

*Declare your child's*  
**Indigenous Identity**



**Indigenous  
Identity Declaration:**  
*A Guide for Parents  
and Guardians*



Indigenous Inclusion  
Directorate

**Manitoba** 

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Manitoba Education and Training is committed toward excellence in Indigenous education, a key component of public education.

**Indigenous Identity Declaration (IID)** provides parents and guardians of Indigenous students the opportunity to declare their children's Indigenous identity within Manitoba's school system. The term Indigenous comprises Canada's First Peoples within the boundaries of present-day Canada and includes Métis peoples. Providing IID information is voluntary.

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# *Why Declare?*

## **IID helps direct programs, resources and services to Indigenous students**

Manitoba Education and Training is committed to supporting the academic success of Indigenous students. Your declaration helps school divisions enhance services and supports for Indigenous students. By declaring, your child (children) receives the appropriate support and programming they may need.

## **IID information is accurate and secure**

IID provides accurate and detailed school level information and is recorded by schools and reported yearly to Manitoba Education and Training. Additionally, this information is combined to give a school division and provincial summary. Information collected through IID is protected under The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

## **Identifier Descriptions**

After extensive engagement with Indigenous groups across Canada, Statistics Canada has proposed a standard approach to collecting Indigenous Identity information in Canada.

The following descriptions are applicable when completing the Indigenous Identity Declaration:

- **ABORIGINAL** – Section 35 (2) of Canada’s Constitution Act 1982 defines “Aboriginal” as Indian [First Nation], Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.
- **FIRST NATION** (North American Indian) – Indigenous people who identify as First Nation include registered/status/treaty and non-status/non-treaty Indians. (ex: the Dakota people of Manitoba who do not have treaties with the Crown may still identify as First Nations people.) First Nations people identify with the nation to which they belong. There are five First Nations cultural and language groups in Manitoba – Cree, Ojibway, Dakota, Dene and Oji-Cree.

- **MÉTIS** –people of mixed First Nation and European or Canadian ancestry identify as Métis people.
- **INUIT** –people of Arctic Canada (primarily Churchill in Northern Manitoba, Nunavut, Northwest Territories, Northern Labrador, Northern Quebec and Northern Manitoba). Identify as Inuit.

## Language/Cultural Identifiers

The following descriptions for the distinct groups in Manitoba may help when completing the Indigenous Identity Declaration.

- **ANISHINAABE** (Ojibway/Saulteaux) – This refers to people of the Algonquian language family who identify with Odawa, Ojibwe/Ojibway/Saulteaux and Chippewa.
- **ININEW** (Cree) – This refers to people of the Algonquian language family who identify with Cree dialects (Swampy Cree/Ininimowin, Woods Cree/Nihithawiwin and Plains Cree).
- **DENE** (Sayisi) – This refers to people of the Athapaskan language family who identify with the distinct groups of Dene (T’Suline Dene and Sayisi Dene).
- **DAKOTA** – This refers to people of the Siouan language family who identify with Assiniboine, Dakota, Lakota and Nakoda.
- **OJI-CREE** – This refers to people whose language and culture come from mixed Ojibwe and Cree traditions, but are generally considered a distinct nation from either of their parent groups. They are considered one of the component groups of Anishinaabe, and reside primarily in a transitional zone between traditional Ojibwe lands to their south and traditional Cree lands to their north (in northeastern Manitoba, this refers to the Island Lake region).
- **MICHIF** – This refers to people of the Métis Nation who may speak the Michif language which is a mixed Cree or Ojibway and French.
- **INUKTITUT** – This refers to people of distinct Inuit language families (Inuvialuktun, Inuinnaqtun, Inuittitut and Inuttut).

- **OTHER** (please indicate if not on the list above)
  - This refers to Indigenous people who do not identify with any of the above linguistic/cultural descriptions in Manitoba (e.g. an Indigenous person from another province who does not identify with the above descriptions distinct to Manitoba may declare as Other, for example Mohawk).

## Frequently Asked Questions

*I'm a First Nation member and my partner is Métis. Which box do I check?*

For families who have multiple ancestral/cultural backgrounds, choose what is most relevant for your family. For more details, please see the IID descriptions provided or visit [edu.gov.mb.ca/aed/abidentity.html](http://edu.gov.mb.ca/aed/abidentity.html).

*I'm Indigenous but I don't speak any Indigenous languages. Do I still check any boxes?*

YES. The linguistic identifiers refer to ancestral/cultural identity, NOT your ability to speak a specific Indigenous language. Select the identifier that best reflects your identity.

*My Indigenous child is adopted but our family is not Indigenous. Which box do I check?*

Check the box most appropriate for your child's Indigenous identity. For more details, please see the IID descriptions provided or visit [edu.gov.mb.ca/aed/abidentity.html](http://edu.gov.mb.ca/aed/abidentity.html).

*I moved to Manitoba from another province/state and my language is not on the IID list. Which box do I check?*

IID lists the majority of the languages spoken in Manitoba. If your language is not listed, check the box labeled "other". You may then indicate the language spoken in the space provided or, if unknown, select "uncertain".

*There are so many languages to choose from and my language is spelled differently than those listed. Are they likely the same?*

Yes, they are likely the same. There are various ways of spelling the major language groups. For example, Ojibwe can also be spelled Ojibway or even Ojibwa. The same can be said of Inuktituq. It can also be spelled Inuktitut. Both are considered the language spoken by the Inuit.

*I declared my child's Indigenous identity a couple of years ago. Do I need to declare my child every year?*

No. The IID declaration form is provided to parents or guardians every year the child is enrolled in the Manitoba provincial school system. However, if you have already declared your child in a previous year, you do not need to declare your child again.

If your child is new to the provincial school system, or if you need to make changes to the declaration, you can obtain a declaration form any time from the school office.

*We've moved to a different school/school division. Do I need to declare my child again?*

No. If you have already declared your child in a previous year, you do not need to declare your child again. Your child's information will remain in the database throughout the child's education in the Kindergarten to Grade 12 provincial school system.

## **Contact Information**

For more information about the Indigenous Identity Declaration, please contact your child's school office or the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate at:

Indigenous Inclusion Directorate

510 Selkirk Ave

Winnipeg, MB R2W 2M7

Phone: 204-945-1416

Toll Free MB: 1-800-282-8069

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