

First Indigenous Student Trustee inducted at Peel District School Board (PDSB)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mississauga, ON - August 29, 2024 – At PDSB’s August 28th board meeting, Kawela²tsátste (Austin Chrisjohn) from Erindale Secondary School was inducted as the first Indigenous Student Trustee, alongside with two other Student Trustees, Justin Ko from The Woodlands Secondary School and Pradwit Thapa from Mississauga Secondary School.

All three students were inducted onto the Board of Trustees and will represent the student voice for the 2024-2025 school year.

Austin is also a member of the Oneida of the Thames First Nation. He was elected through an internal process supported by The Maawnjiding Wiingushkeng Centre for Indigenous Excellence and Land Based Learning.

His platform aims to support the priorities and needs of First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in PDSB and ensure their sovereignty and rights are being upheld.

"Congratulations to student trustees Austin, Justin and Pradwit, who each bring unique voices, perspectives and experiences to our board community. We are proud to celebrate Austin, the first ever Indigenous Student Trustee in PDSB. Recognizing the importance of representation, Austin's appointment reflects our commitment to Indigenous educational sovereignty and reconciliation. We look forward to the positive impact the three student trustees will make as advocates for all students in PDSB." - *Rashmi Swarup, Director of Education*

The creation of this role, increased the number of PDSB student trustees from two to three. Including an Indigenous student who self-identifies as First Nations, Métis or Inuit, is the result of a motion that was approved by the board of Trustees in January of 2023.

PDSB is committed to Indigenous Educational Sovereignty, reconciliation and recognizes the importance of representation.

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