



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

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Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WSD Partners with Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to Honour Indigenous Graduates, Including Graduates from Evacuated Communities

Winnipeg, MB – June 13, 2025 – Winnipeg School Division is proud to announce a special celebration to honour our 2025 Indigenous graduates, and this year, the event carries even deeper meaning. In partnership with Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, WSD is extending a heartfelt invitation to graduates from northern Manitoba communities who have been evacuated due to ongoing wildfires.

The ceremony, taking place on **Monday, June 16, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM at Duckworth Centre**, University of Winnipeg, will recognize the resilience, dedication, and achievements of students across WSD—and now, beyond.

“Welcoming these evacuated students is our way of honouring their hard work, extending our community, and showing them that we care,” said Rob Riel, Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Education. “At WSD, we lead with joy, love, and rigour. These values guide us in creating spaces where every student feels seen, celebrated, and supported—especially in times of hardship.”

This gathering is more than a ceremony—it’s a powerful act of community, culture, and care.

“We express heartfelt gratitude to Winnipeg School Division for their generous and compassionate gesture in extending an invitation to Grade 12 graduates who have been evacuated from their home communities due to the wildfires,” said Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Acting Grand Chief Gordon Bluesky. “This meaningful act ensures that these students are recognized and celebrated for their achievements despite the challenges they have faced. It is a powerful example of community solidarity and support for First Nations youth during a time of uncertainty.”

WSD’s annual outdoor powwow celebration was postponed last week due air quality concern in Winnipeg; however, the division remains committed to celebrating Indigenous excellence. This smaller indoor event will feature a Grand Entry, Honour Song and Dancers, a Round Dance, and greetings from WSD Kookum Marsha Missyabit.

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