



What is Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self Identification?

It is a way for parents and guardians to let Lakehead Public Schools know if a student is of Aboriginal ancestry.

What will Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self Identification information provide?

It will provide accurate and reliable information on enrolment, literacy, numeracy, graduation rates, and course completion results.

It will allow us to assess our progress and focus our efforts and resources to develop, implement, and enhance supportive programs to improve student achievement.

How will the data be used?

The data will be collected as a whole to plan and develop programs that will support student achievement.

Definitions

Aboriginal Peoples: As stated in the Constitution Act, 1982, Section 35(2): "Aboriginal peoples of Canada include Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada.

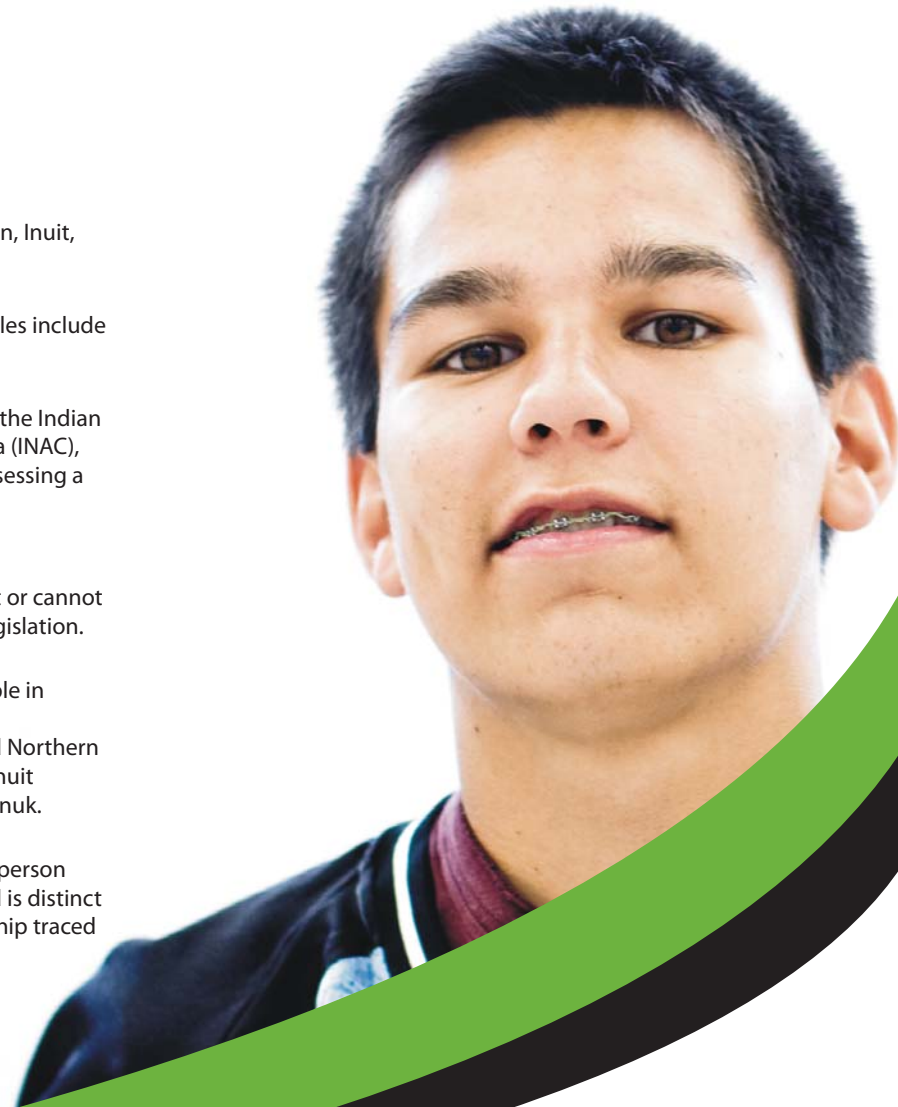
First Nations People: "First Nation" peoples include both status and non-status peoples.

Status: Refers to peoples registered under the Indian Act of Indian and Northern Affairs of Canada (INAC), holding certain rights and benefits and possessing a registry number with INAC.

Non-Status: An unregistered person of Aboriginal and mixed ancestry, who will not or cannot be registered as Status under the current legislation.

Inuit: Is a distinct group of Aboriginal people in Northern Canada, who live in Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec and Northern Labrador. The word means "people" in the Inuit language, Inuktitut. The singular of Inuit is Inuk.

Métis: Métis is a Michif word that means a person who is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples with citizenship traced to a historic Métis community.



Learn more about **Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self Identification** from your school Principal or visit us at www.lakeheadschoools.ca



Lakehead
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Your Children Our Students The Future

Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self Identification
Helping all students reach their full potential.

Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self Identification



Why does Lakehead Public Schools want to know this information?

In Thunder Bay, 42.7% of Aboriginal adults do not have a high school diploma (Urban Aboriginal Task Force, 2007).

Lakehead Public Schools wants to improve the student achievement. Accurate data that reflects our community is an important step.

The Ontario Ministry of Education is helping to create a better future for Aboriginal children and youth by making Aboriginal Education one of its key priorities.

How will the information be collected?

Lakehead Public Schools collects student information through registration and student update forms. This information is treated in the same manner as an Ontario Student Record (OSR).

The Importance of Participation

All students will benefit with:

- enhanced academic programming
- expanded Native Language programming
- additional artistic and enriched cultural learning experiences
- access to additional in-classroom resources and materials
- access to the Tutor in a Cultural Learning Environment (Secondary)

What will be achieved?

- improved literacy and numeracy skills
- increased student retention in school
- increased number of high school graduates
- advancement to post secondary studies

The Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self Identification Statement

This student is (check one)

- First Nation (Status, Non-Status)
- Métis
- Inuit
- Non-Aboriginal
- I do not wish to participate

Language(s) Spoken at Home

- English
- French
- Ojibwe/Ojibway
- Oji-Cree
- Cree
- Other (specify)

Helping all students reach their full potential.