



# Parkdale Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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May 3, 2019

Dear families and community members,

On January 18, 2017, the Ontario government issued a memo regarding Indigenous Names, Logos and/or Mascots, asking that school boards review school logos, mascots and names and, if culturally insensitive branding is found, to work with Indigenous students and communities to determine appropriate steps to ensure safe and inclusive schools.

Since that time, HWDSB staff and the Indigenous Education Circle – which consists of Indigenous students, families and community members – have been meeting to consider our approach and next steps for the Parkdale totem pole.

In honouring the totem pole, which has historical, familial and spiritual significance for West Coast Indigenous Peoples, HWDSB is following the suggestion of the Indigenous Education Circle to remove the Parkdale totem pole in a culturally appropriate way. This will include an appropriate ceremony and creating a tribute to the history of the Parkdale totem pole, which will be displayed at the school.

We consider this a rich learning opportunity for our students, staff and community. We will be welcoming knowledgeable educators and members of our Indigenous community to support us in this process. We want to ensure our school culture and identity are inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

We expect that the totem pole will be removed during the late summer/early fall and incorporated into a historical display at the HWDSB Archives. In addition, our school will begin a rebranding process in September 2019 to create a new mascot and logo. We will be inviting our community to be part of these events.

We look forward to these opportunities to honour our Indigenous communities, as well as to honour Parkdale's history – and its future.

Thank you for your understanding,

Jackie Kurtz  
Principal