



Tri-County Regional School Board  
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October 1, 2014

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Tri-County Regional School Board set a goal for 2014-2015 to continue to promote and encourage the self-identification of all students.

Self-identification is important to our school system and to our students. It is essential to know who our students are and which communities we serve. It will help us to understand how our demographics are changing and how best to support our students and schools. Self-identification will assist us in determining the allocation of resources and personnel to best support the achievement of all students. We are encouraging all parents and students to identify their ancestry and Aboriginal identity.

Until recently, the student registration form limited a person's ability to self-identify. You could only identify one Ancestry and/or Aboriginal identity but now the new attached form allows a person to choose more than one.

We are sending the self-identification form to all parents/guardians of students from grade primary through grade 8 within the TCRSB. Our target date for this release is the week of October 22<sup>nd</sup> extending through to October 31<sup>st</sup>. Students from grades 9-12 will have the opportunity to self-identify during class time at school. We are in the process of working with community members in order to increase awareness of the importance of self-identification. We recognize that many parents have already chosen to self-identify, but we wanted to give everyone a chance to complete or update their designation especially in light of your now being able to identify more than one Ancestry and/or Aboriginal identity.

For further information regarding self-identification, please contact your school administration. I want to thank you in advance for taking the time to complete the attached form and returning it to the school via your child.

Regards,

Lisa Doucet

Superintendent

### **Why is self identification important to our system and students?**

- It is essential to know who our students are and the diversity of the communities we serve.
- It will help us to understand how our demographics are changing and how best to support our schools and students
- To monitor and support student success, in particular, those groups who have not historically experienced the success of others.
- To maintain initiatives such as student support workers and other support programs
- To monitor the success of our immigrant population and determine areas of additional support.
- To designate resources and personnel to best support the achievement of all students.
- To identify students who are eligible for designated scholarship and post-secondary opportunities.

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Rm \_\_\_\_\_

St #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## SELF-IDENTIFICATION

Parents/Guardians and/or students are encouraged to self-identify. By doing so, this enables the school, school boards, and Department of Education and the Tri-County Regional School Board to have a greater awareness of the diversity of the student population and the communities served and to better meet the educational needs of students. The following information is collected for every student attending school in Nova Scotia.

### ANCESTRY

This section refers to the ethnic or cultural origins of the student's ancestors from either/or both sides of the family. Ethnic or cultural ancestry should not be confused with nationality.

Please indicate the ancestry with which the student most identifies.

- Acadian descent       African descent (Black)  
 Asian descent       East Asian descent  
 European descent       Middle Eastern descent  
 Not listed above, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

### ABORIGINAL IDENTITY

For the purpose of this form, Aboriginal Peoples are persons who consider themselves to be First Nations, Metis, or Inuit.

Is this student considered to be an Aboriginal person?  Yes  No

If **YES**, please check the group that best applies:

- Status On-Reserve       Status Off-Reserve  
 Non-Status On-Reserve       Non-Status Off-Reserve  
 Inuit, please specify community \_\_\_\_\_  
 Metis, please specify community \_\_\_\_\_

First Nation (Band) please identify:

- Acadia       Annapolis Valley       Bear River  
 Eskasoni       Glooscap       Indian Brook  
 Membertou       Millbrook       Paq'tnkek  
 Pictou Landing       Potlotek       Wagmatcook  
 We'koq ma'q  
 Non-Nova Scotia Band, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

