wîhkwêntôwin School

wîhkwêntôwin (we-kwen-to-win) is a Cree word that can be translated into English as 'circle of friends.'

Edmonton Public Schools is celebrating the newly renamed wîhkwêntôwin School, which replaces Oliver.

The decision to change the name of the school came after a number of conversations and concerns raised about the history and background of Oliver's namesake, Frank Oliver. After passing a motion to rename the school in September 2020, the Board paused to learn more and work with the community league as they engaged the broader community about renaming the central neighbourhood the school is located in.

The City of Edmonton announced that the neighbourhood would be renamed wîhkwêntôwin in February 2024. The Board decided to adopt the same name as the community, and the school's new name was announced on April 9, 2024 at a public Board meeting.

Students, staff and families of the school were engaged in a meaningful and thorough way during community consultation conducted by the community league, and feel wîhkwêntôwin reflects the values of the school community. This new name celebrates togetherness, and the diversity of the neighbourhood and school community.

There is a rich history of Indigenous governance and community building in the community of wîhkwêntôwin, which is one of the most densely populated in the City of Edmonton, as well as very economically, ethnically and demographically diverse. The area has been lived in and supported by Indigenous, Chinese, Black and other diverse communities for thousands of years, and has a long history as a gathering place for Indigenous communities—including Nehiyaw (Cree) Plains and Métis peoples, the Papaschase Nation, and many others.

A school name is the highest honour Edmonton Public Schools can give. By choosing a name that better represents the school, which is a welcoming and inclusive environment where kindness is emphasized, Edmonton Public Schools hopes this renaming symbolizes a continued positive path for our Division and city.