



St. Clair Catholic  
District School Board



Enclosure 11

## Mandatory Secondary NBE 3U/3C English Course: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices

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### Background

It is a priority of the Ministry of Education that all students in Ontario will have knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional First Nations, Métis, and Inuit histories, cultures, perspectives, and contributions. In order to move forward on our learning journey, students must have a solid understanding of where we have been as a province and a country. Ontario is committed to ensuring that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit survivors and communities bring their perspectives to students' learning about our shared history. With their new understanding, students will be able to challenge commonly held but often erroneous knowledge and sociocultural ideas and perspectives. First Nations, Métis, and Inuit studies will help students develop the tools, strategies, knowledge, and habits of mind that will enable them to value equity and inclusiveness, effect change, contribute to building healthy and prosperous communities in a rapidly globalizing society, and support strong partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples and governments in Canada.

### Context

Our board services students from four local Indigenous Communities:

1. Bkejwanong Territory (Walpole Island First Nation)
2. Stony and Kettle Point First Nation
3. Aamjiwnaang First Nation
4. Eelünaapéewi Lahkéewiit (Delaware Nation)

## Truth and Reconciliation – Calls to Action 62 and 63 - Education

62. We call upon the federal, provincial, and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators, to

- i. Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties, and Aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for Kindergarten to Grade Twelve students

63. We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including:

- i. Developing and implementing Kindergarten to Grade Twelve curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools.
- ii. Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.
- iii. Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.
- iv. Identifying teacher-training needs relating to the above.

### Details

Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, all Grade 11 students of the St. Clair Catholic District School Board will be taking a compulsory new Grade 11 English course: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices. This course replaces the previous compulsory Grade 11 English course.

This new course of study will provide students with opportunities to read, write and discuss the works of Indigenous authors and creators, and to critically engage in Indigenous issues. Studies will explore the elements of a variety of literary, informational, graphic, oral and media text forms emerging from First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultures, in what we now know as Canada. The course will also examine the perspectives and influence of texts that relate to those cultures.

Students will engage in experiential learning opportunities and will create oral, written and media texts to explore their own ideas and understanding of Indigenous issues, with a focus on the development of the literacy, communication, critical and creative thinking skills necessary for success.

We have been working to develop local program opportunities to connect with this course and provide students with first-hand experiences and learning opportunities to increase cultural competency in our students and better prepare them for the future.

This is a prerequisite course for Grade 12, which will prepare students for the compulsory Grade 12 English course.

## Recommendation

**That the St. Clair Catholic District School Board receive the report: *Mandatory Secondary NBE 3U/3C English Course: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices*, for information.**