



BUFFALO TRAIL PUBLIC SCHOOLS – Have a Heart Day for First Nations Children

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This February 14, Buffalo Trail Public Schools will be encouraging all its learning communities to celebrate "[Have a Heart Day for First Nations Children](#)."

Created by the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada in 2012, the day encourages all Canadians to help ensure First Nations children grow up safely at home, receive a good education, have access to adequate health services, and are celebrated for their cultural background and identity.

"As directed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's [Calls to Action](#), BTPS schools continue to find ways to bring awareness to the traumatic impact of residential schools and the importance of celebrating Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing as a means of fostering a healthy relationship with Indigenous Peoples and furthering Canada's journey toward reconciliation," said Superintendent of Schools Rhae-Ann Holoien.

According to Holoien, the Commission's call for reconciliation has become a part of Canada's national identity and has been woven into the fabric of BTPS' learning communities through the support of a Community of Practice (COP) comprised of a lead teacher from every school. Meeting bi-monthly, this group supports teachers across the division by coordinating professional development, identifying resources, and incorporating Indigenous pedagogy and ways of knowing into the classroom.

"Across our Division, we hope to see an added element to the traditional Valentine's Day celebration, with recognition made on the importance of reconciliation and the commitment we share to the love and fairness for First Nations children," she said.

Some ideas for parents on how they can help honour the day with their children:

- Make some "Have a Heart Day" cookies for your child's class or family.
- Create "Have a Heart Day" valentines for children to share with their peers.
- Sing songs or read poems about the Indigenous culture.
- Take pictures of your "Have a Heart Day" activities and post to social media along with the hashtag #HaveAHeartDay

By celebrating together, we can foster this national agenda and build an inclusive society.