



# FACT SHEET

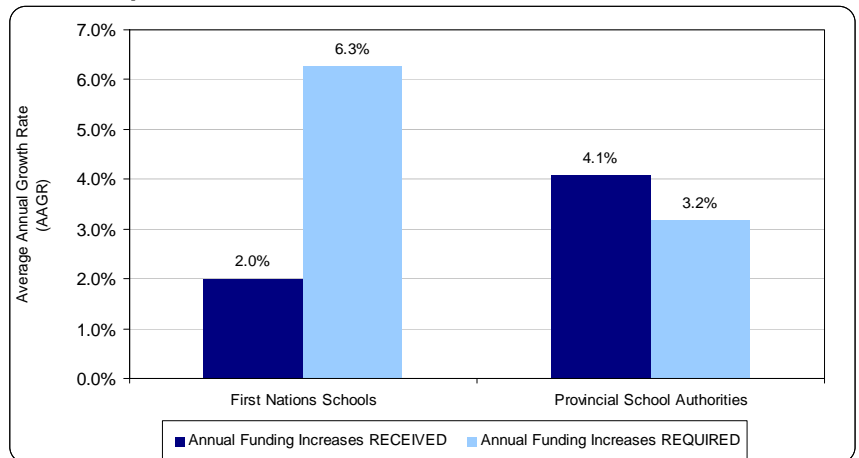
## First Nations Education Funding

This fact sheet is intended to highlight the funding needs required to support First Nations elementary and secondary schools.

### Funding Shortfall

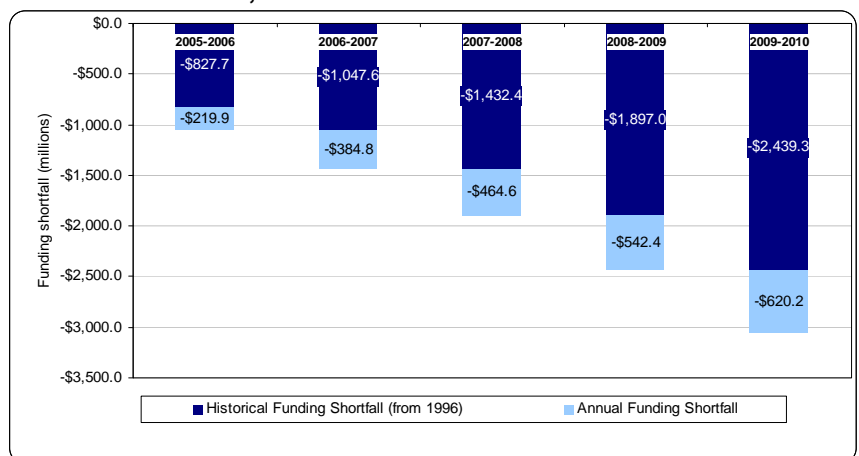
- Since 1996, INAC's national funding formula has been capped at 2% per year.
- This is despite both a steady growth in both inflation and the First Nations population over the same period.
- Combined, these two factors add up to a required average annual increase of 6.3% since 1996 for First Nations education.
- In contrast, funding increases from provincial and territorial school systems averaged 4.1% per year, despite a steady decline in enrolment, warranting only a 3.2% average annual increase.
- INAC's chronic underfunding of First Nations schools has created a First Nations education funding shortfall across Canada.
- For INAC's entire First Nations elementary and secondary education budget (totalling \$1.56 billion in 2009-2010), there is:
  - A funding shortfall of \$620 million in 2009-2010, beyond the 2% cap.
  - A cumulative funding shortfall of almost \$1.2 billion since 1996.
- This funding shortfall does not include costs needed to support the educational components of a 21<sup>st</sup> century school system that are currently missing from INAC's funding. This includes such basic services as:
  - School libraries
  - Technology (computers, connectivity, data systems);
  - Sports and recreation;
  - Vocational training;
  - First Nations languages; and
  - School board-like services.

**Figure 1: Average Annual Growth Rates, First Nations schools and provincial schools, 1996-2010**



Source: Government of Canada, Public Account (1996-2010);  
 Statistics Canada, School Board Expenditures (1996-2008)  
 Statistics Canada, Consumer Price Index (1996-2010)  
 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Nominal roll statistics (1996-2010)

**Figure 2 : First Nations education funding shortfall, annual and historical, 2005-2010**



\*Funding shortfall determined by calculating required expenditures adjusted for actual growth in inflation and population.

Source: Government of Canada, Public Account (1996-2010)  
 Statistics Canada, Consumer Price Index (1996-2010)  
 Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Nominal roll statistics (1996-2010)

**NOTE:** This fact sheet reflects funding for First Nations students attending schools located both on-reserve (60% of students) and off-reserve (40% of students).