

**EDUCATION****OVERVIEW**

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) joint work on education is guided by Resolution 16/2016, *Honourable Process to Develop Recommendations to Support First Nations Education Reform*. Five Joint Task Teams have been established comprised of members from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the AFN and First Nations regional representatives. January 2018 marks one year since the Joint Task Teams have been in effect. This work is guided by the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and supported by the National Indian Education Council (NIEC).

Budget 2016 allocated \$2.6 billion over five years for improving primary and secondary education for First Nations children and \$129.4 million over two years for supporting early learning and child care. This has resulted in the co-development of a policy proposal for a new funding approach to First Nations on-reserve education to support students, schools and communities.

Memorandum to Cabinet K-12 (MC)

ISC returned to Cabinet with new options for First Nations to access the funds allocated in Budget 2016. Regional First Nations representatives and the AFN have entered into a co-development process of a new policy option to inform the MC in order to ensure *First Nations Control of First Nations Education* and to promote regional authority

and processes. The objectives of the policy option on First Nations education funding is to unlock the existing “Transforming First Nation Education” funding commitments from Budget 2016 (currently limited to school board funding) and implement the actions below:

- Replace ISC’s outdated, inefficient and inadequate proposal-based education programs with regional education approaches and funding models that provide sufficient, predictable and sustainable funding.
- Support First Nations Regions to develop their own education funding model that uses the education funding model of that province as a base calculation, plus adaptations and additions that provide funding for the unique needs of First Nation students, communities and schools.

On December 5, 2017, the Chiefs-In-Assembly resolved to support Resolution 65/2017, *New Interim Funding Approach for First Nation Education*. The Memorandum to Cabinet passed on February 28, 2018, and the co-development on the Treasury Board Submission is underway. The Drafting Team is currently working on the K-12 Terms and Conditions.

Budget 2017 announced an additional \$90 million over two years to support post-secondary students and called for

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collaborative review with Indigenous partners of all current federal post-secondary programs. In July 2017, the Chiefs-In-Assembly resolved to support Resolution 14/2017, *Post-Secondary Education Federal Review*, which would provide a First Nations report and/or submission.

The Post-Secondary Education Review process was led by an independent facilitator and brought 40 First Nations representatives with expertise in Post-Secondary Education and institutes of higher learning together to evaluate current programming and make recommendations.

Post-Secondary Education Review meetings were held in Ottawa in November 2017, January 2018 and March 2018. The review has produced a report with recommendations that went to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the AFN Annual General Assembly in July 2018.

Chiefs-in-Assembly passed AFN Resolution 29/2018, *First Nations Post-Secondary Education Review Report and Recommendations*, which accepted the *First Nations Post-Secondary Education Review 2018 Interim Report* and directed the AFN, CCOE and NIEC to work in partnership with ISC to develop an honourable joint process that would allow for the development of regional Post-Secondary Education models.

UPDATE

Joint Task Teams

- 1) Statutory Funding** – This Joint Task Team is analyzing legislative and non-legislative education funding options to see which would best meet the fiscal principles that support First Nation education vision. The Team met on May 3 and 4, 2018. The Team decided to focus on the Interim Funding Formula in short-term and create a methodology for annually updating the funding mechanisms. The Statutory Funding Team commissioned a consulting report that looked at various examples of funding mechanisms to review what works best for First Nations.
- 2) Post-Secondary Education (PSE)** – The First Nations PSE Review completed the final stage of the process set out by Resolution 14/2017. The review included the evaluation of appropriate support for both First Nations students and First Nations Institutes of Higher Learning. The *First Nations Post-Secondary*

Education Review 2018 Interim Report of the findings and recommendations went to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the AFN Annual General Assembly in July 2018. Following the AFN Annual General Assembly and the passing of AFN Resolution 29/2018, the AFN Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) are recommending a way forward for First Nations post-secondary education. This recommendation directs AFN to facilitate the co-drafting of new policy for First Nations post-secondary education, with the overall goal to secure adequate funding and supports for post-secondary students and First Nations Institutions of Higher Learning. Together with the NIEC and the CCOE, AFN will bring together First Nations experts and leaders in education to co-draft a policy proposal based on recommendations from a year-long review of current federal programming and supports. The

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NIEC will work together with the federal government to propose policy that will allow for new regional and/or Treaty based funding approaches to be developed by First Nations in order to better support students and First Nations Institutes of Higher Learning and close the attainment gap in post-secondary education.

- 3) Early Childhood Education** – The joint task team is examining regional differences and best practices regarding the implementation of full time K4/K5 in First Nations schools and identifying the requirements needed to support and propose recommendations for early year's education programming for First Nations schools and students. The Task Team met on May 3-4. The delegates reviewed the Task Team's Operational Terms, identified short, medium and long term goals for 2018- 2019 Work Plan, identified gaps in research and proposed that more research be conducted on Developmentally Appropriate Programming. There is a need for focus

on infrastructure, instruction, and activities for regions to expand to full time K4/K5.

- 4) Infrastructure** - Met for the first time May 3-4. Operational Terms will be further developed and emailed to the Team. Identified various issues and integrated them into 2018-2019 Work Plan. An initial meeting with ISC has taken place and the work plan will be implemented for the current fiscal year.
- 5) Unique Needs of Northern and Remote Communities** – This Joint Task Team met on May 3 and 4 and August 8 and 9, 2018. The Team will continue to expand on the work plan and critical path for 2018-2019, including prioritizing the development of a paper around recruitment and retention in remote First Nations schools, and a review and summary of the Remoteness Indicators research.

NEXT STEPS

The work of the AFN Education Sector is well underway. In the upcoming months, the following activities will be undertaken directly from or supported by AFN.

- **September 2018** – Treasury Board to approve the Treasury Board submission.
- **September 20-21, 2018** – Infrastructure Joint Task Team meeting.
- **Oct 1-2, 2018** – PSE Working Group Meetings.
- **Oct 9-10, 2018** – PSE Working Group Meetings.
- **Oct 18-19, 2018** – PSE Working Group Meetings.
- **November 2018** – First Nations regional feedback on PSE Policy Proposal.
- **December 4-6, 2018** – PSE Policy Proposal to go to Chiefs via Resolution at AFN Special Chiefs Assembly.