



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), AFN and First Nations regional representatives to honour existing regional perspectives, structures and processes. 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 2 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)

DISC 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 are 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- Replace ISC’s outdated, inefficient and inadequate proposal-based education programs with regional education approaches and funding models that provide sufficient, predictable and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.

ISSUE UPDATE

April 2018

Budget 2017 announced an additional \$90 million over 2 years to support post-secondary students and called for 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 is led by an independent facilitator and brings 40 First Nations representatives

with expertise in Post-Secondary Education and institutes of higher learning together to evaluate current programming and make recommendations for a new policy option.

Post-Secondary Education Review meetings were held in Ottawa in November 2017, January 2018 and March 2018. As a result of the review process, a report of recommendations will be produced outlining policy options that will be presented for approval to the Chiefs- in-Assembly at the AFN Annual General Assembly in July 2018.

UPDATE

Joint Task Teams

- 1) Funding Mechanism** – This Joint Task Team is undertaking research to identify the needs required to support language and culture for First Nation students, schools and communities. The work of this task team continues to inform the implementation of the new policy option sought through the Memorandum to Cabinet on a new funding approach to First Nations education.
- 2) 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 work of this task team will resume to explore legislative options once the new funding approach has been established.
- 3) Post-Secondary Education (PSE)** – The First Nations PSE Review is underway. Forty First Nations education representatives, experts and students will meet for a total of nine days to

evaluate current PSE policy and make recommendations for a new policy option. The review will include the evaluation of appropriate support for both First Nations students and First Nations Institutes of Higher Learning. The recommendations will be sent to the PSE review table as well as the NIEC and CCOE:

- **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 is working to identify community needs at a regional level and ensure a robust communication strategy is in place at both regional and national levels.

ISSUE UPDATE

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- 4) **Unique Needs of Northern and Remote Communities** – This Joint Task Team met a total of 3 times and identified remoteness measures and teacher recruitment and retention as key priorities for examination.

A research project was commissioned to investigate and evaluate different approaches to calculating remoteness as part of education funding formulas.

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.

- **April 2018** - Continue to support regionally led PSE meetings to gain insight to help develop recommendations. To gather existing documents from the regions around community led PSE recommendations.
- **May 2018** - K4/K5 logic model to be developed and shared with regions. Full Time K4/K5 rollout communication plan to be led by the regions.
- **June 2018** – Treasury Board to approve the TB submission.
- **May 2018** – All Task Team Meeting May 3 and 4 in Ottawa.
- **July 2018** – Recommendations of the First Nations federal review of PSE are to be presented to Chiefs at the AFN Annual General Assembly.

