

June 7, 2017

The Honourable Kathleen Wynne
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A1

The Honourable Mitzie Hunter

Ministry of Education
22nd Floor, Moat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

The Honourable David Zimmer

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
Suite 400
160 Bloor Street East
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2E6

The Honourable Norm Miller
Room 440, Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1A8

Premier Wynne, MPPs Hunter, Zimmer and Miller;

We want to address the lack of representation of the indigenous community in our education system. In Grade 11 we studied the book 'Indian Horse' which opened our eyes to the abhorrent treatment of indigenous people, particularly children, in our country's disgraceful residential school system.

Our dark past and troubled present were touched upon lightly throughout our education but after studying the treatment of indigenous peoples in our English class we feel that future students should be given the opportunity to study this issue in depth.

Not everyone knows how important this is. It's difficult coming from a place of privilege to understand the extent to which the indigenous community has suffered and continues to suffer. Before the average student knows about the problem they are likely to ignore it as something too big, too complicated and too ingrained for them to do anything about.

Therefore we recommend that all students in Ontario be required to take a mandatory indigenous studies class in high school. It is only through education for

everyone that we will learn to take full responsibility for all of our roles in the ongoing cultural genocide of the First Nations people of Canada.

Amanda Steel-Coke
Grade 11 Student
Huntsville High School

Jennifer Rosewarne's English Class of 2017

We the undersigned support the call for mandatory indigenous studies education in the Ontario school system.

Name

email address

Address
