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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Winnipeg School Division Honours Graduates at Downtown Pow Wow

WINNIPEG, MB — June 3, 2026 — Winnipeg School Division (WSD) will bring together graduating students from across the division for its first-ever Graduation Pow Wow at Canada Life Centre on Wednesday, June 3.

The historic celebration will honour all WSD graduates, welcoming students, families, staff, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community members, and dignitaries to gather in recognition of student achievement.

The event is expected to welcome approximately 2,000 graduating students, alongside thousands of guests and spectators. Pow Wow MC is Michael Esquash Sr. who will guide attendees through the significance and traditions of Pow Wow ceremony. As a learning experience, the event will also be streamed for younger WSD students watching from school.

The day will begin with a Grand Entry at 10 a.m., featuring approximately 175 invited dignitaries and partners, followed by honouring songs and Pow Wow celebrations led by six drum groups, including three WSD drum groups.

“Pow Wow is a celebration of community, belonging, and shared responsibility,” said Rob Riel, Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Education at Winnipeg School Division. “Bringing together thousands of youths is a reflection of what’s possible when they feel welcomed, valued, and celebrated.”

The Graduation Pow Wow creates a space where Indigenous ways of celebrating achievement are shared and embraced across WSD.

“This is a powerful moment for our graduates and our school division,” said Matt Henderson, Superintendent and CEO. “By gathering together to celebrate student success in this way, we are demonstrating our commitment to belonging, inclusion, and reconciliation while honouring the accomplishments of every graduate.”

Community members are welcome to attend and participate in the celebration.

Winnipeg School Division is the largest and most diverse school division in Manitoba with 32,000 students and nearly 6,000 employees at 78 schools. WSD nurtures a welcoming and inclusive



WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

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culture of people committed to working together to inspire students to reach goals and achieve academic success.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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Media Invited to First-Ever WSD Graduation Pow Wow at Canada Life Centre

WHAT:

Winnipeg School Division will bring together graduating students from across the division to celebrate their achievements alongside families, staff, community members, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and dignitaries.

WHEN:

Wednesday, June 3, 2026

Media arrival and setup: 9:30-9:45 a.m.

Grand Entry: 10:00 a.m.

Ceremony: 11:00 a.m.

MEDIA CHECK IN:

Please enter through Portage & Donald (Gate 1) doors.

Look for media sign in the Canada Life Centre lobby.

Media must have a wrist band and be accompanied through the building.

PHOTO / VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES:

- 10 a.m. Grand Entry featuring approximately 175 dignitaries and participants
- Approximately 2,000 graduating students gathered on the arena floor
- 11 a.m. Honouring songs and Pow Wow dancers
- Six drum groups, including three Winnipeg School Division drum groups

INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- Rob Riel, Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Winnipeg School Division
- Graduating students
- French-language interviews available