

# Working Together

## OUR BOARD

The Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board is committed to developing a new relationship with the Aboriginal community. By working together, we can help ensure that First Nation, Métis and Inuit students receive the highest quality of education in our schools.

We have established two committees to advise and guide our Aboriginal education project, called *Making Good Tracks*. We strive to build a solid foundation and seek direction on key education issues from two groups we have brought together – our Internal Working Group and Elders' Advisory.

## OUR INTERNAL WORKING GROUP

The focus of this group is to provide insight on existing educational needs and programs, as well as to share what is working well and what can be improved for Aboriginal students attending our schools.

Group members include:

Darren Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools (Catholic Board)  
Linda McGregor, Aboriginal Education Specialist (Catholic Board)  
Denise DeCourcy, Teacher (St. Ann's School, Penetanguishene)  
Matt McCann, Principal (St. Joseph's High School, Barrie)  
Peggy McGregor, Director of Education (Beausoleil First Nation)  
Deb Slingerland, Principal (Canadian Martyr's School, Penetanguishene)

Special thanks to Principal Grant Mantha who served on this committee until his recent retirement.

## OUR ELDERS' ADVISORY COUNCIL

The role of this group is to guide and advise the project from an Aboriginal perspective with a focus on culture, Aboriginal identity, local history and language.

Council members include:

Darren Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools (Catholic Board)  
Linda McGregor, Aboriginal Education Specialist (Catholic Board)  
Dr. Ed Connors, Aboriginal Psychologist  
Scott Carpenter, Métis Nation of Ontario Citizen and Historian  
Patrick Akpalialuk, Inuit Cultural Resource  
Ernie Sandy, Speaker/Historian, Rama Mnjikaning First Nation

Special thanks to Gloria King, Beausoleil First Nation, who served on this committee until she returned to teaching full-time as a Native Language Instructor.

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY CIRCLE (AEAC)

We would also like to thank the AEAC, an umbrella group representing several Aboriginal organizations and stakeholders, for providing invaluable insight and guidance through meetings and one-on-one interviews.

