



BRIEFING NOTE TO THE NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION

SUBJECT: National Indian Education Council Meeting Summary, January 10 and 11, 2019
DATE: January 16, 2019
REQUESTED BY: Janice Ciavaglia, Director, Education
DRAFTED BY: Julie Williams, Senior Policy Analyst, Education

SUMMARY:

- The National Indian Education Council (NIEC) met with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) on January 10 and 11, 2019, to review and provide recommendations for: the K-12 Program Guidelines; Research and Innovation program; Post-Secondary Education Review Treasury Board Submission Terms and Conditions; and High Cost Special Education Review.

PURPOSE:

- January 10-11, 2019, the NIEC and ISC, both from the regional offices and from headquarters, met to discuss the following:
 - the K-12 Program Guidelines;
 - Research and Innovation;
 - Post-Secondary Education Review Treasury Board Submission Terms and Conditions; and
 - High Cost Special Education Review.

CURRENT STATUS:

- **K-12 Program Guidelines** – The NIEC has made recommendations for amendments to the program guidelines and await an updated version from ISC.
 - ISC has communicated that a change in calculating and reporting on attendance, as it affects the nominal roll will not be adjusted.
- **Research and Innovation**
 - Regions were asked to determine their preferred regional approaches to administering the program, with the majority of regions electing for First Nations in the region will fully manage the process (including identifying themes, setting criteria, call out, and selection committee).
 - Regions recommended one of the two following funding allocation options:
 - **Per capita** distribution of funds (based on population or nominal roll).
 - **Base allocation + per capita** distribution of funds.
- **Post-Secondary Education** – ISC has confirmed that Cabinet is set to review the Post-Secondary Education Memorandum to Cabinet on February 4, 2019.
 - There is \$1.8 million remaining under the Post-Secondary Partnership Programming that is unallocated for fiscal year 2019-2020.

- NIEC has recommended that the AFN and ISC work on re-drafting the Post-Secondary Education Terms and Conditions, in a draft capacity, in preparation for the Treasury Board Submission. It will be reviewed once a Cabinet decision has been made.

BACKGROUND:

- **December 2017:** Co-development of the K-12 Transformation Policy Proposal was passed by Chiefs-in-Assembly via **AFN Resolution 65/2017**, *New Interim Funding Approach for First Nations Education*, and moved through Cabinet in a Memorandum to Cabinet. The policy proposal sought changes to First Nations K-12 education policy including:
 - **2017-2018:** Changes to the K-12 Program Guidelines / Terms and Conditions. The NIEC has been consistent about advocating for a change, through joint policy proposal and development of terms and conditions, in the way that attendance and enrollment is reported and affects the nominal roll.
 - Changes to the delivery of proposal based programs including Research and Innovation, so that these programs can be administered in a way that is consistent with First Nations Control of First Nations Education.
 - Called for a review of High Cost Special Education.
- **2018-2019:** The NIEC and ISC have been working on Terms and Conditions and Program Guidelines in order to facilitate and implement First Nations recommended program changes.
- **December 2018:** Chiefs-in-Assembly passed **AFN Resolution 48/2018**, *First Nations Post-Secondary Education Policy Proposal*, which supports the co-developed First Nations Post-Secondary Policy option for an ISC Indigenous Post-Secondary Education Memorandum to Cabinet.

CONSIDERATIONS:

- The NIEC recommends a letter be written and sent to ISC, to address the wording and reporting requirements around attendance and the “nominal roll” in the Terms and Conditions.
- The NIEC recommends to wait until after February 4, 2019, Cabinet date, before making a recommendation on the allocation of the remaining \$1.8 million under the Post-Secondary Partnership Program.
- The NIEC recommends extending Phase 1 of the High Cost Special Education Program Review until the budget 2019 announcement, to provide regions more time to conduct work on their regional funding formula.
- The NIEC recommends a joint meeting with the Regional Director Generals and NIEC.

AFN LINKAGES:

- NIEC should connect with the Jordan’s Principle Action Table with regard to the High Cost Special Education Program Review and overlapping policy considerations.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) Draft K-12 Program Guidelines (NIEC comments for Change)
- 2) High Cost Special Education Review Briefing Note