From time to time, words, objects or traditions that were once widely-accepted become recognized as being hurtful, disparaging or disrespectful to others. They are no longer in keeping with practices or ideas that support our Catholic Social Teachings on Human Dignity. As the Catholic Bishops note, the “Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.”

As part of the journey of reconciliation, societies reflect on practices and question their origin and purpose. One such tradition that has been widely used is related to Indigenous-inspired logos. While the intent may have been to ‘pay respect’ or ‘honour’ Indigenous cultures, members of those communities feel that these logos are not considered to be an honour. In the context of inclusion, impact is more powerful than intent. So, while the intent might be to honour, the impact on community members must always be considered.

Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board students and staff are expected to ensure that any garments worn are inclusive, and not offensive with regard to nationality, race, gender, religion, ethnicity, culture, ancestry – including Indigenous symbols and imagery. This may result in a change of practice. In particular, certain sports teams’ uniforms, equipment and accessories, specifically ones with Indigenous logos, are no longer permitted as appropriate attire. We would ask for your support to ensure that our schools are faith filled, safe, inclusive spaces for all our students and staff.