

Niigaan Gdizhaami

We are Moving Forward Together

**Engaging Indigenous
Families and Community
with Ontario's Schools**

Sharing Ways to Build Trust and Relations

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Indigenous Education and Well-being Division

Indigenous Peoples, Lands and Territories

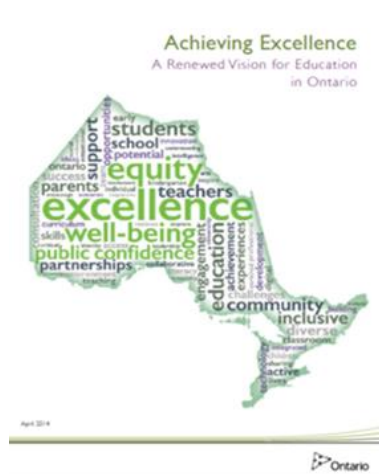
The Journey Together: Reconciliation



**“For the Child Taken,
for the
Parent Left Behind”**

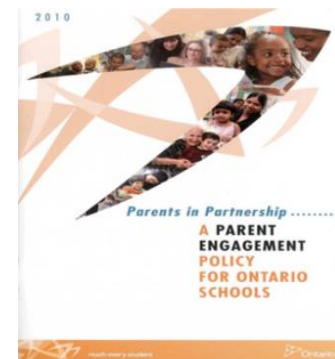
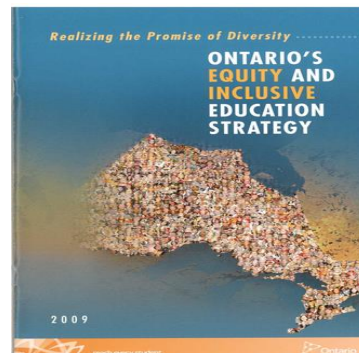
(Honourable Justice Murray Sinclair, 2010)

Achieving Equity in Education



“Ontario’s Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy aims to promote inclusive education, as well as to understand, identify, and eliminate biases, barriers and power dynamics that limit our students’ prospects for learning, growing and fully contributing to society.”

Ontario’s Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy, 2009



Indigenous Education and Well-Being Division

Develops, promotes and implements policies and programs that support Indigenous education, inclusive education, well-being and student , parent, and community engagement.

Parent and Community Engagement Office

- Regulation 612 / School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees
- Minister's Annual PIC Symposium
- Parents Reaching Out Grants
- Community Use of Schools
- 6 Regional Provincial PCEO and IEO Leads + FL Leads

Student Voice Strategy

- Student Voice
- Children and Youth in Care
- Minister's Student Advisory Council
- Indigenous Student Learning and Leadership Gathering

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Capacity Building Team – Ministries of Education, Advanced Education and Skills Development

Engaging Indigenous Families and Community in Ontario's Schools

Addressing and Overcoming Biases and Systemic Barriers

- Transitions, Orientation, and Supports

School and Board Councils including Parent Involvement Committees, Indigenous Education Advisory Councils

- Parents Reaching Out Grants

Building Safe Inclusive And Accepting Classrooms

- Culturally Relevant and Responsive

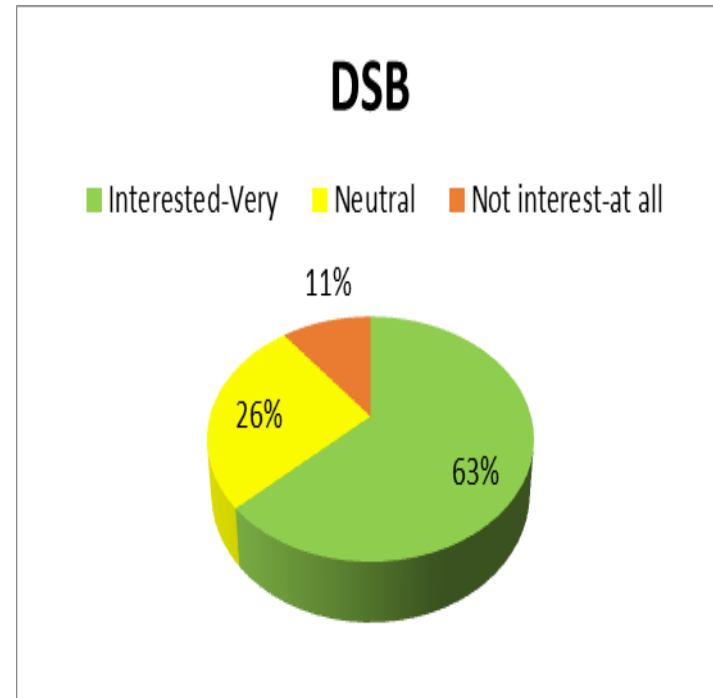
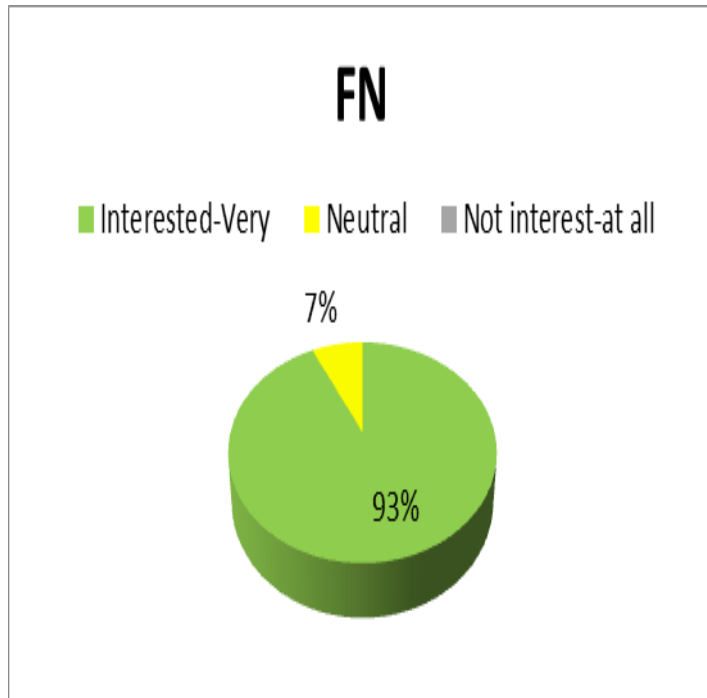
Ongoing Professional Collaboration

Indigenous Parent Engagement

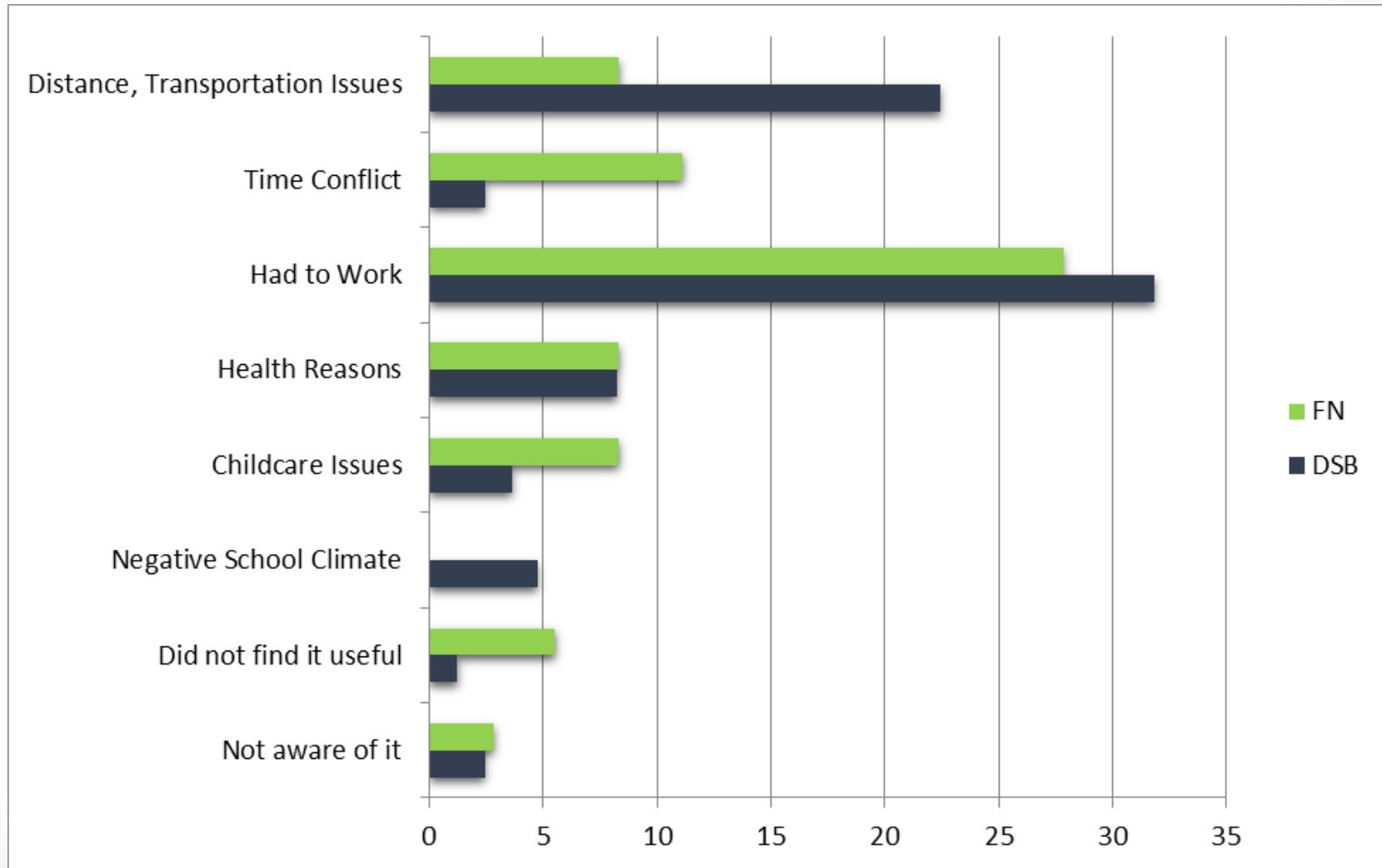
The need for increased parental engagement in First Nations communities has been documented in various policy analyses. (Chabot, 2005, Northern Policy Institute 2014, Senate Standing Committee on Aboriginal Peoples 2011)

- Negative educational experiences of First Nations parents (residential school experience)
- Barriers to communication (the traditional structure of school is fragmented, whereas First Nations is more holistic in nature)
- Lack of cultural awareness
- Limited understanding by public schools of First Nations issues and values (staff, administration, teachers, within the curriculum, etc.)
- Poverty and illness in First Nation families
- Lack of engagement strategies by the schools
- Intimidation, racism and bullying.
- Negative parent-teacher contact (frequently teachers and parents communicate only in negative circumstances or when there is a problem)

FN Interest in Decision-making on education delivery



Barriers to Parent Engagement



Chiefs of Ontario (COO), "First Nation Parent Questionnaire", 2015

Nipissing University “Biidaaban: Supporting Transitions into Community”

[music]

Engaging Indigenous Families and Community in Ontario's Schools

➤ ***Culturally Responsive and Relevant Transitions and Supports into a New Community***

What are some effective strategies or programs used by school boards and schools to transition, orient and integrate Indigenous families into a new school environment?

.... examples of interesting practices that enhance relationships between board/schools and neighboring Indigenous communities.

Engaging Indigenous Families and Community in Ontario's Schools

Parent Involvement Committees, Indigenous Education Advisory Councils and Local Parent/School Councils



Parents Reaching Out Grants

PRO grants support parents to identify barriers to parent engagement in their local school community

- Announcement in Spring 2018
- Opportunities for Adobe Webinar Orientation Sessions – IEO Leads



Parents Reaching Out Grants (PRO)

Grant Type	PRO Grants for School Councils	PRO Grants for Regional/Provincial Projects
Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School councils of publicly-funded district school boards in Ontario.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parent Involvement CommitteesNon-profit organizations operating in OntarioParent groups operating in OntarioPublicly-funded district school boards operating in OntarioPost-secondary institutions in Ontario
Maximum Budget	\$1,000	\$30,000

Engaging Indigenous Families and Community in Ontario's Schools

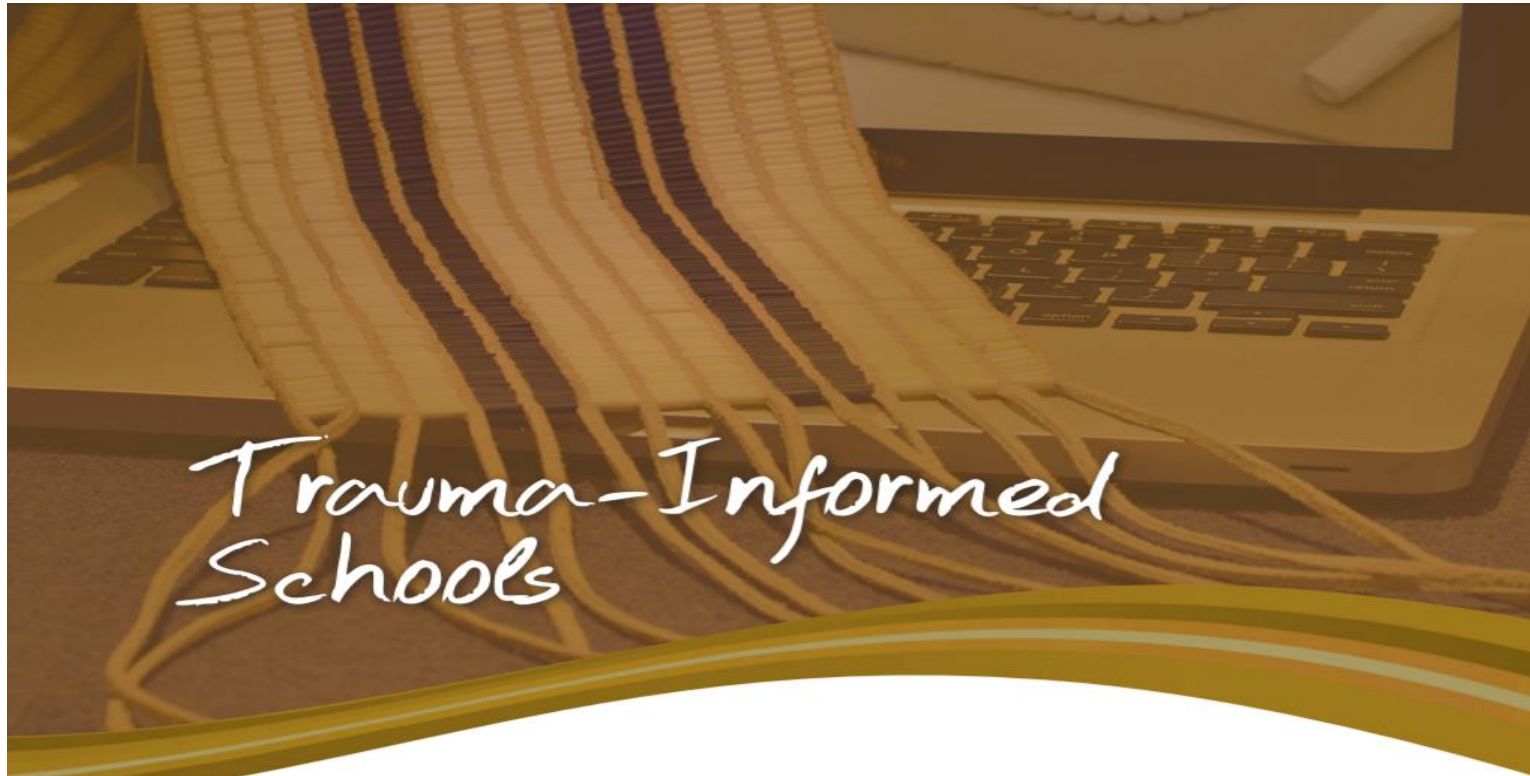
- ***Participation on Board Parent Involvement Committees, Indigenous Education Advisory Councils , and Local School Council***
- ***Successful use of Parents Reaching Out Grants***

“How can Parent Involvement Committees (PIC) and school councils be more culturally responsive?

... lessons learned from board Indigenous Education Advisory Councils

What has been the success/results of Parents Reaching Out Grants program (PRO) to engage Indigenous families?”

Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres



**“Ask me about trauma and I will show you how
we are trauma-informed”:**

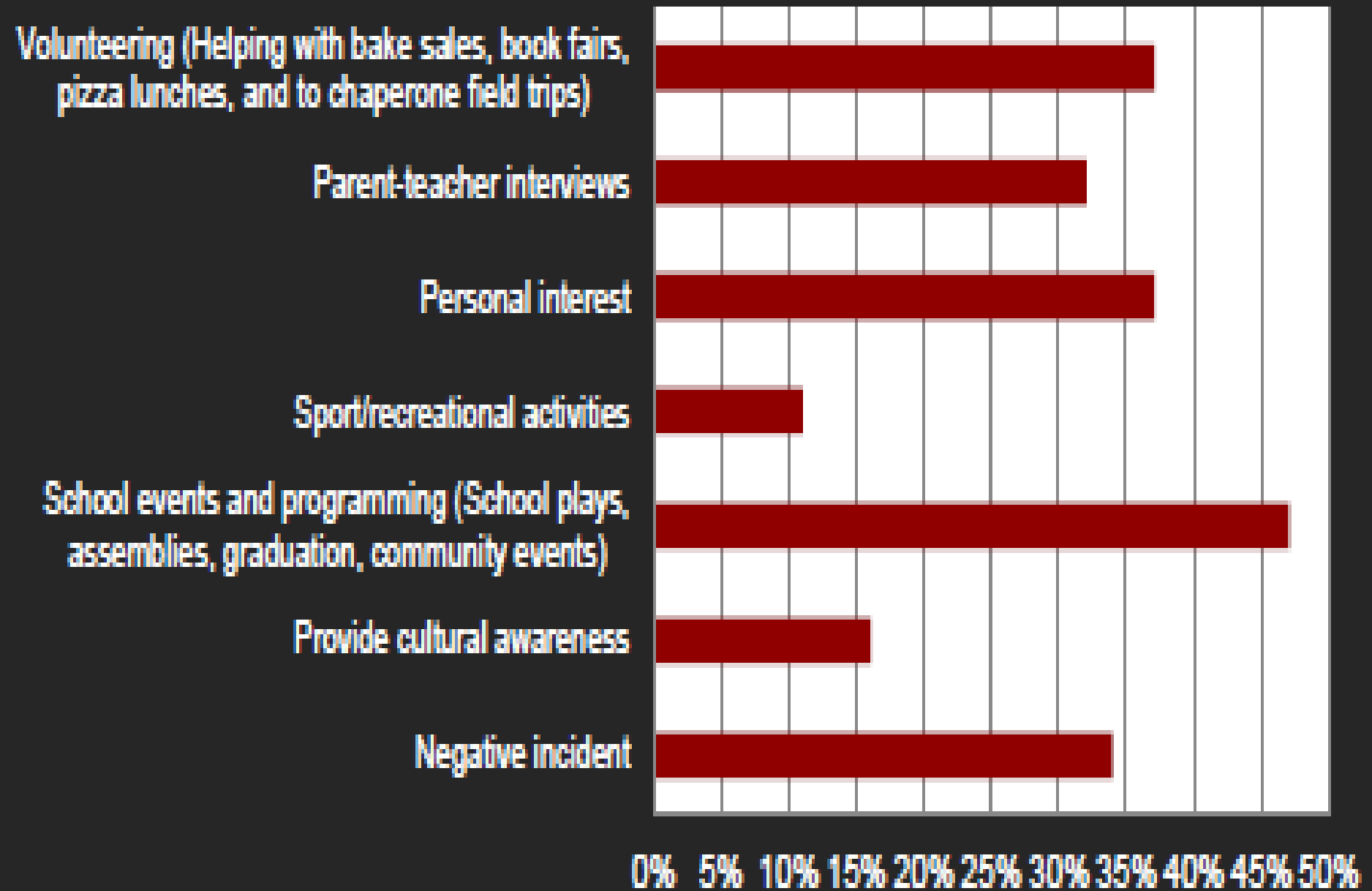
A Study on the Shift Toward Trauma-Informed
Practices in Schools

OFIFC Research Series, Volume 4 - Summer 2016



OFIFC

Ontario Federation of
Indigenous Friendship Centres



OFIFC - Enhancing Indigenous Family Engagement

- Recognition of local knowledge
- Cultural competency
- Culture based trauma informed practices
- Address fear and discrimination
- Inclusive positive spaces
- Increased academic supports



Onyot'a-ka
Oneida

Gawog'honö
Cayuga

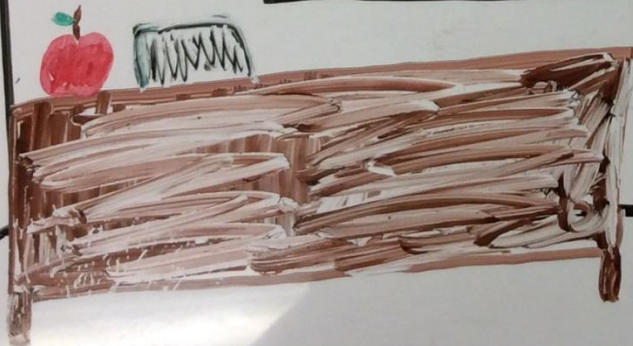
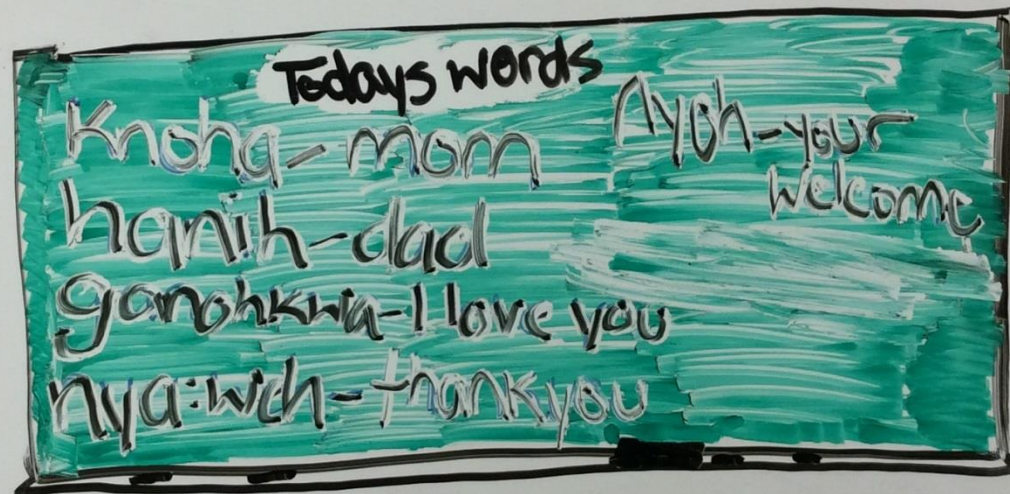
Skaröre
Tuscarora

Onondageo

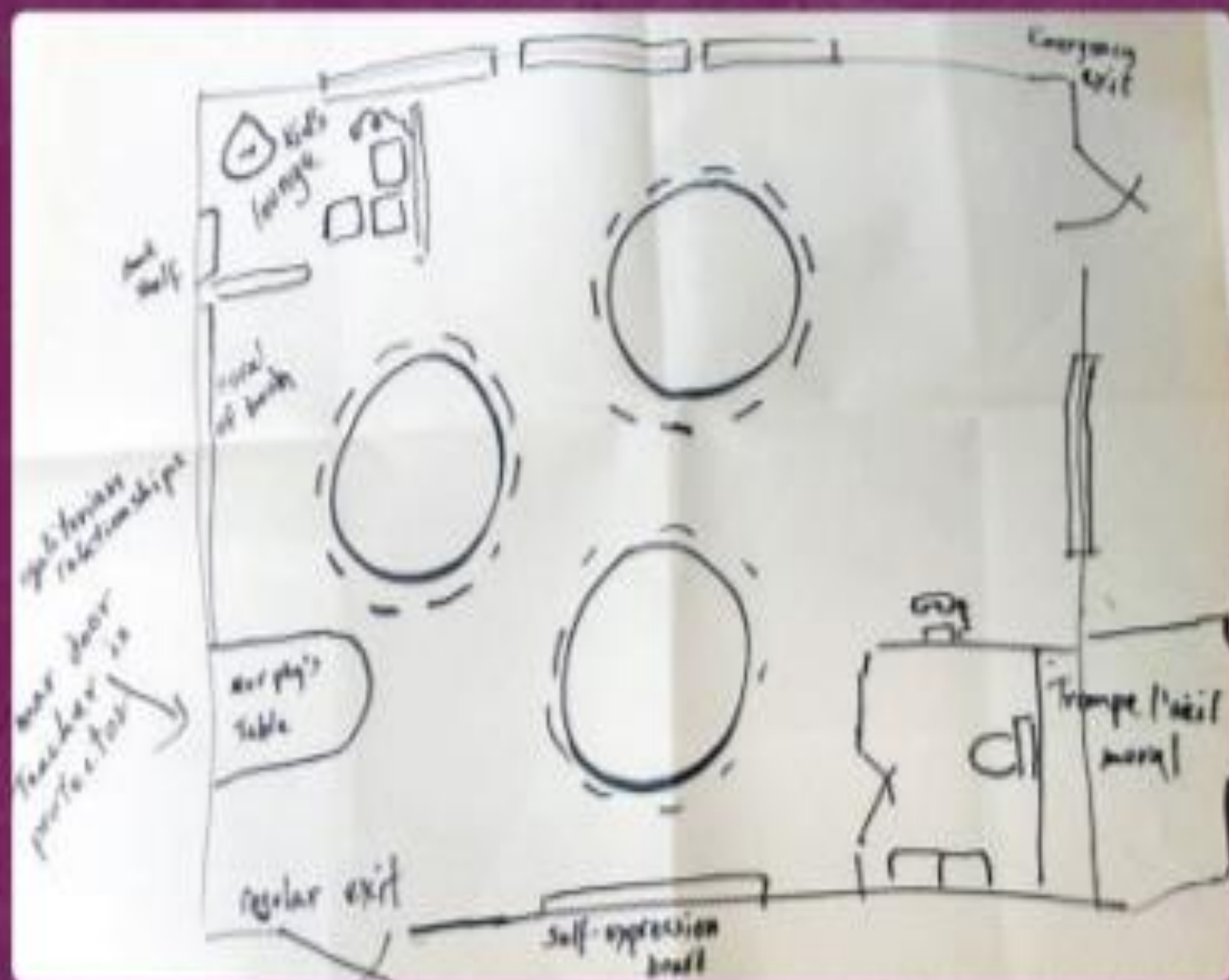
Onondaga

Kanienkeha
Mohawk

Onondowa'ga
Seneca



Activity "What Should a Trauma-Informed Classroom Look Like?"



Engaging Indigenous Families and Community in Ontario's Schools

➤ *Creating Safe, Inclusive and Accepting Classroom and Schools*

Effective ways for teachers and administrators to create a safe, inclusive and accepting classrooms and schools, where Indigenous students, families feel part of everyday school life?

.... Examples of successful practice, or initiative that build trusting and respectful relationships between Indigenous families and locals school

Engaging Indigenous Families and Community in Ontario's Schools

- Culturally Responsive and Relevant Transitions and Supports into a New Community
- Participation on Board Parent Involvement Committees, Indigenous Education Advisory Councils , and Local School Councils
 - Successful use of Parents Reaching Out Grants
- Creating Safe, Inclusive and Accepting Classroom and Schools

Ongoing Professional Collaboration

*How can the Parent and Community Engagement Office
better support your efforts to build relations with schools
and school boards*

- Our Journey Together -

*... Thank YOU for all that you do for Indigenous parents,
families, communities and our children !!*

Joy Geen – See You AGAIN!

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