

Traditional Beliefs

We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on.

Louis Riel



Thank you to the participating schools, William Whyte Community School and Niji Mahkwa School.

We would also like to acknowledge past and continued support from the following organizations: Winnipeg School Division, Winnipeg Regeneration Strategy, Aboriginal Skills and Employment training Strategy and The Winnipeg Foundation.

“I touch my grandchild on the shoulder and tighten my grip.

Then I feel the hand of my ancestor on my own shoulder. I know then what I must do.”

Na Kara Puketapu

For further information on the program or if you would like the opportunity to help us expand the program, Contact:

Louis Riel Institute

103-150 Henry Avenue
Winnipeg, MB. R3B 0J7

Ph:204-984-9480

Fx:204-984-9484

Email:lri@mmf.mb.ca



STANDING TALL

A Program Initiated by the
Manitoba Metis
Federation



LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE
Knowledge • Culture • Heritage

The daily presence of people who really care is a powerful force. It allows students to view themselves as an important part of their own community. It reinforces the message that education really matters.

The Concept

Standing is based on a program developed by an indigenous group called the Maori in New Zealand, who wanted to support their children in school.

The New Zealand program experienced a number of successes, including :

- Reduction in absenteeism
- Increased motivation and confidence in students
- Decreased suspension rates

It is a simple approach to the mainstream school system, by placing full time Metis, First Nation and Inuit staff alongside students in classrooms. Each day, they support student learning while making links to family and community members.

Program Goals

1. To preserve and enhance Aboriginal culture
2. To increase Grade 8 completion rates and encourage Grade 12 completion for Aboriginal students.
3. To encourage the participation of Aboriginal youth in post- secondary education.
4. To assist Aboriginal parents to make the transition into school and/or training to employment.
5. To promote the involvement of the Aboriginal community in education and training initiatives.

Trained Project Staff

Staff from the community support students in their learning. Working mostly in the classroom, they assist the teacher in maintaining and promoting a positive healthy environment.

Staff give individual attention to students, addressing a variety of issues that impede learning.

The Community

The immediate community is encouraged by program staff to take an active role in students' lives by providing cultural support and guidance to students, staff and parents.

The Learning Nest

The Learning Nest is a vital component of the program. It is a separate room in the school where students are offered guidance and support academically and culturally.

Results

Positive outcomes of the program include:

- Tripled number of students completing Grade 8
- Increased attendance
- Decreased suspension rates
- Strengthened links between school and community
- Trained parents and community members.