

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT STUDIES, GRADES 9–12

INTRODUCTION TO FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT STUDIES

Ontario is committed to ensuring that First Nations, Métis, and Inuit individuals – including survivors, experts, and communities – bring their perspectives to students' learning about our shared history and how it impacts us today.

This curriculum introduces students to the rich diversity of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit histories, cultures, perspectives, and contributions. Students will learn about the critical importance of Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing in a contemporary global context. They will also learn about Canada's relationship over time with Indigenous peoples.

The First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies curriculum includes ten culturally relevant courses that create connections to other subject areas including: the Arts, English, Canadian and World Studies, and Social Sciences and Humanities. These courses are electives that students can choose to take if they are offered at their school. They will help students gain cultural competency skills by increasing awareness of their own world views and those of others, and help students develop positive attitudes towards cultural differences.

This curriculum was developed in collaboration with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit partners to strengthen Indigenous education in Ontario.

CULTURALLY RELEVANT AND SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Teachers in this course offer learning environments that help students feel safe and comfortable in expressing their ideas, opinions, and needs. For example, teachers may work with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit community members on how to create a learning environment that is culturally safe. This will help students who may have personal experience, as individuals or through their family, with subjects such as the legacy of the residential school system. Learning opportunities and resources are available in schools and communities to support students both inside and outside of the classroom.

INDIGENOUS EXPERTISE

To support learning, school boards, schools, and teachers are encouraged to connect with: local Elders, Métis Senators, knowledge keepers, knowledge holders, residential school survivors, intergenerational survivors and Indigenous experts. They can offer their skills and expertise in fields such as history, the environment, culture, governance, and law. Indigenous community members can also bring both their knowledge and experience in how to present sensitive topics appropriately. This learning will benefit all students.

THESE COURSES ENABLE STUDENTS TO:

- make personal connections to enrich their understanding of Indigenous cultures, languages, histories, rights, and perspectives around the globe and deepen their appreciation of the role of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit individuals and communities in the development of Canada
- develop cultural competency by thinking critically and creatively about issues affecting Indigenous peoples and apply the understandings and key concepts of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies to real-world inquiries about diversity, nation-to-nation relationship building, the environment, social justice, and cultural identity
- develop skills in problem solving, research, and inquiry that may be applied across the curriculum
- build respectful and reciprocal relationships to support reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and Canadian society.

Treaty Recognition Week

The first full week of November each year is designated as Treaties Recognition Week. This provides opportunities to recognize the importance of treaties and to increase awareness of the treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people across the province. www.ontario.ca/treaties

HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR CHILD'S LEARNING?

- Ask your child about the most interesting thing they learned related to the perspectives, cultures, contributions, histories, and contemporary realities of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit individuals and communities.
- Talk about what respect, relationships, and reconciliation means to your child.
- Listen and share your thoughts.

Grades 9 to 12 courses in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies

Grade	Course Name	Student's Career Pathway	Course Code	Prerequisite
9	Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures*	Open to all students	NAC1O	None
10	First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada	Open to all students	NAC2O	None
11	English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices**	University	NBE3U	Grade 10 English, Academic
11	English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices**	College	NBE3C	Grade 10 English, Academic or Applied
11	English: Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices**	Workplace	NBE3E	Grade 10 English, Academic or Applied, or the locally developed compulsory credit (LDCC) course in English
11	Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Issues and Perspectives	University/ College	NDA3M	Grade 10 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada, Open, or Grade 10 Canadian History since World War I, Academic or Applied
11	World Views and Aspirations of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Communities in Canada	College	NBV3C	Grade 10 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada, Open, or Grade 10 Canadian History since World War I, Academic or Applied
11	World Views and Aspirations of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Communities in Canada	Workplace	NBV3E	Grade 10 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit in Canada, Open, or Grade 10 Canadian History since World War I, Academic or Applied, or the Grade 10 locally developed compulsory credit (LDCC) course in history
12	Contemporary Indigenous Issues and Perspectives in a Global Context	University/ College	NDW4M	Any Grade 11 university, university/college, or college preparation course in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit studies or Canadian and world studies or social sciences and humanities
12	First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Governance in Canada	University/ College	NDG4M	Any Grade 11 university, university/college, or college preparation course in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit studies or Canadian and world studies or social sciences and humanities

Compulsory Credits

Where identified above, students are able to use one of the above courses for a compulsory credit:

* Grade 9: The course entitled "Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures" may be used to meet the compulsory credit requirement in the arts.

** Grade 11: The course entitled "Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices" may be used to meet the Grade 11 English compulsory credit requirement.

MORE INFORMATION

Friendship Centres and Organizations:

- Friendship Centres are located in towns and cities across the province, and offer programming and events open to the public. Learn more about Friendship Centres at www.ofifc.org.
- Métis Nation of Ontario at www.metisnation.org.
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit at www.tungasuvvingatinuit.ca.

Ministry of Education Resources:

- Resources and information about Ontario's Indigenous Education Strategy www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/resources.html.

