



INTRODUCTION

About this resource

In June 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its 94 Calls to Action.

Calls #62 and #63 specifically called upon governments to consult and collaborate with Survivors, Indigenous Peoples and Educators to provide curriculum resources to support learning about First Nations-Six Nations peoples, the Inuit, and the Métis.

Grand Erie District School Board's Indigenous Education team took these calls to heart. From the beginning, it was very apparent that our classrooms, our communities and all of our colleagues needed important resources to do the work being called upon us to do.

Within Grand Erie's boundaries, only minutes from our Board Office is a daunting laneway lined with trees and secrets, leading to a building full of truths to be heard, stories to be told, and voices to be honoured. On these grounds stands the Mohawk Indian Residential School, a large and looming reminder of all the work that still needs to be done for all students within our Board. Our complex local history, so personally affected by this legacy, called for a local, context-specific response to guide Grand Erie educators and students on the path to reconciliation.

Connecting with our community partners - the Mississaugas of the New Credit, the Six Nations of the Grand River and the Woodland Cultural Centre - was paramount in ensuring we were doing this with true community consultation. Our commitment to developing a resource, grounded in local context, our community and critical inquiry, is the foundation for this resource.

Our intention is not only to teach the history, but also to engage our learners in the critical thinking process so it is no longer just the sharing of information, the critically thinking about what led us to this point in time, and intentionally planning for where we want to go in the future as we walk along the path to Reconciliation.

Reconciliation is both an individual journey as well as a collective journey. Our hope is that this resource will support our students in learning the history present within our community, create intercultural understanding of our complex communities, and help build the unknown future ahead.

To quote Senator Murray Sinclair: "Education is what got us into this mess. Education will be what leads us out."

With this hope, we share the following resource with you.

Miigwech,

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