This fact sheet intends to provide information on First Nations education infrastructure, including the state of schools and teacherages, projected capital needs, and student space discrepancies between First Nations and the provinces. The fact sheet is limited by availability of federal government data and does not fully capture the education infrastructure needs for all First Nations.

**Schools and Teacherages**

- There are 526 First Nations schools across Canada. It is estimated that 29% of schools are urban, 47% are rural, 3% remote and 21% of schools are located in isolated/fly-in communities.
- The average First Nations school was built in 1994 and enrols an average of 176 students.
- There are an estimated 1,026 First Nations teacherages (buildings that house teachers from outside the community) across Canada with an average construction year of 1996.

**Lack of First Nations Secondary Schools**

- For those First Nations with an elementary and secondary school, less than half have access to high-school programming.
- Most First Nations students in the Atlantic region (91%) have to leave their Nation in order to attend highschool. This is followed by Ontario (78%) and British Columbia (71%).
- This means that more than half (54%) of First Nation students are forced to leave their First Nation to obtain a high school diploma.

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**Figure 1: Average student enrolment in First Nations schools, by geographic zone, 2018**

![Bar chart showing average student enrolment in First Nations schools by geographic zone. Urban schools have the highest enrolment, followed by rural, remote, and isolated/fly-in communities.]


**Figure 2: Percentage of First Nation schools that offer grades K-12, 2018**

![Bar chart showing the percentage of First Nation schools that offer grades K-12 by grade level. Grades 1 to 12 are offered, but the percentage varies by grade.]

**Condition of First Nations schools**

- Of the inspected schools on First Nations, 51 received an O&M rating of ‘poor’, 222 received an O&M rating of ‘fair’, and 71 received an O&M rating of ‘good’.

- More than half (57%) of schools have a ‘fair’ rating, and 18% of schools have a ‘good’ rating.

- Approximately 13% of First Nations schools have a ‘poor’ operations and maintenance (O&M) rating. Poor conditions are found most in rural areas as 18% of those schools meet that rating.

**Conditions of First Nations Teacherages**

- Of the inspected teacherages on First Nations, 154 received an O&M rating of ‘poor’, 671 received an O&M rating of ‘fair’, and 37 received an O&M rating of ‘good’.

- More than ¾ (78%) of teacherages are rated as ‘fair’ across Canada.

- 18% of the teacherages in Canada are considered ‘poor’ based on O&M ratings. Poor conditions in teacherages are found most in rural areas as 19% meet this rating.

- Only 4% of First Nations teacherages in Canada have a ‘good’ O&M rating.

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**Figure 3: Operations and maintenance rating for First Nations schools, by geographic zone, 2020**

![Chart showing the distribution of O&M ratings for First Nations schools by geographic zone.]

**Figure 4: Operations and maintenance rating for First Nations teacherages, by geographic zone, 2020.**

![Chart showing the distribution of O&M ratings for First Nations teacherages by geographic zone.]


FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE FACTSHEET

FIRST NATIONS EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE IMMEDIATE CAPITAL NEEDS

Schools

- In the next five years, First Nations will require $2.14 billion in capital needs for new school construction, additions, and planning and design.

- Today, 28% (or 140) schools are over-crowded and require additions. Further to this, 46 schools require immediate replacement based on the school age or poor condition.

- Looking further to a 15-year planning period, the total capital needs for schools increases to approximately $5.1 billion, which includes costs for additions, new construction, and planning and design costs.

Teacherages

- In the next five years, First Nations will require $824 million in capital needs for new teacherages construction, additions and planning and design.

- Today, 69 First Nations qualify for additional teacherages based on growing enrolment and Indigenous Services Canada’s Level of Service Standards and Management of Teacherages.

- Today, 76 First Nations contain one or more teacherages that require immediate replacement based on the age or poor condition.

- The total capital needs for teacherages over a 15-year planning period is approximately $1.25 billion.

Figure 5: Immediate to 5 year costing for First Nations school replacement and additions, 2020

Figure 6: Immediate to 5 year costing for First Nations teacher residences replacement and additions, 2020


First Nations elementary schools not only have the smallest classrooms in Canada but are also mandated to hold the most students in their classrooms compared to every other province.

In First Nation schools, kindergarten classrooms are expected to hold an additional 3 students compared to the average provincial school.

The gap is smallest in First Nations secondary schools, where classroom spaces is essentially the same as in provincial high-schools.

First Nations students on average have the smallest amount of space per student when compared to the rest of Canada.

On average, a provincial primary school student receives 11.27% more space than a First Nations student.

On average, a provincial secondary school student receives 17.54% more space than a First Nations student.

**Comprehensive Grade K-12 School – Enrollment of 121-250 Students**

- A Comprehensive K-12 First Nations school with 121-150 students receives 2,903 m² Gross Instructional Space. This equates to 2032 m² net space.

- On average, a provincial student receives 11.27% more space than a First Nations student for the same school. This totals to 229 m² net space.

- 229 m² means:
  - An entire library = 225 m²; OR
  - A Sensory Room (14 m²), Seminar Room (17 m²), Special Education Instructional Space (59 m²), Special Education Office (21 m² each), Itinerant Space (11 m²), Counselling Space (25 m²), First Aid Room (11 m²), Staff Room (48 m²), Storage Closet (10 m²) = 216 m².

**Secondary Grade 7-12 – Enrollment of 121-250 Students**

- A Secondary Grade 7-12 First Nations school with 121-150 students receives 3,208 m² Gross Instructional Space. This equates to 2245.6 m² net space.

- On average, a provincial student receives 17.54% more space than a First Nations student for the same school. This totals to 393.87 m² net space.

- 393.87 m² means:
  - Over five classrooms (69.1 m² each) worth of space based on the School Space Accommodations Standards. = 345.5 m²; OR
  - Home Economics Room (50 m²), Performance Arts Room (32 m²), Band Room (120 m²), Science Lab (70 m²), Technical/Trades Space (120 m²) = 392 m².