history and language.

## Aboriginal Education Advisory Circle (AEAC)

We met with AEAC (an umbrella group representing several Aboriginal organizations and stakeholders) to provide updates and seek their input on our process. We will continue to meet with this group throughout the project.

## Building Bridges Education Conference

This conference was attended by more than 100 teachers, librarians and community members as a starting point in bringing Aboriginal perspectives into the classroom.

## Aboriginal Book Fair

This event was hosted by Pope John Paul II School in Barrie to promote Aboriginal resources and as a way to celebrate National Aboriginal Day.

## Researching Other Boards

We've visited other school boards in Ontario currently implementing this Ministry initiative to gather best practices for developing our Voluntary Aboriginal Self-Identification Policy.

## Pilot Project Credit Courses

Native Studies and Native Language credit courses were offered at St. Theresa's High School in Midland as part of a summer pilot project.

## Communications and Promotions

We have developed a wide-range of communications material to help promote *Making Good Tracks* within our board, the Aboriginal community and various stakeholders.

## Community Consultation

We continue to offer community consultation activities, including displays, presentations, interviews with AEAC members as we build our community network.

## Proposal to Ministry of Education

This proposal is requesting funds to purchase Aboriginal resources, to hire an Aboriginal Counsellor and implement student success strategies.

