



# COLLÈGE GARDEN CITY COLLEGIATE

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*PRINCIPAL:*  
Tony Kreml

*VICE-PRINCIPALS:*  
Jean-François Godbout  
Missy Penner  
Gary Jackson

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Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Dear Students and GC Families:

In the past couple of weeks, the attention of the world has focused on the tragic death of George Floyd, the collective grief and the subsequent protests for racial equity. This is an important time to communicate with our community so that we can lead and further develop our efforts to achieve a more empathetic and equitable world.

We stand and support those students who have advocated and continue to advocate for the Black Lives Matter Movement. Your activism is brave, you have spoken up and we hear you.

Black people, Indigenous people, people of colour and people within the 2SLGBTQQIA community experience racism and discrimination. We stand with and stand up for those who have been discriminated against.

Canada was built on the lands of the Indigenous Peoples. We are reminded that Collège Garden City Collegiate is located on the original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Ojibwe-Cree, Dakota and Dene Peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We respect the treaties that were made on these territories, acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration.

Garden City will focus on taking an active approach to further develop anti-racism efforts and practices to strengthen our school community. This Includes:

- Professional development that focuses on equity and culturally responsive teaching for all staff.
- Ongoing participation in divisional professional development that focuses on equity and a commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action.
- Ensuring diverse student groups such as the Black Student Union, Indigenous Leadership Group, and GSA are supported with budgets and mentorship.
- Ongoing participation in our Divisional Grad Powwow.
- The development of a Student Advisory Council, representing the diversity of Garden City, to meet monthly and offer their voices when decisions around their educational experience are made.
- Designing curriculum around relevant, real world situations in an effort to promote civic action and social justice.

Here is what we ask of Garden City students

- Do not use racial slurs or other hateful speech. Call this out when you hear it. Say something or at the very least see an adult you trust to help with this.
- Be open to conversations around race. Listen to those who have different experiences from you. Be willing to not only learn but also unlearn what may not be true.
- Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters. Use your platforms to amplify the voices of those who have historically been silenced.

We can and must do better so that our students lead a world that believes in the dignity of all people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Kreml', written in a cursive style.

Tony Kreml  
Principal  
Collège Garden City Collegiate