

# “Our Dreams Matter Too” Anniversary

Submitted by  
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June 11th marked the anniversary of *Our Dreams Matter Too* as well as the government apology to the aboriginal people of Canada for the atrocities of residential schools. Several OCETF/OCDSB schools participated in a walk from Victoria Island to Parliament Hill to commemorate this day as well as their learning about residential school history and Project of Heart. It was a cold, rainy day and students showed stamina and determination as they sang out together for Equal Education for First Nations People. More than 600 students and community members came together from Cornwall, Quebec, Kitigan Zibi, Ottawa and Prince Rupert B.C.

The crowd cheered as they heard letters read by students in support of building new equal, respectful relationships with First Nations communities. "I stand up for equality for all children" said grade 3 student Denim Gunnlaughson.

The event was emceed by two students from Summit Alternative school. Thanks to all the students, teachers and parents from Elmdale, Lady Evelyn, First Avenue, Summit, Featherston, Nepean High School, Elizabeth Wyn Wood, and Richard Pfaff. Thank you to the OCETF for supporting us with buses in this work towards active citizenship and equality. Thank you to The First Nations Child and Family Caring Society for leadership and inspiration.

*Rain  
Rain  
mean rain  
hard rain  
keeps me hidden  
under my umbrella  
(like too many citizens)*

*shivering children  
bravely standing  
seeking the warm arms  
of their mother  
and father*

*stolen children  
lost children  
grown now  
can hardly speak  
through the rain  
and tears*

*We stand for you  
today  
to hear your voice  
and let it enter  
our collective history*

Danielle Fontaine