

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- Replace ISC’s outdated, inefficient and inadequate proposal-based education programs with regional education approaches and funding models that provide sufficient, predictable and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

Budget 2017 announced an additional \$90 million over two 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 Drafting Team is currently working on the K-12 Terms and Conditions.

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.

Post-Secondary Education Review meetings were held in Ottawa in November 2017, January 2018 and March 2018. A report will be produced with recommendations that will go to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the AFN Annual General Assembly in July 2018.

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 focus was on the interim funding formula in the short-term and the creation of methodology for updating mechanisms annually.
- 2) Post-Secondary Education (PSE)** – The First Nations PSE Review is underway. Forty First Nations education representatives, experts and students have met for a total of nine days to evaluate current PSE policy and make recommendations. The review will include the evaluation of appropriate support for both First Nations students and First Nations Institutes of Higher Learning. The report and recommendations are being reviewed and edited by the PSE review group as well as the NIEC and CCOE.
- 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 and 4, 2018. The Team reviewed Task Team's Operational Terms, identified short, medium and long term goals for the 2018- 2019 Work Plan, identified gaps in research and proposed that more research be conducted on the development of Development Appropriate Programming.

- 4) Infrastructure** - Met for the first time on May 3 and 4, 2018. Operational Terms will be further developed and emailed to the Team. Various issues were identified and integrated into 2018-2019 Work Plan.
- 5) Unique Needs of Northern and Remote Communities** – This Joint Task Team met on May 3 and 4, 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.

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:

- **June 2018** – The Treasury Board Drafting Team is continuing development of K-12 Terms and Conditions
- **June 2018** - The K-12 Funding Mechanism will create a list of research required for the Interim Funding Formula. This team will be meeting on June 12 and 13, 2018.
- **July 2018** – The report of the First Nations federal review of PSE is to be presented to the Chiefs-in-Assembly at the AFN Annual General Assembly.
- **September 2018** – Treasury Board to approve the TB submission.

