Mamàhtawisiwin

The Wonder We Are Born With

Summary of Manitoba's Indigenous Education Policy Framework

Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With – An Indigenous Education Policy Framework outlines guiding principles, strategies, and actions for achieving the intended learning outcomes for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students, and for all students in Manitoba.

Mamàhtawisiwin is a provincial policy directive and conceptual framework that supports the holistic achievements of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners by assisting Manitoba educators in incorporating Indigenous pedagogy, languages, and cultures into their teaching and practices. The provincial Indigenous education policy framework is intended to support educators by helping them to deepen their understanding and to progress along a path of Truth and Reconciliation in their schools, adult learning centres, post-secondary institutions, classrooms, and communities. It aims to empower Manitoba teachers to embed strategies and practices into their educational settings and classroom routines so that they reflect Indigenous languages, cultures, and identities. Ultimately, the core goal is to enhance the educational achievement and well-being of Indigenous students, setting them up for success in school and beyond.

The Vision of *Mamàhtawisiwin*

A path to an Indigenous-inclusive education system is grounded in Indigenous histories, cultures, languages, traditional values and knowledge, and contemporary lifestyles. An equitable, inclusive, and diverse education system fosters a sense of belonging in all learners so that they feel they can succeed, take responsibility, find their purpose in life, and achieve The Good Life/*Mino-pimatisiwin* (Ininew)/*Mino Bimaadiziwin* (Anishinabemowin)/*honso aynai* (Dene)/*tokatakiya wichoni washte* (Dakota)/*minopimatitheewin* (Anisininimowin)/ᐃᓐᓂᒋᖅᑲᒋᐊᖅᓂᖅ (Inuktitut)/*Miyo-pimatishiwin* (Michif).

The Development of *Mamàhtawisiwin*

Work for Mamàhtawisiwin began in 2015/16 with a working group from across government. Consultative sessions were held in November 2018 and February 2019 with over 100 individuals from across the province, including Elders/Knowledge Keepers, students, teachers, superintendents of school divisions, senior post-secondary administrators, early childhood representatives, and community partners. The Indigenous Inclusion Directorate Advisory Council has been the most recent champion of the framework, supporting final preparations for its release and implementation.

The timeline on the following page shows the key points of *Mamàhtawisiwin's* development from 2015 to 2021.

Manitoba

Mamàhtawisiwin Development Timeline

Mamàhtawisiwin has been several years in the making.
The following timeline shows the key points along the way.

2015/2016
The Aboriginal Education Directorate (now the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate) established an internal working group, to hold professional learning sessions focused on Indigenous learning related to identity, numeracy, and land-based education. This initiative was named *Mamàhtawisiwin*.

2016 to 2017
First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework, 2016–2019 was drafted, which included seven high-level framework principles.

2017/2018
The internal working group began development of the *Mamàhtawisiwin* Indigenous-inclusive tool kit to support Manitoba educators in incorporating Indigenous identities, languages, and cultural practices into teaching.

November 2018 and February 2019
Elders/Knowledge Keepers and diverse stakeholders met to discuss the concept of an Indigenous-inclusive education system with students at the centre.

2021
The *Mamàhtawisiwin* tool kit was positioned as the provincial policy directive and conceptual framework.