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## **JUNO Host Committee Partners with Local School Boards to Launch Acts of #ReconciliACTION, Further Truth and Reconciliation Efforts**

LONDON, ON - Awareness, education and action.

Inspired by Gord Downie's call to "do something", the 2019 JUNO Host Committee and The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund (DWF) are partnering with both the London District Catholic School Board and the Thames Valley District School Board in an effort to further Indigenous education and truth and reconciliation within the region.

"We want to leverage the spotlight our city has right now to #DoSomething, as Gord Downie called upon our nation," said 2019 JUNO Host Committee Chair Chris Campbell. "As the hosts of such a significant national event, we have a responsibility and an opportunity to not only build on the national conversation happening within the music community, but to take action. Our hope is that other school boards and other cities alike will continue to further these efforts and empower youth, all while keeping Chanie's story and memory alive."

A number of schools across the city have registered to become a [DWF Legacy School](#). Students will participate in educational programming centered around Gord Downie's *Secret Path*. They will learn the story of 12-year-old Chanie Wenjack, an Anishinaabe boy who died after running away from Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School in 1966, and the history of Canada's residential school system.

Students will then commit to acts of #reconciliACTION in their community to amplify truth and reconciliation efforts. #ReconciliACTIONS are events and actions that aim to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous people together in the spirit of reconciliation, through education, awareness and understanding. An emphasis will be put on using music as a tool to do that.

Select schools will be visited by Mike and Patrick Downie on February 8, as classrooms host a variety of programming, commit to the Legacy School program and present #reconciliACTION plans.

"As Canadians, we all have a responsibility to understand our shared history - something that my brother recognized and took to heart," said Mike Downie, brother of Gord Downie and DWF Board Member. "The Legacy Schools program seeks to acknowledge our past with the next generation, and spur them to commit to building a better Canada through acts of reconciliation."

# JUNOS 2019 HOST COMMITTEE LONDON

Follow along or join the conversation with [@downiewenjack](#) and [@JUNOSLdn](#) by using #reconciliACTION.

## **About The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund:**

The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund is part of Gord Downie's legacy and embodies his commitment, and that of his family, to improving the lives of First Peoples. In collaboration with the Wenjack family, the goal of the fund is to continue the conversation that began with Chanie Wenjack's residential school story and to aid our collective reconciliation journey through awareness, education, and action.

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