

MAPC POSITION STATEMENT

Approved May 2018

MAPC Statement of Belief

First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Parents and Families in Manitoba's Education System

- *Respectfully submitted by Manitoba Association of Parent Councils Board of Directors for consideration at its 2018 Annual General Meeting*

In June 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) released its Calls to Action to address the legacy of Canada's Residential Schools System and its generational impact on survivors and their families. Contained within these recommendations were a series of actions involving the education system and how it could contribute towards the healing and reconciliation journey for all citizens of Canada.

http://www.trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/File/2015/Findings/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

In response to the TRC Calls to Action, as well as in response to a media piece on racism in Winnipeg, the City of Winnipeg declared its support in March 2017 by establishing the City of Winnipeg Indigenous Accord, whose vision stated, "... *Winnipeg is a place where everyone has a voice, a place where people and the environment come first, where everyone has fair access. Everyone should be treated with respect and acceptance and kindness. Everyone should treat everyone kindly and equally and accept them for who they are because when you feel like you belong, you achieve freedom. United as one, and hopeful, we can work toward a peaceful and safe city.*"

<http://www.winnipeg.ca/indigenous/pdfs/CoW-Indigenous-Accord.pdf>

Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC) Board of Directors declared its support as a partner of the Accord in June 2017. As a signatory of this Accord, MAPC committed to participate by working towards three specific activities to support goals contained in the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action:

1. *The Board of Directors will open MAPC meetings and events by **acknowledging** that we live, work, and meet on Treaty Land in the homeland of the Metis people, ensuring that every MAPC volunteer, director, employee, and member parent group understands that the land has a deep connection to our collective histories as First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people, as well as settlers and newcomers (**TRC Recommendation 45.iii**)*
2. *MAPC will offer **opportunities** to its membership, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to learn about the history of colonization in Canada and legacy of the Residential School system through workshops and exercises coordinated in partnership with the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate and other partners. (**TRC Recommendation 10.vi and 10.vii**)*
3. *MAPC will offer its **support**, as a friend and ally of First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people and their respective school communities, to assist in the collaborative development of relevant resources, supports, and materials promoting the inclusion of autonomous parental voice in a variety of school systems, for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis people, as well as allies and partners. (**TRC Recommendation 10.v and 10.vi**)*

<http://www.winnipeg.ca/indigenous/WIA/PartnerGoals.stm#5>

ACTION REQUEST

In recognition of the Accord and on behalf of its membership and parents throughout Manitoba, the MAPC Board of Directors would like to share the following proposed statement of beliefs with its education partners and the media.

1. MAPC believes that our national and provincial histories have created a rich tapestry woven with inspiring stories of growth and celebration, as well as devastating tales of failures and tragedies. MAPC believes that each of these stories –the good as well as the painful - contributes to essential learnings for students, ensuring that all children in Manitoba will know how to contribute to building diverse communities.
2. MAPC believes that by acknowledging and understanding our collective pasts and responsibilities, every person can contribute to creating stronger communities and a Good Life for all children, parents, and families in Manitoba.
3. MAPC believes that it is important for every student in Manitoba to learn about the history and culture of; the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit (FNMI) peoples, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), the history and legacy of the Canadian Residential School System, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's Calls to Action. MAPC believes that engaging in diverse opportunities, resources, and supports are critical to student learning about these events and that school communities, in collaboration with families, are the most influential environment for that to occur.
4. MAPC supports the need for school communities to invite parents, parent councils, and communities to participate in learning opportunities dedicated to the history and culture of FNMI people, UNDRIP, the Residential School System, and the TRC Calls to Action.