

# FAQ

## Raising of the Pride Flag, First Nations Flag and other flags at Peel District School Board schools and sites

At the Regular Meeting of the Board on May 22, 2018, Peel District School Board Trustees approved the following motion:

*Whereas, the Peel District School Board is committed to the principles of equity and inclusion;*

*And whereas, the administrative regulations of Board Policy #62 – Flag Raising, do not permit schools to fly flags other than flags listed in Regulation 298 of the Education Act;*

*Be it resolved that the Peel District School Board approve:*

- i) Revising [Board Policy #62, Flag Raising](#), to permit raising flags in addition to those listed in [Regulation 298](#) of the Education Act;*
- ii) Establishing a Committee, which will include Trustee representation, to develop an operating procedure that will include criteria for reviewing requests from individuals and/or groups to raise flags at all Peel District School Board schools and sites;*
- iii) Raising the Pride Flag and Indigenous Flag in the month of June at all Peel District School Board schools and sites.*

### What does the motion mean?

Pride Flags will be raised in all schools and sites in June. The board has consulted with The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the board's Indigenous Education Advisory Circle (IEAC), and will raise The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Flag, in recognizing their treaty territory.

As it will take several weeks for delivery of The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Flags, one will only be flown at the HJA Brown Education Centre (central board office) in June until the other flags arrive. This decision was made in consultation with The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the board's IEAC.

A committee will be established to develop an operating procedure that will include criteria for reviewing requests from individuals and/or groups to raise flags at all Peel board schools and sites. The board will also revise its [Flag Raising policy](#) to permit flags, in addition to those listed in [Regulation 298](#), to be flown.

**Will Pride and The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation flags be flown in future years?** A new operating procedure, which will align with revisions to the board's revised [Flag Raising policy](#), will outline the process for how we continue to raise the Pride, First Nations and other flags in future years.

## **Does the federal government permit the flying of another flag on the same pole as the Canadian flag?**

Where sites have only one mast, it is acceptable to fly other flags below the Canadian flag. The manner in which flags may be displayed in Canada is not governed by any legislation, but by established practice. The rules applied by the federal government are not mandatory for individuals or organizations; they serve as guidelines for all persons who wish to display the Canadian flag and other flags in Canada.

The Pride Flag and other flags have been flown on the same pole as the Canadian flag in neighbouring school boards and government buildings for years without issue. For more on National Flag of Canada etiquette, visit the [Government of Canada's website](#).

## **Why raise Pride and The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation flags?**

The board's motion to raise the Pride and First Nations flags is about acceptance and inclusion, but it's also about hope. It's about understanding that everyone should feel proud of who they are and that public education plays a role in upholding the inherent dignity and worth of all persons.

In the spirit of equity, inclusion and reconciliation, the raising of flags is only one of the ways we help to create spaces that are inclusive, welcoming and safe for students, staff and families. Establishing truly equitable learning and working environments requires these conversations to be ongoing and intentionally integrated regularly into these spaces throughout the school year.

## **How is this connected to the role of a school or school board?**

As a board, we are committed to achieving inclusion for all through continuous progress on equity. This is yet another step for us in our journey and aligns with our board commitment to supporting students from marginalized communities, including Indigenous students and students who identify as LGBTQ+. This work is included in the Peel board's strategic plan, our [Plan for Student Success](#).

Flying Pride and The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation flags demonstrates that our schools are safe, inclusive and welcoming environments where our students, staff and families who identify as Indigenous and/or LGBTQ+ are accepted and supported. Environments like this inspire success, confidence and hope—the mission of the Peel board.

With the raising of the Pride Flag, we hope to send a message that we are also committed to standing against homophobia and transphobia in all its forms.

In addition, the Education Act in Ontario, and most specifically, the Safe Schools Act, requires all Ontario school boards to have both preventative and responsive strategies to create and sustain inclusive and safe cultures and learning environments where all students report a sense of belonging.

The raising of Pride and The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation flags at Peel board sites and schools, and at neighbouring boards and municipalities, is consistent with the Ontario and

Canadian practices of showing support for the Human Rights of people protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Human Rights Code.

**Why is there a Pride Flag?**

Today it is fairly common to see the Pride Flag flying outside of homes and outside of LGBTQ+ establishments and it serves as a welcoming sign of safety, security, community and love. To learn more about the history of the Pride Flag, visit the [Stop Homophobia website](#).