



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release – November 9, 2018

### Cort Dogniez receives Indigenous educator award

**Cort will be available to speak to members of the media the morning of Tuesday, November 12, 2018.**

**Photographs are available for media use at: <http://bit.ly/2Fb1wNC>**

Cort Dogniez, a Métis education consultant with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, received an Indspire Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Award for Community Service at the annual awards celebration in Edmonton, Alberta on November 8, 2018.

Dogniez is a long-time educator who graduated from E.D. Feehan Catholic High School, then earned his bachelor of education through the College of Education's Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) at the University of Saskatchewan.

His singular focus throughout his career has been the students. His vision for Indigenous education has two parts: affirming Indigenous students by providing an environment where they can be proud of their heritage and culture; and enabling non-Indigenous people to know and understand the histories, cultures, contexts and even struggles of our country's First Peoples.

As a long-time member of Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) and current Métis education consultant with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS), Dogniez has been instrumental in establishing the Métis Education Alliance Agreement between the two organizations. The agreement enhances Métis community participation across the division's 50 school communities. The most dramatic impact is at St. Michael Community School, home to the division's Métis cultural program, where aspects of Métis culture like jigging, fiddle music and Michif language have brought a renewed vibrancy to the school community.

When asked about the recognition, Dogniez has a long-term perspective and credits those who had an influential role in his life. "At this moment in time I'm holding the torch. Many have held it before me, and many will hold it after me. I feel pretty blessed that I have my grandma's stories, her perspective, her history, and that's what I get to share in our school division."

For the last 10 years, Dogniez has also been working with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner conducting Treaty Catalyst Workshops that give teachers the resources and knowledge they need to integrate treaty education in their classrooms. He is also a member of the International Indigenous Speakers Bureau and is trained to provide KAIROS Blanket Exercise Workshops that provide an interactive way of learning the history of land use and roles of Indigenous peoples and settlers in Canada.

"Cort has been an invaluable resource for the school division," said Diane Boyko, Board of Education chair with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools. "He has a good and sincere heart, and he makes building relationships look easy. I think that's why he's good at building community; he is good at fostering

relationships that are the foundation that allows people to move forward together.”

Prior to his time with GSCS, Dogniez held several teaching and administrative roles at Saskatoon Public Schools, where he became a founding member and driving force behind the *Okiciyapi* Educational Partnership—a strategic alliance between Saskatoon Public Schools, Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) and Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC)—that created culturally-responsive learning environments for students and staff.

Dogniez is the third Indspire Guiding the Journey: Indigenous Educator Award recipient from Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools since their inception in 2013. Superintendent Gordon Martell received the leadership award in 2013, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit education consultant Delvin Kanewiyakiho received the award in the language, culture and traditions category in 2015.

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