

# Lambton Kent District School Board

## Indigenous Trustee Position POSTING

Effective December 2018

### The Role of Indigenous Representatives

Section 188 (5) of the *Education Act* allows for a regulation to provide Indigenous representation on school boards. Regulation 462/97, Indigenous Representation on Boards, lists the conditions for appointing Indigenous trustees, provided a tuition agreement is in place. These are:

- When the lesser of 10 percent of the students of a board or 100 students are from First Nations communities, the First Nations communities may name, and the board must appoint, one representative. That person is deemed to be elected to the board.
- When 25 percent of the students of a board are from First Nations communities, the board may appoint a second representative.
- When First Nations students number less than 100, or less than 10 percent of the total student enrolment, the appointment of the Indigenous representative is at the discretion of the board.

The role of all trustees is to help create the vision and set the strategic direction that will guide the board and its schools. As the representative of the First Nations community on the school board, the Indigenous trustee is in a unique position to ensure that the Indigenous culture is part of that vision and that the strategic direction of the board includes the interests of the First Nations community.

### Representation

Under the Education Act, Lambton-Kent may appoint one representative from the four First Nations; Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Aamjiwnaang First Nation, Walpole Island First Nation and Delaware First Nation.

The Indigenous Trustee will work with the Board and members of senior administration according to the Indigenous Advisory Committee. There are approximately 23,000 residents with schools located in a number of urban and rural communities throughout the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, the City of Sarnia, and the County of Lambton. This progressive system has 64 elementary and secondary schools, 22,000 students, approximate total staff of 3,400 and a budget of approximately \$257,818,950.

### Responsibility of the Indigenous Trustee

The Indigenous trustee is responsible for:

- monitoring the negotiation of the tuition agreement
- ensuring that the actions of the board reflect the tuition agreement
- ensuring that both parties of the agreement are fulfilling their obligations
- ensuring that mechanisms are in place for effective accountability to the First Nations community
- ensuring that racism and harassment are not part of the Indigenous students' experience at school.

The Indigenous trustee is also in a position to encourage the involvement of the parents and the First Nations community in the Indigenous students' education. One of the recommendations of the *Report of the Royal Commission of Aboriginal Peoples* (Volume 3, page 472) is that "all schools serving Aboriginal children adopt policies that welcome the involvement of Aboriginal parents, elders and families in the life of the school-for example,

by establishing advisory or parents' committees, introducing teaching by elders in the classroom, and involving parents in school activities."

Tuition agreements also provide for Indigenous representation on school councils and the school board's Special Education Advisory Committee. As well, School Boards are establishing Indigenous Advisory Committees to provide a forum for discussing Indigenous education issues (see "Models for Indigenous Representation" below). In these committees, the Indigenous trustee is usually the co-chair, and membership includes a representative from each of the First Nations communities that have students in the board's schools.

### **Qualifications**

Trustee candidates need not have a background in education.

- Band member of one of the Four First Nations (Walpole, Kettle and Stony Point, Delaware, or Aamjiwnaang).
- At least 18 years' old

### **Length of Term**

The Term is four (4) years effective December 2018. Starting December 3rd 2018.

### **Allowable Expenses**

Trustees are entitled to claim expenses related to Board business, including approved attendance at conferences under the guideline of the Lambton Kent District School Board Trustee Handbook. Allowable expenses include honorariums, travel, accommodation at conferences, meals, long distance telephone call, supplies and repairs to fax machines.

### **Selection Process**

Each of the four First Nations will submit the name of their candidate to the Four First Nations Education Association who will then select one to be named as the appointed representative. Each First Nation must then submit in writing, to the LKDSB, naming the appointed representative. The LKDSB will then appoint the representative as the Indigenous Trustee representing the four First Nations. The Public Sessions for LKDSB meetings are open to all community members.

Further information about the Lambton Kent District School Board is available at [www.lkdsb.net](http://www.lkdsb.net)

### **Closing date - October 26, 2018**

Interested applicants must submit a **1) Covering letter, 2) Resume and 3) Police Criminal Record Check** to:

Zandra Bear-Lowen, Education Director  
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Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Ontario N0N 1J1  
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