



BRIEFING NOTE TO THE National Indian Education Council FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: Education Partnerships Program Policy Review – Meeting August 13, 2019

DATE: August 14, 2019

REQUESTED BY: Janice Ciavaglia, Director of Education

DRAFTED BY: Randy Cross, ISC Student

SUMMARY

The Education Partnerships Program (EPP) Working Group met on August 13, 2019 to review the EPP program guidelines in order to improve service delivery. Several minor and major changes were proposed, while others were “parked” for future discussion.

PURPOSE:

- On August 13, 2019, the EPP working group held their first meeting to provide feedback and critiques of EPP offered by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), to ultimately change the way the program is delivered.
- The EPP working group is made up by First Nations, the Assembly of First Nations, and ISC.

BACKGROUND:

- EPP was established in 2008 as a proposal-based program designed to advance First Nations student achievement in First Nations and Provincial schools.
- Since its inception, the EPP has been criticized for a variety of issues such as being too prescriptive, failing to account for the pre-existing funding gaps for on-reserve schools and having rigid guidelines that do not offer enough flexibility to First Nations.
- During the transformation process EPP was left as one of the three remaining proposal-based programs.

CURRENT STATUS:

- The following items are proposed major and minor changes to the EPP program:
 - Regional funding allocations and selection process.
 - Removing the provision that activities must be time-limited- how to support successful activities.

- Creating a stand-alone set of guidelines for Regional Education Agreements.
- Changing the language within the guidelines in order to be less paternalistic
- Languages to be inclusive of the Territories.
- Removing the requirement that proposals must be input into a DCI.
- Increasing the administration budget to a maximum of 15%.
- Dissolving the National Selection Committee.
- Expanding the definition of a tripartite agreement in order to provide alternatives to working with a Province/Territory.
- Expanding the scope of who is considered an eligible recipient.
- Establishing mutual accountability mechanisms between parties.
- Removing the requirement that a First Nation must seek a Letter of Support from a Province/Territory for its planned activities.
- A follow-up phone call has been scheduled for August 27, 2019 at 2pm EST.
- A change is considered minor if it can be authorized by Ministerial approval, which can be obtained before the 2020-2021 Call for Proposals. A major change will require changes to the Terms and Conditions. This is a lengthy process that would not be ready before the next Call.
- ISC will follow-up with the AFN to clarify which changes are major and which changes are minor.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- The following items were parked for future discussion:
 - What was the “story” that was presented to Treasury Board to make the EPP a permanent program?
 - Discussion of the data collected by ISC and how it is used to assess the effectiveness of the program.
 - Nominal Roll funding needs to follow the student when they transition from an on-reserve school to a Provincial school, and vice-versa.
 - Shifting the program timeline to align better with the school year.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Draft EPP meeting Notes
- Draft EPP Critical Path