



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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TO: Trustees & Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Brian O'Sullivan, Director of Catholic Education

SUBJECT: ***New Module: A Journey Towards Truth & Reconciliation: First Nation, Métis & Inuit Trustee Professional Learning Module***

Last year, the four systems of education in Ontario joined together via the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC) and the Ministry of Education, to produce a video and professional development resource module for Ontario school board trustees, about Indigenous History in both official languages. The module is entitled, ***“A Journey Towards Truth & Reconciliation: First Nation, Métis & Inuit Trustee Professional Learning Module.”***

The two-part video module focuses on the true history of Indigenous peoples in Canada and the ways in which school boards and schools are moving towards reconciliation. The videos and resources will provide trustees and school boards with context and an understanding and appreciation for Indigenous histories along with insight and support for building school communities where the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Ontarians is founded on mutual respect.

The role of school board trustees, working in partnership with their Indigenous partners, is pivotal to advancing reconciliation in Ontario schools.

While this video and resource module has involved all four school systems in Ontario, of particular note, are contributions in the video by the Kenora CDSB (Phyllis Eikre, Director of Education, Paul White, Superintendent and Sheila White, board teacher) and the Thunder Bay CDSB (Riley Yesno, former Student Trustee) to name several of the participants. We would also like to acknowledge Judy Ellis of the Renfrew County CDSB who worked as an advisor on this project and to acknowledge elders in her region who also contributed to this project.

This Module #20 can be found on the OESC's Trustee Professional Development Program website: www.modules.ontarioschooltrustees.org.