



BRIEFING NOTE TO THE NATIONAL CHIEF FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: Chiefs Committee on Education Meeting Summary July 22, 2019

DATE: July 25, 2019

REQUESTED BY: Janice Ciavaglia, Education Director

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SUMMARY

- The Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) met on July 22, 2019, following a National Indian Education Council (NIEC) meeting in Fredericton, New Brunswick, to discuss and pass motions on First Nations education priorities. This meeting also included a review of the education resolutions being brought forward to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) 2019 Annual General Assembly (AGA).

PURPOSE:

- To provide the National Chief with a brief overview of discussion and recommendations from the CCOE meeting on July 22, 2019.

CURRENT STATUS:

- **Kindergarten:** ISC Assistant Deputy Minister is expected to provide an accurate funding amount for K4/K5 and present this number to AFN and First Nations. ISC is to provide a clear explanation to First Nations on the process of how to complete an off-cycle budget ask.
- **Education Partnership Program (EPP):** The next meeting will be scheduled between ISC and the EPP working group to discuss program revision which is set for August 13th, 2019.
- ISC and First Nations are to create a 'transition binder' that compiles their priority issues on education to be presented to the new elected government.
- Further discussion is required at the next CCOE meeting on September 6th, 2019, in Ottawa regarding:
 - Review of amendments to the Joint Terms of Reference (AFN-NIEC-CCOE-Indigenous Services Canada [ISC]) including the updated communications and annex sections.

BACKGROUND:

- **Post-Secondary Education (PSE):** The 2019 Federal Budget identified \$7.5 million over three years (\$2.5 million each year) for First Nations to engage on Post-Secondary Education. It was recommended that the CCOE provide a motion to select the preferred funding option distribution of the \$2.5 million Post-Secondary Education Engagement Funds in the fiscal year 2019-2020.
- **Joint Terms of Reference (NIEC-CCOE-AFN-ISC):** This document is still being edited and discussed by all parties and is scheduled for more discussion during the next CCOE meeting on September 6th, 2019, in Ottawa. The purpose of the document is for Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) to form a collaborative strategic relationship with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN), the Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) in designing and implementing policy and program reforms with the intent that all First Nation students receive a holistic, culturally-responsive and high-quality education.
- **Central Agencies Meetings:** On November 19, 2018, the CCOE passed a motion that advocated for a more formalized relationship between the CCOE and Central Agencies. The goal is to create the foundation for a deeper and more meaningful engagement to move forward the Nation-to-Nation relationship, that is open and transparent, between First Nations and Canada, with respect to education. The next scheduled meeting is on September 6th, 2019, in Ottawa.
- **Update Kindergarten:** ISC has budgeted roughly \$50 million for K4/K5 expansion, and while all the work plans submitted are within the funding envelope, ISC is looking to re-allocate K4/K5 funding to assist with the First Nation education funding short fall in other areas.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- **PSE:** As directed by the NIEC, additional funding allocation options were created for PSE Engagement (Options 5-7). The CCOE achieved consensus and passed a motion choosing Option 5 (see attached for the specific option and motion).
- **Update Kindergarten:** As of July 2019, ISC has still not informed First Nations if they will be receiving funding for the up-coming school year which restricts the planning and the hiring of teachers for full-time kindergarten.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Chiefs Committee on Education Record of Decision, July 22, 2019.
2. National Indian Education Council Meeting Summary, July 22, 2019