

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**RETSD school raising tipi for new outdoor Indigenous learning space**

(June 7, 2019) Kildonan-East Collegiate will celebrate the completion of a new outdoor Indigenous learning space when they hold a tipi-raising ceremony on Monday, June 10, 4:30–6:30 p.m., on the front lawn of the school at 845 Concordia Ave.

The addition of a 20-foot tipi is the final stage in creating the space, which includes a traditional learning circle and Indigenous medicine garden, taking Indigenous education beyond the classroom. Elders Norman Meade and Carol Moar will be on hand to bless ceremony, feast and the tipi and explain the Tipi Teachings (the meaning of each pole).

“Our students came to us last year with the idea of creating this space, including the tipi,” says Luke Klassen, a teacher at Kildonan-East Collegiate. “Learning about Tipi Teachings through hands-on experiences like this has really engaged students and made them eager to learn more about Indigenous culture.”

The project was led by the First Nations Together student leadership group at Kildonan-East Collegiate. Current and former group members will be at the celebration to speak about the purpose of the tipi and their experiences in creating the learning space. The group will raise the tipi, along with students from the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies class.

“It’s important to show our commitment to truth and reconciliation,” says Darwin MacFarlane, principal of KEC. “We’re excited for how this new space will enhance student learning now and into the future.”

The drum group Buffalo Red Thunder will drum and sing at the event. The tipi will stay up until the end of the school year and will be raised at various times going forward as a learning and gathering space. All are welcome to attend the ceremony.

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