



1577 Wall Street East, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3E 2S5

Telephone: 204-775-0231 • Fax: 204-772-6464 • www.winnipegssd.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WSD students gather on the land for learning and Pow Wow

WINNIPEG, MB — September 22, 2026 — As the season changes to *dagwaagin* (fall) and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation approaches, Winnipeg School Division students will gather at Naawi-Oodena on Treaty 1 land for a day of land-based learning, ceremony, and community.

On Thursday, September 24, Grades 1–8 students and staff from across WSD will take part in the Dagwaagin (Fall) Pow Wow and land-based learning day.

Taking place just days after the fall equinox, the gathering brings learning outdoors and onto the land. Students will move through learning stations throughout the day, taking part in teachings and hands-on activities connected to the land, Indigenous languages, culture, music, games, and Treaty 1.

Land-based learning will include fire and medicine teachings, trapping, goose harvesting, hide scraping, and a Michif fishing game. Other learning areas will introduce students to tipi teachings; Michif, Cree, and Anishinaabe languages; Indigenous games; Treaty 1 teachings; and opportunities to learn from Grandparent teachers. Music sessions will include drumming, Inuit throat singing, and jig and fiddle.

“Dagwaagin is a time of change, and gathering on the land at this time of year gives our students an opportunity to learn in a way that is grounded in place, culture, and relationship,” said Rob Riel, Assistant Superintendent of Indigenous Education, Winnipeg School Division. “As we approach National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, this is also an important opportunity for students to learn together, honour Survivors, and understand that reconciliation is something we continue to work toward throughout the year.”

The day begins with Grand Entry at 10 a.m., followed by the Pow Wow. Learning sessions will run from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. alongside the Pow Wow. At noon, a Jingle Dress healing dance will honour Residential School, Day School, and 60s Scoop Survivors.

Hosting the gathering at Naawi-Oodena (field near Kenaston and Grant), the land provides an important opportunity for students to learn on Treaty 1 land and deepen their understanding of this significant urban reserve space. This seasonal gathering is part of WSD’s ongoing work to support and advance truth and reconciliation.



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MEDIA INVITE

What: Dagwaagin (Fall) WSD Pow Wow and land-based learning day

When: Thursday, September 24, 2026, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Where: Naawi-Oodena, Treaty 1 land, field at Kenaston Boulevard and Grant Avenue

Please check in at the media table upon arrival.

ABOUT WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

Winnipeg School Division is Manitoba's first, largest, and most culturally diverse school division, located in the heart of Winnipeg on Treaty 1 Territory. Serving 32,000 students across 78 schools, WSD is committed to creating welcoming and inclusive learning communities where every student feels a sense of belonging and is supported to learn, grow, and succeed with joy, love, and rigour.

For media inquiries, please contact:

Jillian Recksiedler

Team Lead, Communications Services

communications@wsd1.org

204-801-9273