

Project of Heart Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School

Pierre Elliot Trudeau Elementary School CLC

Western Quebec School Board



PETES, located in Gatineau, has several Aboriginal families and is working to support more connection between these parents and the school. By working on PoH and inviting parents to come on the bus trip to Montreal for the TRC gathering, interest from parents has greatly improved.



“Involvement in PoH has led to an increased sense of belonging and comfort level in the school/CLC in general for our aboriginal students and families. This has been reflected in CLC events such as Community Sports Nights where aboriginal family involvement has increased dramatically in the past three months. It was also apparent when we hosted our friends from Fort Albany Cree Nation and a number of our native families joined in our potluck celebration and basketball games!”

~Dermot Guinnane, CLC Coordinator



This school has one class in particular that has been highly productive with social justice actions, including creating a book called “Kids Have Power”. Having a teacher that supports community engaged pedagogy has certainly helped them to receive an award from the Canadian Coalition for the Right of Children, for Aboriginal focused initiatives at the Have a Heart Rally at Parliament Hill in Feb 2013. These inspired students created their own final art project:

“We decided to create our POH masterpiece with our very own Aboriginal student artists. We met with a group of professional artists and held a meeting with the First Nations kids to brainstorm ideas for an installation. It was at this meeting that the idea for the teepee was born. The students said it would represent bringing children back to their roots’, ‘back to their homes’.”