



Indigenous Perspectives and Engagement... Understanding, Supporting and Knowing Well-being

INTRODUCTION:

The Ontario Native Education Association (ONECA) would like to invite all ONECA members, Indigenous Counsellors, Educators, Student Advisors, Members, FNMI Leads, and other Professionals who work with Indigenous students from Kindergarten to grade 12 to participate in a TWO day engagement session. This event will be held at the **Water Tower Inn in Sault Ste. Marie on Oct 23 & 24, 2017** and it will be the beginning of a dialogue to examine and gain an insight from an Indigenous perspective in schools on Well-being. This is our opportunity to ensure that our voice is included in the Ministry of Education Well-being Strategy so we can strengthen our systems to support student outcomes and achievement. We need you to share your view on what Well-being looks like through an Indigenous lens.

The Engagement sessions will be based on the sweet grass teachings and principles of weaving mind, body and spirit together to make a braid. There are three components of the Ministry's Strategy; Understanding Well-being, Promoting and Supporting Student Well Being and Knowing Our Impact that we need to address. The Session is free for members to attend.

As the majority of our members are counselors and student support workers, you will be able to provide valuable information and be strong contributors to this conversation because you are the frontline workers. By participating in this exercise ONECA is fulfilling our mandate to our counselors by providing you with valuable information that you can use as a tool to strengthen the systems at the community level and we are also providing a critical piece that needs to be examined to support the Ministry of Education Well-being The information gathered will be compiled into a report based on the conversations and feedback from our members. The following three areas will be the focal points for discussion and the responses will be recorded.

We want to hear from you...Please join us as your contribution is much needed and appreciated. You, as educators, have the vision, the knowledge, the wherewithal and the experience to help us pave our way into the future. You an asset today and tomorrow and we could not accomplish what we do without your support and guidance.