

Ministry of Education

Student Success/Learning to 18
Strategic Implementation,
Innovation and Support Branch

Aboriginal Education Office

Ministère de l'Éducation

Direction de la mise en œuvre stratégique, de
l'innovation et du soutien pour la réussite
des élèves et de l'apprentissage jusqu'à l'âge de 18 ans

Bureau de l'éducation autochtone



MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education

FROM: Rob Andrews
Director
Student Success/Learning to 18
Implementation, Training and Evaluation Branch

Alayne Bigwin
Director
Aboriginal Education Office

DATE: December 6, 2013

SUBJECT: **First Nation, Métis and Inuit Student Winter Learning and Leadership Program**

The Ministry of Education is pleased to announce that a new winter learning and leadership program will be offered in February for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students.

Purpose:

The purpose of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit Winter Leadership and Learning Program is to offer opportunities for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in key areas:

- Developing leadership,
- Nurturing critical thinking and literacy skills, and
- Meeting youth developmental needs required for successful transitions/well-being.

The ministry is working in partnership with the Tim Horton's Children's Foundation to pilot this initiative involving a total of 80 youth (grades 7-10) from provincially-funded or First Nation schools.

The program will focus on cognitive, emotional, social and physical youth development¹ themes and will incorporate First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultures, histories and perspectives into the lessons and program activities. The participants will enhance their skills in self-efficacy, critical thinking, team building, communication, creative thinking, literacy and numeracy.

The Ministry of Education is requesting that names of eligible First Nation, Métis and/or Inuit students be forwarded to the Ministry of Education no later than December 13, 2013. Please forward all names and contact information of the students to Susan.Jacobs@ontario.ca

¹ Stepping Stones: A resource on youth development, Ministry of Children and Youth Services (2012).

The Ministry of Education will work in partnership with the Tim Horton's Children's Foundation to provide these opportunities for our students. All associated costs, including teacher coverage, travel, accommodation and food will be covered by the ministry or by the corporate sponsor.

The leadership program will be offered as follows:

Tim Horton Children's Foundation – February 11-14, 2014
Memorial Camp - RR #1, Lorimer Lake, Parry Sound, Ontario

Eligibility:

- Maximum of 80 First Nation, Métis or Inuit students (grades 7-10) that have been recommended by School Board Student Success Leaders and/or School Student Success Teachers.

Registration Process:

- Student names will be put forward by Student Success Leaders and Teachers from schools and school boards and will be contacted by Ministry staff by December 16, 2013.

Through the Winter Learning and Leadership Program, we hope to gain a better understanding of how we can support leadership development, student engagement and improved student transitions for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. The Ministry will evaluate the pilots using a case study approach.

Please contact Melissa.Weyland@ontario.ca if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued work with us to improve student learning and achievement.

Sincerely,

Rob Andrews

Alayne Bigwin

cc: Assistant Deputy Minister, French Language, Aboriginal Learning and Research Division
Assistant Deputy Minister, Student Achievement Division
Director, French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch
Director, Student Success Learning to 18 Strategic Policy Branch
Director, Field Services Branch
SAOs, ESSEOs, SSLs, LNS Team Leads
EOs, Aboriginal Education Office
Manager, EDU Policy and Programs, Aboriginal Education Office
Manager, SS/Learning to 18 System Implementation, Innovation and Support Branch