QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Families of First Nations, Red River Métis and Inuit students are invited to declare their child's Indigenous identity within Manitoba's education system.

Declaring is optional and helps schools and school divisions better support Indigenous students.

Q: WHY DECLARE?

A: Your declaration helps school divisions to strengthen programs, services and supports designed for Indigenous students. This may include:

- Enhanced student services
- Culturally relevant learning opportunities
- Indigenous language and cultural programming
- Targeted academic supports

Declaring ensures your child receives the programming and resources that help them succeed.

Q: HOW DOES THE DECLARATION PROCESS WORK?

A: Indigenous identity declaration (IID) information is collected at the school level and reported annually to Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning to support decisions on programming, funding and resources for Indigenous students.

Q: HOW IS THE INFORMATION STORED? WILL MY INFORMATION AND MY CHILD'S INFORMATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

A: All IID information is protected under The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

Q: DO I HAVE TO COMPLETE THE FORM? IS IT MANDATORY?

A: Providing this information is voluntary.

Q: MY PARTNER AND I HAVE DIFFERENT INDIGENOUS BACKGROUNDS. WHICH BOX SHOULD WE CHECK?

A: Choose the identifier that is most meaningful or relevant for your family. Multiple boxes can be marked.

Check us out anytime
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/iee/identity.html

Manitoba

Q: WE DON'T SPEAK AN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE. SHOULD WE STILL SELECT A CULTURAL IDENTIFIER?

A: Yes. Cultural identifiers refer to ancestry and identity, not language fluency.

Q: WE MOVED TO MANITOBA AND OUR INDIGENOUS IDENTITY IS NOT LISTED. WHAT DO WE CHOOSE?

A: Select "Other" and write in the identity.

Q: THE SPELLING OF OUR LANGUAGE OR NATION IS DIFFERENT FROM THE FORM. ARE THEY THE SAME?

A: Most likely, yes. Many Nations and groups have multiple accepted spellings (e.g., Ojibwe/Ojibway/Ojibwa).

Q: DO I NEED TO DECLARE MY CHILD EVERY YEAR?

A: No. Once you have completed the new form (effective September 2026), the declaration remains on file.

You only need to update it if your child is new to the Manitoba school system or if information changes.

Q: IF WE CHANGE SCHOOL DIVISIONS, DO WE NEED TO FILL OUT THE IID FORM AGAIN?

A: Yes, the new school divisions will likely request that you fill out a new form when you change divisions.

Below are descriptions to support families and schoools when completing the IID.

Indigenous peoples in Canada include:

First Nations: Individuals who identify as First Nations, including:

- Status/registered/Treaty First Nations
- Non-status/non-Treaty First Nations
- Nations such as Dakota Peoples in Manitoba who do not have Treaties with the Crown

First Nations cultural-linguistic groups in Manitoba:

- ininiwak/nehethowak *(Cree)*
- Anishinaabe *(Ojibway/Saulteaux)*
- Dakota
- Denesuliné *(Dene)*
- Anisininewak *(Ojibway-Cree)*

Red River Métis: People with ancestral connection to the historic Red River settlements, the Red River Métis Nation. *(The Red River Métis - La Nouvelle Nation | Manitoba Métis Federation)*

Inuit: People of Inuit Nunangat, including but not limited to:

- Nunavut
- Inuvialuit Settlement Region *(Northwest Territories)*
- Nunavik *(Quebec)*
- Nunatsiavut *(Labrador)*

Other: Indigenous peoples who do not identify with the above Manitoba-based groups or are from other Indigenous Nations or groups from outside the province.