



MOVING FORWARD

September 2009: First Nations, Métis and Inuit students face a number of cultural differences and challenges that make it difficult for many to be successful in school. Both School Boards recognize that in order to further the educational attainment of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, schools must take a leadership role to develop positive, supportive relationships.

Both Halton Catholic and Halton District School Boards are launching a new project called *Making Connections for Success*. The aim is to improve learning environments and outcomes for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. It will also raise awareness about Aboriginal culture, language, history and perspectives in both the Catholic and Public schools throughout Halton.

“First Nation, Inuit and Métis have long advocated learning that affirms their own ways of knowing, cultural traditions and values. However, Aboriginal Peoples also desire Western education that can equip them with the knowledge and skills they need to participate in Canadian society. First Nations, Inuit and Métis recognize that ‘two ways of knowing’ will foster the necessary conditions for nurturing healthy, sustainable communities.” (Canadian Centre of Learning www.ccl-cca.ca)

With the establishment of *Making Connections for Success* it is our commitment to embrace diversity, acceptance and respect that increase and strengthen the knowledge and understanding among all Ontarians of First Nations, Métis and Inuit governance, history treaty and Aboriginal rights, lands cultures and language.

Please review these Ministry of Education documents addressing the following:
First Nation, Inuit and Métis Education Policy Framework available at
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/policy.html>

and Aboriginal Student Self-identification
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal/selfID.html>.