



BRIEFING NOTE TO THE **CHIEFS COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL** FOR **INFORMATION**

SUBJECT: Meeting Summary for Education Infrastructure Task Team Meeting, January 17-18, 2019

DATE: January 21, 2019

REQUESTED BY: Janice Ciavaglia, Director, Education

DRAFTED BY: Bram Lerat, Policy Analyst, Education

SUMMARY

- On January 17 and 18, 2019, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Education Infrastructure Task Team (EITT) had two meetings to discuss several topics, including: operations and maintenance (O&M) of First Nations educational facilities; self-government infrastructure; and how advancements in early learning and child care, kindergarten 4-5 and Jordan's Principle impact education infrastructure.

PURPOSE:

- To provide the Chief's Committee on Education (CCOE) and National Indian Education Council (NIEC) with an AFN EITT meeting summary.

CURRENT STATUS:

- The next EITT meeting will be a First Nations only meeting, in order to identify future policy objectives and recommendations for the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE).
- The EITT members signaled that the next meeting should take place in early March 2019. Specific dates have yet to be confirmed.

BACKGROUND:

- The EITT mandate is to work collaboratively to identify the needs and deficiencies of educational infrastructure, including: capital; repairs; transportation; water; etc., for First Nations and First Nations students.
- The two meetings held on January 17 and 18, 2019, was the second time the EITT has met. Participants included First Nations representatives from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and the Yukon. Additional EITT representation included: the AFN Education and AFN Housing, Infrastructure and Emergency Services Management Sectors; Indigenous Services Canada (ISC); and Crown-Indigenous Relations Canada (CIRC).

CONSIDERATIONS:

- The EITT had presentations on O&M, self-government, Indigenous early learning and child care, kindergarten 4-5, and Jordan's Principle. Further discussion was based on the questions and answers document that ISC brought to address concerns and inquiries brought up during the last EITT meeting in September 2018.
- Throughout the two day meeting, a number of considerations and potential policy objectives were identified by First Nations representatives, including:
 - decentralizing all processes relating to education infrastructure in order for communities to be closer to the decision making;
 - gaining additional information from ISC and their Community Infrastructure Branch regarding the amount of O&M dollars allocated to the regions over the last several years. Further information on Jordan's Principle was requested in order to understand education infrastructure funding gaps;
 - reviewing the First Nations toolkit used in British Columbia for school and capacity building and whether or not it could be used nationwide;
 - recognizing minor capital as an integral part of First Nations educational facilities and possibly altering how First Nations currently receive this funding;
 - problematic criteria in federal policies, such as the *School Space Accommodations Standards* and the *School Priority Ranking Framework*; and
 - how the future Government of Canada policy on education infrastructure will incorporate the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut and northern and remote First Nations.
- These considerations and potential policy objectives will be reviewed with more detail during the next meeting in order to determine the future work of the EITT.

ATTACHMENTS: None