What are the Benefits?
The Department of Education and/or school board staff will use this combined information to create reports, develop programming, and review board business plans to assist in creating equitable education for all.

Who will benefit?
All students, parents/guardians, and educators in the Province of Nova Scotia will benefit.

What is a legal name?
This is the name that may appear on such documents as your birth certificate, passport, and/or immigration papers.

Why are not all possible ancestries listed on the survey?
The list in the ancestry section was developed based on the advice of the Data Collection Advisory Committee, input from focus groups, school and department of education staff, and Census Canada results for Nova Scotia. If your ancestry is not indicated, please be sure to check other and specify your ancestry in the space provided.

Why is the student's name on the survey?
The student name appears only in the upper window of the survey envelope to facilitate distribution in the classroom.

Who is expected to participate in the survey?
It is expected that all students who are registered in a Nova Scotia public school in the Cape Breton-Victoria Regional School Board will participate in the survey. We know that students are proud of their ancestry and encourage each student to demonstrate that pride and self-knowledge by checking the appropriate tick box or boxes.

Are students who are, for a period of time, receiving their education at home requested to participate in the survey?
Students who are registered in a school but who may be on suspension, have an illness, disability, or are home schooled are requested to complete the survey.

Who will see the student information?
The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act prevents the school board and the Department of Education from publically releasing any individual student information. Only Department of Education staff who collect and analyze data will see the information.

Why is Self-Identification Important to our system and students?
The schools and school boards across the province believe all individuals deserve to be able to share and take pride in their racial, cultural, ethnic backgrounds and Aboriginal identity.

Across Nova Scotia our communities are becoming ever more diverse. Accurate demographic information allows our school board to support students and their families by:

- Acknowledging and celebrating our rich cultural, racial and ethnic backgrounds
- Providing access to the much needed funding that is available to support self-identified learners
- Helping our school board when seeking out resources and planning supports to better serve our students now and into their futures

**Why is self identification important to our system and students?**

- It is essential to know who our students are and the diversity of the communities we serve.
- It will help us to understand how our demographics are changing and how best to support our schools and students
- To monitor and support student success, in particular, those groups who have not historically experienced the success of others.
- To maintain initiatives such as student support workers and other support programs
- To monitor the success of our immigrant population and determine areas of additional support.
- To designate resources and personnel to best support the achievement of all students.

All students are part of the education system therefore the equity commitment can only be fully supported and monitored when all students count themselves in.

By providing your information, we will be able to determine how the make-up of our student population compares to levels of success within our education system. Even if you are not a designated group member, you are helping the education system in ensuring social equity for all students and employees.