

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 14, 2011

TO: Board of Trustees  
FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools  
SUBJECT: National Aboriginal Day  
ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Margaretha Ebbers, Sean Lessard

INFORMATION

In 1996, former Governor General Roméo A. Leblanc proclaimed June 21 to be marked each year in Canada as “National Aboriginal Day”. This date was selected to reflect Aboriginal peoples’ observance of the summer solstice, an important time for many within Aboriginal communities. The significance of the event acknowledges the rights of Aboriginal peoples in Canada and celebrates the contributions and histories of the First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples in Canada.

Edmonton Public School Board has honoured National Aboriginal Day at the public board meeting closest to June 21 for the past four years. Each year a new teaching is introduced in collaboration with local Elders and the Aboriginal Education unit. This year the event and teaching will focus on the importance of giving and receiving gifts in communities, as part of a learning process that honours both culture and ceremony. Students and their families from different schools throughout the District will participate in this important event to celebrate the contributions of our shared communities.

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