

What's in a Name?

More than 50 years ago, our school was named after Sir John A. Macdonald, Canada's first Prime Minister and one of the Fathers of Confederation. In recent years, we have all become more aware of his legacy as the architect of Canada's Indian Residential School System and the passage of the Indian Act of 1867. These historic events have caused irreparable harm and trauma to generations of Indigenous Peoples in Canada – still to this day.

Our school takes pride in being a safe space for all students and staff. Our priority each and every day is to create an inclusive environment where everyone who passes through our doors feels welcome and knows, without question, that they belong. Our current name does not align with these values, nor does it reflect our school community. We pass no judgement on those who made decisions more than five decades ago, but the time to make a change is NOW. That's why we're asking for your input on a new name for our school.

We need to ensure our future generations feel equal and protected. Our school must be a safe space for all, but a school bearing this name alienates Indigenous students. Students, families and community members have confided in me that having the name Sir John A. Macdonald prevents them from participating in school events. I have heard that many feel excluded as a member of the school community.

[The Legacy of Cultural Genocide in Canada \(Resources\)](#)

Watch this!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-SFcgtcUTjs&feature=youtu.be>

Link to POWER POINT:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jEYNh6rE2wHk9NmYXw7uvLTLoDXkkTL2/view?usp=sharing>

Please check our website for updates: <https://sim.hrce.ca/>

Renaming Process

I am pleased to invite interested students, parents, staff and community members of the catchment area to submit a new name for our school. The criteria below will be used for renaming our school based on HRCE Policy:

HRCE Naming or Renaming Schools Policy - Criteria

1.3 The following criteria shall be considered when naming or renaming a school:

1.3.1 Schools may be given a name that reflects the geographic location or the local community in which the school is located;

1.3.2 Schools may be given a name symbolic of the unique program focus of the school in the case of specialized or alternative schools;

1.3.3 Schools may be named after a person;

1.3.3.1 In the event a person's name is forwarded, the Governing Board will request the Superintendent provide a report that will vet this name.

1.3.4 Schools may be given names which reflect the cultural and racial diversity of HRCE;

1.3.5 Possible abbreviations and nicknames associated with proposed names shall be considered in deciding the school name.

A sub-committee of the School Advisory Council (SAC) will consider all names submitted, and in keeping with HRCE Policy for Re-Naming School Facilities, the four-member sub-committee of the SAC will submit three names to the office of the Regional Executive Director. We are very much looking forward to thoughtful participation. Please pass this request/link along to any community members you think may be interested.

Share Your Thoughts

Please submit your thoughts and ideas in this Google form:

<https://forms.gle/xEwxfgZVeTm71BWS9>

This link will be live starting November 12, 2020 to November 26, 2020.

No matter what our name becomes, we'll always be home of the Flames!

Thank you for taking part in this small, but important step towards Reconciliation.

Ms. D. Fitzgerald – Principal

Yours In Learning