



Ontario Institute for Education Leadership

*Ontario Leaders Collaborating
for Student Achievement, Equity and Well-being*

STRENGTHENING EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARENESS

Indigenous Studies English class

A Grade 11 student enrolled in NBE 3C (Indigenous Studies English) shared a concern with his family about “Indian” being used in class even though it was used in reference to the *Indian Act*. The student’s parent who agreed with his son, called the superintendent and the principal regarding this concern about the reference to Indian in class arguing that it was racist. The parent also expressed his concern that the teacher does not identify as Indigenous and for that reason should not be teaching about the implications of colonization of Canada by Europeans.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS:

1. What are the issues to consider in this situation?

- For the Principal?

- For the Superintendent?

2. What are conversations that need to take place with:

- the principal

- the teacher

- the parent

- the student

and in what order?

3. What is your process in addressing the concerns brought forward by the parent and the student to ensure their voice is heard and that they feel satisfied that the issue was addressed?

4. What professional learning opportunities might you consider in this situation?
