

Equity and Diversity // Schools and Communities

People are gathered in a big harvest celebration outside the school, illustrating the value and beauty of diversity and feeling included in the school community.

Narrated Message // *Diversity, equity and human rights are fundamental values we can all cherish and believe in. Our knowledge, wisdom, experience and traditions can combine to create welcoming, safe, strong and free school communities. When all of us respect each other and work together, we help create learning opportunities that enrich our children's lives, broaden their horizons and enhance their achievements and well-being. Together we can realize the promise of diversity and shape a bright future for all of us. This holds true to the teachings of our ancestors that guide us to respect people from every race, the animals, the land and each other.*

IDEAS

- Knowing that welcoming everyone in the classroom, at school and in the community is important.
- Sharing information about the difference between 'equality' and 'equity', the value of diversity, the importance of equity and inclusion for student success on all fronts. Knowing how important it is for all students and their families to feel like they belong. Learning how to support diversity, equity and human rights.
- Making sure that everyone feels welcome all the time—in classrooms, schools and communities.
- Creating and taking part in activities that see everyone as important and belonging.

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Family Members

1. What are some of the messages in this film?
2. Why is it important to respect people of all cultures and origins?
3. How could you learn more about equity and inclusion in your children's classroom or school? How could your children share some ideas about how this might happen?
4. Do you feel that your community's culture and beliefs are included and honoured at your children's school? If not, what are some of the barriers to this happening?
5. What could the school do to further promote and honour equity and inclusion? How can we make sure that all children and their families feel like they belong?
6. What suggestions or personal stories do you have to share around equity and diversity?

School Staff and Community Leaders

1. What is happening in your classroom and at your school to foster equity and inclusion?
2. How can we help make sure Aboriginal parents feel like they belong? How can we help parents understand the value of equity and inclusive education?
3. How can you encourage parent participation that better reflects the diversity of your school?
4. What strategies do you have that might help strengthen the visibility and belonging of Aboriginal children and families?
5. Who are the key people at your school or board who might help with this issue?