



## PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 1, 2021

Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission, in collaboration with the Maskwacîs Directors of Emergency Management and under the recommendation of Maskwacîs Health Services, has initiated a MESC-wide reset.

**Maskwacîs, Treaty 6 Territory [October 1, 2021]**—On Friday, October 1, 2021, under the direction of the Maskwacîs Directors of Emergency Management, Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission (MESC) has initiated a MESC-wide reset as a preventative measure to mitigate the risk and spread of COVID-19 in the Nation.

During these unprecedented times, MESC will continue to put the safety and wellbeing of Kiskinwahamawâkanak (Students) and Otatoskewak (Staff) at the forefront of all decisions. MESC has been working closely with Maskwacîs Health Services to monitor COVID cases in our schools in order to mitigate risk for MESC students and staff.

Since welcoming back Kiskinwahamawâkanak (Students) in September, the “MESC Re-Entry Plan” and “Guidelines to Manage a Positive Case in MESC Schools” documents have proven to be effective in preventing in-school transmission. With an increase of cases in Maskwacîs, MESC and the Maskwacîs Directors of Emergency Management felt that a MESC-wide reset was in the best interest of the health and safety of Kiskinwahamawâkanak (Students), Otatoskewak (Staff), and their families at this time.

This reset means that all in class-instruction for kindergarten - grade 12 will be paused and schools will be closed to students as of Monday, October 4th (including MESC Head Start programs). Classes may resume Monday, October 18th, pending a reassessment on Wednesday, October 13th. Materials to support Kiskinwahamawâkanak (Students) learning, resources for mental health and food packages will be made available during this time.

### **ABOUT MESC**

Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission (MESC), owned and operated by Ermineskin Cree Nation, Louis Bull Tribe, Montana First Nation and Samson Cree Nation, is the education authority for all 11 schools and 3 Head Start programs in Maskwacîs. The primary goal of MESC is improving educational opportunities, services and student success for all students who attend our schools in Maskwacîs.

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**Maskwacîs Education Schools Commission**

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