



# Lambton Kent District School Board

*Student Achievement* ✓ *Community Success*

200 Wellington Street, P.O. Box 2019, Sarnia Ontario N7T 7L2

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May 17, 2017

Chief Joanne Rogers and Council, Aamjiwnaang First Nation  
Chief Greg Peters and Council, Delaware Nation at Moraviantown  
Chief Tom Bressette and Council, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation  
Chief Dan Miskokomon and Council, Walpole Island First Nation

Re: Update on Grade 11 English: Contemporary Aboriginal Voices Courses

During the May 9 Lambton Kent District School Board Meeting and the presentation of the Indigenous Liaison Committee Report, Trustee Rising shared the committee's recommendation for a communication about the positive efforts of the LKDSB in support of our commitment to Indigenous Education.

I am pleased to inform you of the expansion of the Grade 11 English: Contemporary Aboriginal Voices course across the LKDSB in the 2017-2018 school year. This mandatory NBE course addresses the English curriculum through the use of indigenous authors and teachings.

The Grade 11 course builds on the success of a pilot which started at Chatham Kent Secondary School in October 2015. Since its inception, the pilot has continued to expand and this year included 63 NBE English courses across the LKDSB, which complement the other 34 Native Studies courses in social studies and art.

Senior Administration, in consultation with secondary administrators, has decided to offer the Grade 11 NBE courses across all LKDSB secondary schools in 2017-2018. In total, there will be 126 N-code courses, which include 91 sections of the Grade 11 English course, along with social studies and art classes.

In support of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action as they relate to education, the LKDSB feels the board-wide approach to offering the NBE Grade 11 English course further demonstrates our commitment to supporting our students in learning about Aboriginal issues, histories and perspectives, and fosters a safe and caring learning environment that is strengthened by embracing diversity, and respecting self, others and the world around us.

The LKDSB is committed to building capacity amongst its teachers and staff through participation in professional development events, such as the recent Aamjiwnaang Education Symposium: "Reconciliation through Education"; the April 28 Professional Development Day for elementary teachers and staff; and the April 20 Indigenous Studies Teacher Training Day hosted by Delaware Nation at Moraviantown. The LKDSB continues to support student activities to engage and educate our students and build understanding, such as the Indigenous Youth Symposiums and a Pow Wow at CKSS.

I am happy to discuss these items with you further. Thanks for your continued support as a partner in education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Costello".

Jim Costello  
Director of Education

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