



### I'm Your People

Educators learn how they can help with Indigenous reconciliation in our schools. On November 26, Dr. Niigaawewidam James Sinclair came to the Education Centre to discuss, "What Reconciliation Looks Like" for Indigenous people and for all Canadians.

"Reconciliation is going to need every single one of us to think about it," explains Dr. Sinclair.

He mentioned that there is still lots of work that needs to be done when it comes to reconciliation, and it starts with recognizing the wrongs of the past and not doing the status quo because it is something that has always been done.

"It might be that there are other ways to do these things. It might be ways that we can stop seeing Indigenous peoples as being inferior," Dr. Sinclair said. "But as offering important critical ideas in the ways that they have offered important ideas in the past."

He shared that he has even had these conversation within his own family. He had to explain to his Aunt that, "I'm your people. There is no your people." In other words, we are all connected and we should be treated with respect and dignity.

#### The Power of Education

Dr. Sinclair spoke very highly of teachers and their role in helping to push reconciliation forward. He mentioned that his father, the Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, was chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada. He showed the group all the call-to-actions that TRC created and out of the 94 actions, 48 of them are education-based.

"You are teachers – I think that you are more powerful than any minister, because you have the ability to affect people's lives," he said. "You give gifts. You shape perceptions and ideas and are made to be altruistic. A teacher can change lives."

At the end of the session, the crowd broke into smaller groups and discussed how they could make a difference in the reconciliation process. Dr. Sinclair inspired them to think outside the box and to be a part of the solution.

He said, "Education is what changes the conversation."

### Cannabis Edibles Consumed by Student

There is nothing more important than the safety of our students. With this in mind, we are sharing information regarding a recent incident and subsequent police investigation that took place at one of our schools.

On Wednesday, December 5, 2018 an intermediate student brought home-baked cookies to school as a treat. After consuming the cookies, the student who brought the cookies and a friend exhibited signs of consumption and impairment, and were taken to hospital where they were monitored for elevated heart rates. Appropriate authorities were contacted in relation to the incident.

As this incident was brought to the attention of the school administration, it was revealed the cookies were for medical use by a parent. The school administration followed our Police-Board Protocol in reporting this incident to police. The situation was dealt with quickly and efficiently by both school staff and Durham Regional Police Service (DRPS), and proper protocols were followed to ensure the safety and well-being of the students involved.

DDSB schools work proactively with Durham Region Public Health and DRPS to educate students on the negative effects of drug use, misuse and abuse. Drug use by students is a serious matter and is dealt with as such through progressive discipline and police intervention as necessary.

Recent legislation has not had a significant impact on how schools are dealing with incidents involving cannabis.

The Durham District School Board (DDSB) is responsible for public education in the rural settings of Uxbridge, Brock and Scugog Townships and the urban settings of Ajax, Whitby, Pickering and Oshawa. The DDSB employs 7,600 teaching and educational services staff. With 130 elementary and secondary schools and learning centres, the DDSB accommodates more than 70,000 regular day students and thousands more who take advantage of a wide variety of continuing education and adult credit courses. More information can be found on the DDSB's website at DDSB.ca. Like us on Facebook and Instagram, follow us on Twitter @DurhamDSB and YouTube at DurhamDSB.

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