

NEWS RELEASE

Take the #WSDIndigidance Challenge!

June 7, 2021 (Winnipeg, MB) – The Winnipeg School Division (WSD) students and staff call on all Manitoba to take the #WSDIndigidance challenge.

June is National Indigenous History Month when staff and students across WSD learn about the culture, the stories and the arts of our Indigenous ancestors. To celebrate and include everyone in this month of learning, Indigenous Dance tutorials are posted on <u>winnipegsd.ca/challenge</u>. People are encouraged, challenged even, to watch the tutorials and then video tape themselves performing one of the traditional dances: Pow Wow Dance or the Red River Jig. Share the video on any social media platform and challenge friends, family and colleagues to #WSDIndigidance.

"We hope this goes viral in a good way and gives everyone a moment of lighthearted fun while also learning more about Indigenous culture and teachings," said Rob Riel, Director of Indigenous Education, WSD. "If someone wants to dress in full regalia for their video or if they want to wear casual clothes, we welcome everyone to take part."

Dancers are reminded to follow all MB Public Health orders when recording their video. The Challenge is open to individuals or groups (properly distanced and masked) from today, June 7 to June 21, National Indigenous Peoples Day.

WSD is celebrating 150 years of learning this year and has 79 schools, 32,752 students and 4,587 full-time employees. Its purpose is to provide a learning environment that fosters the growth of each student's potential and provide equitable opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and values necessary for meaningful participation in a global and diverse society.

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Media contact: Radean Carter – WSD Senior Information Officer (204) 789-0412 or mobile (204) 771-5352 <u>rcarter@wsd1.org</u>