



**DATE:** September 24, 2024

**TO:** Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Darrel Robertson, Superintendent of Schools

**SUBJECT:** Prince Charles School Renaming

**ORIGINATOR:** Cliff Richard, Chief Infrastructure and Technology Officer

**RESOURCE STAFF:** Kim Holowatuk, Carla Stolte, Christopher Wright

**REFERENCE:** [EA.BP–Infrastructure Planning Principles](#)  
[EF.AR–Naming of Schools](#)

---

## ISSUE

To formally acknowledge the new name for Prince Charles School.

## BACKGROUND

At the September 7, 2021, Public Board meeting, the following motion was approved:

*“Given the significance of the Awasis (cree) language and culture program at Prince Charles School, and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action regarding the commitment to Indigenous languages and action in education, the Edmonton Public School Board commits to renaming Prince Charles School and requests that Administration facilitate a consultation process with students, families and staff of Prince Charles School and relevant Elders and Knowledge Keepers in the community to gather feedback to inform the renaming process.”*

In June 2024, Administration met with the school administration, the Cree language teacher and Indigenous leaders supporting the program to explore transitioning the name of the school to better reflect the programming and school community. It was suggested this change would reflect a positive step in seeking truth and reconciliation. At that meeting, a decision was made to consult further with Cree Language and Knowledge Keepers to ensure that the new name truly reflected the spirit of the school community and the teachings within.

During a Sundance Lodge, the most sacred ceremony, the name awâsis waciston was given, which means “child nest”. The explanation given as to why this is a “beautiful name for a school”: any nest is a sacred space, where birds are looked after until they are ready and then they start to fly. It is with a school, where students are taken care of and when they are ready, they leave the nest and learn to fly.

awâsis waciston School ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ is the name that was provided to Administration from the Indigenous community.

## CURRENT SITUATION

On September 10, 2024, the Caucus Committee approved the following:

**That Prince Charles School be renamed awâsis waciston School.  
(Pronunciation: ah wa sis was is ton School)**

**KEY POINTS:**

- awâsis waciston in nêhiyawêwin translates to “child nest”. The syllabics are ᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱ.
- awâsis waciston reflects what the school provides to the students and their families and connects well with the school’s Code of the Golden Feather.
- Communications and Integrated Infrastructure Services will work collaboratively with the school to begin rebranding immediately.

CS:jl