



AGA/AGM  
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## RECOGNITION OF AN INDIGENOUS ELDER

### Catherine (Chickadee) Richard

This recognition pays tribute to the contributions of an Indigenous Elder to public education in Canada.

*Nominated by the Manitoba Teachers' Society (MTS)*



Chickadee Richard (Benais Quimiwin lkwe) is a member of the Sandy Bay First Nation. She is a proud Anishinaaba kwe who has dedicated her life to the betterment of our land and water, and the safety of the community.

Chickadee believes that education is imperative to create change and justice. She has spent over three decades working with a variety of organizations and communities to support healing, to advocate for Indigenous rights and to create awareness about the beauty of Indigenous peoples and their culture.

Chickadee has worked tirelessly to create pathways for Indigenous peoples to reclaim their identity, to heal from colonial trauma and to build learning and caring relationships with

non-Indigenous people.

She has worked with the Louis Riel School Division in Winnipeg as a member of the Indigenous Council of Grandmothers and Grandfathers. This Council supports teachers and students as they learn about Indigenous ways of knowing and being. The Superintendent regularly consults with the Council to gain their insight on improving equity, inclusion and well-being for all staff, students, and families within the division.

Chickadee was one of the lead Elders who advised on the development of Manito Ahbee Aki, which translates to "the place where the Creator sits", a video game that transports players to Manito Ahbee, a site located in Manitoba's Western Whiteshell area before European contact in North America. In this virtual world, developed in partnership with Microsoft Canada, students explore Indigenous ways of knowing and being prior to colonial contact.