

DEHR Final Report for 2021-22

Dates of Note:

June 20th - Refugee Rights Day - consider the influx of refugees from Ukraine, as well as what our interpreters and helpers in Afghanistan are facing

June 21 - Indigenous Peoples Day - excited to hear / see through media what schools get up to!
Simple games, music, language apps

July 1 - Canada Day - opportunity to reflect on who and what a Canadian is. Recognition of our indigenous people, as well as those who are marginalized in our society or without basic human rights. Rights & Responsibilities to each other!

Thank you to everyone who is working for change in our local. This year we saw an increased focus in diversity awareness and education among our division staff and schools, and so happy that we were able to work together with the Women in Leadership to provide learning opportunities. I am pleased that I was able to assist and take some time to support teachers directly through the creation of some specific lessons and responses to issues that popped up in their classrooms, and this was supported directly by the school administration as professional development.

As part of the provincial DEHR, we just had our final meeting for the year. We discussed several topics that were around the current work with the establishment of racialized teachers working group, and also had some updates regarding some of the partnerships the ATA has with other organizations that support poverty initiatives. One area that we discussed that I would like you to consider at your school is the issue of period poverty. Schools often have supplies available on request, but we need to be aware that creating a step to access these products could be creating stigma and / or a barrier to access, in particular for our students who are non-binary or transgender. This is a good time to consider the structures and routines that we talked about in the last meeting, and which structures or routines are in place that may be creating barriers to access for our students.

As well, at our meeting we and were able to grant \$20,000 in grants for a wide array of projects across the province. I encourage you to consider ways that your school community could engage with this work and apply for some funds to help you get started on your community initiatives. I would be happy to help with any application ideas that you might have and give you some feedback!

Moving forward, I am hopeful that with the increased in-person capability that we can take on new initiatives and increase the involvement and the DEHR team in Parkland. Continued collaboration, networking and support for issues, book clubs, creating partnerships with community organizations like the food bank, and creating recognition of diversity through significant dates and activities are all on the play list for next year! Have a wonderful summer!