



# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## STUDENTS LEARN CANADIAN HISTORY FROM INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

### *The KAIROS Blanket Exercise*

**TORONTO:** The Toronto Catholic District School Board has partnered with The [Mary Ward Centre](#) to introduce the [KAIROS Blanket Exercise](#) for TCDSB students. This day-long experience teaches students Canadian History from an Indigenous perspective. Every Wednesday, until the end of May, students from grades 4-12 across the Board will have the opportunity to participate in this day of learning and reflection. Elder Bob Phillips and other facilitators guide the students in this educational, impactful and often emotional exercise.

Participants take on the roles of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Standing on blankets that represent the land, they walk through the stages of pre contract, treaty-making, colonization and resistance. Blankets are removed bit by bit to signify the variety of ways colonization over a 500-year history impacted FNMI peoples to such an extent leaving them isolated, alone, and with a decimated population.



“Our staff is committed to connecting our students with the Indigenous perspective and helping them understand the relationship we all have with Indigenous peoples,” says TCDSB Director of Education Angela Gauthier. “Programs such as this especially during this, Treaties Recognition Week, encourages us all to stand in solidarity with Canada’s Indigenous Peoples.

“This partnership with the Mary Ward Centre and KAIROS demonstrates our collective desire to journey through and learn from the truth and reconciliation process with our students and staff” says TCDSB Chair of the Board, Angela Kennedy. “The program enriches our students learning about the histories, cultures, contributions and perspectives of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples in Canada.”

The Mary Ward Centre for Education, Spirituality and Justice is a Ministry of the Loretto Sisters ([IBVM Canada](#)). The aim of the Centre is to promote peace, justice and the integrity of creation.

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*The Toronto Catholic District School Board educates more than 92,000 students from diverse cultures and language backgrounds in 201 Catholic elementary and secondary schools, serving over half-a-million Catholic school supporters across the City of Toronto. As the world’s largest publicly funded Catholic school system, we educate students in an inclusive learning community rooted in the love of Christ, where they are challenged to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity. At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action.*

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