



Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards

AWARD OVERVIEW

The *Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards* recognize Indigenous students who model strength and commitment as they pursue their personal educational paths. This award is a part of the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Board of Trustees' commitment to reconciliation. It is linked to the Board's strategic priorities of celebrating Indigenous culture and language and building strong communities.

These awards celebrate the unique qualities of students who inspire their peers, teachers, education leaders, and community members while celebrating the ways of their people. Indigenous students are encouraged to embrace their own gifts, strengths and potential, while respecting other students to do the same in their own ways.

AWARD PARAMETERS

Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards are presented annually to Indigenous students selected by an awards committee. The committee will consider Indigenous student nominees who attend a YK1 Education District school and have been nominated by members of their educational community based on their exemplary leadership, honour, courage and commitment to their own education path.

Celebrated attitudes, actions, and characteristics of nominees include:

- Embracing their cultural identity and promoting the strength, beauty and value of their culture and community;
- Modelling cultural leadership to inspire their peers to pursue their own dreams and goals;
- Demonstrating honesty and honour in daily encounters with school community members;
- Personification of the values (or spirit) of Dene Laws and/or their Indigenous values and teachings;
- Demonstrating how to be empathetic by understanding and respecting other points of view;
- Understanding and sharing the Indigenous history and culture of Yellowknife;
- Demonstrating a commitment to taking care of the land;
- Demonstrating that diversity is a strength and should be understood, respected and affirmed, and
- Demonstrating that citizenship is lived, relational and experiential.

CATEGORIES

Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards are divided into grade categories. The number of awards per grade category per year is not limited; however, a student may only be awarded once per grade category.

- Junior Kindergarten - Grade 2
- Grades 3 - 5
- Grades 6 - 8
- Grades 9 - 12

NOMINATIONS

Students may be nominated by other students, teachers, administration, school staff, district office staff, Trustees, Elders, or other members of the educational community.

Nominations should provide detailed examples related to why the student is being nominated, and how they exemplify the attitudes, characteristics, and actions outlined in the **Award Parameters** section of this document.

Nominations should provide detailed examples of how the student has demonstrated commitment to their culture and community. Some examples from previous recipients include: assisting with community functions, celebrations and ceremonies, volunteering in the community or school, chopping and hauling wood, traditional dancing, learning or speaking their traditional language, and teaching others about their culture.

NOMINATION DEADLINE

Nominations for the 2026 Sacred Feather Indigenous Student Awards are **due by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 24th**.

An awards committee will review applications before recipients are presented and approved for recognition during the Regular Board Meeting in June. Award ceremonies will be organized at each school before the 2026 academic year end.

Submission Guidelines

Nomination packages must include:

1. Completed Nomination Form (available online [HERE](#)), and must include detailed information outlining why the student is being nominated for recognition.

More Information

Questions may be directed to:

Pat Thagard, Executive Assistant, at 867-766-5050 or yk1@yk1.nt.ca