

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Terms used to describe Canada's original people have evolved over time with some becoming outdated and others misunderstood.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.

Who Are The 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.

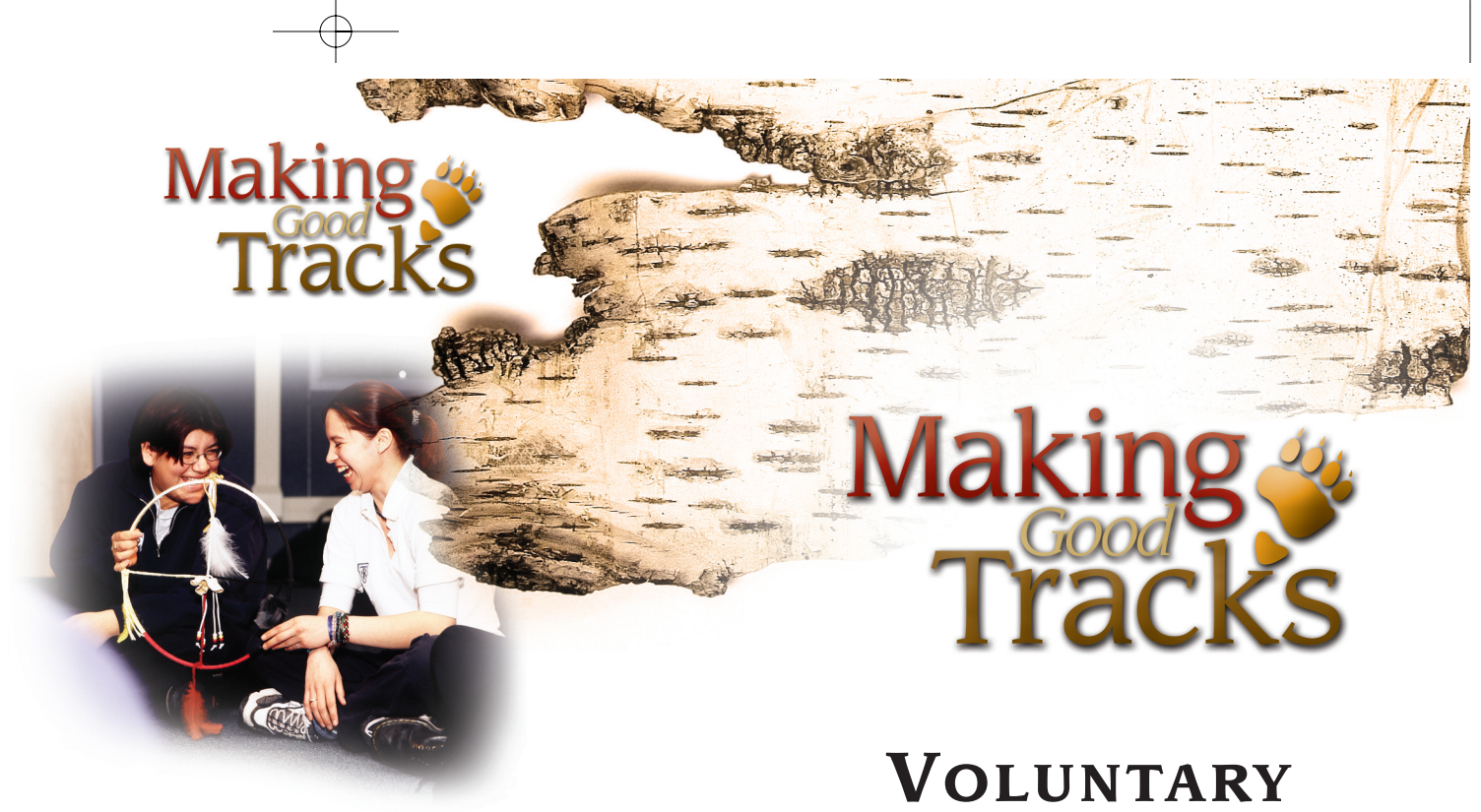
The Métis Nation is comprised of descendants of people born of relations between First Nation women and European men. The initial offspring of these unions were of mixed ancestry. The genesis of a new Aboriginal people called the Métis resulted from the subsequent intermarriage of these mixed ancestry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



Visit our website at www.smcdsb.on.ca - look under the Parent section, Aboriginal Education Project for information.

We would be happy to answer questions or address concerns, please contact ~

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Superintendent of Schools at
(705) 722-3555, ext. 272

or

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(705) 722-3555, ext. 367

VOLUNTARY **Self-Identification** **First Nation, Métis and Inuit Students**



Funded by the Ministry of Education



SUPPORTING THE FUTURE OF OUR NATIONS

Why?

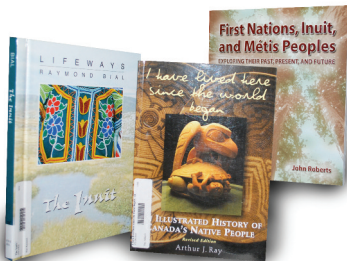
The Ministry of Education in Ontario is identifying the success of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students as a key priority. In 2007, the Ministry launched the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* involving all 72 school districts in the province. Three main goals provide 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 Self-Identification process for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students 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 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 for more information.

When?

Beginning in September 2009, voluntary self-identification for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students will be part of the registration process 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.

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

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Nine Catholic Values

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

Seven Grandfather Gifts

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

