

## **First Nation Education Governance and Control in Ontario: A New Agenda**

The Chiefs within Ontario clearly wish to move beyond the 'status quo' of the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Education Reform agenda (including FNSSP, EPP and EIS) that does not meet the standard of First Nation control of First Nation education envisioned in the Treaties, our policy work, and affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP). Upon review of the National Panel process to date, and in recognition of the importance of unity among all First Nations in Canada, the Chiefs in Ontario have asserted that a parallel process to the National Panel process represents an opportunity to provide a positive contribution to the process of developing options for First Nations' education. The parallel process will not be at odds with the National Panel initiative, but will serve to complement the report produced by the Panel.

The parallel process of the Ontario First Nations will take a rights based approach that positions Treaty rights at the core of the initiative. First Nations in Ontario will focus efforts on understanding resourcing constraints and issues of control as a means to address longstanding low education achievement levels of First Nations learners. The scope of the process will include First Nation rights to all aspects of lifelong learning as envisioned in the Treaties and the Assembly of First Nation's (AFN) policy document *First Nations Control of First Nations Education*.

The final report will outline the reality of requirements of First Nations, First Nations organizations and First Nations peoples in Ontario as well as recommendations on improving their ability to improve lifelong learning initiatives that are linked to the strategic priorities outlined in the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) strategic plan. Among other things, the report will include an analysis of an Ontario adaptation of the modifications to the Band Operated Funding Formula (BOFF) by the First Nation Education Council of Quebec (FNEC), which will include recommendations to address comparability of funding and programming between First Nation schools and provincially funded schools.

The work plan and budget indicated below is a product of the first meeting of the FNECU to discuss a direction going forward. This work plan will evolve into a submission to INAC (HQ and region) for resourcing to complete this critical evaluation that signifies the path forward for First Nations in Ontario to gain greater access to First Nation control of First Nation education and ensure Treaty rights are upheld by the Crown.

Category	Purpose	Activities and Decisions	Estimated Timing	Estimated Cost
<b>Resourcing</b>	-To allow adequate funding to ensure success of project	-Julia to inquire regarding NP allocation amount -Julia and Murray to draft work plan and budget -Submit work plan and budget to INAC	-Late May  -Late May  -Early June	
<b>Working Group (2 FNECU, 2 Tribal Council, 1 COO)</b>	-Working group will ensure communication flows to the FNECU and to Tribal Councils for required feedback and input into the project -Will react appropriately to the advice of the Coordinator	-Julia to communicate with Tribal Councils to determine representation on WG -Create schedule of how progress on timelines and cost will be monitored and communicated to FNECU and TCs -Determine the type of information that is needed for report and design a list of pertinent questions that will provide the required information on resourcing	-Late May   -Early June   -Early July	

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		and control.		
<b>Terms of Reference</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To document the objectives and roles and responsibilities of all parties engaged in process</li> <li>-To outline the expected outcomes and guiding principles</li> <li>-To outline the information/communication flow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Julia and Murray to draft</li> <li>-WG and FNECU review, revise and finalize</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Late May</li> <li>-Early June</li> </ul>	
<b>Project Coordinator (TBD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To monitor and evaluate the progress of the project</li> <li>-To advise the WG of potential risks regarding established duties and timelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Dependent on resourcing available</li> <li>-Identify potential candidates and resourcing requirements (WG, FNECU)</li> <li>-Explore options (i.e. contract or term employment)</li> <li>-Hire Coordinator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Late June</li> <li>-Late June</li> <li>-Early June</li> <li>-Mid June</li> </ul>	
<b>Collaboration with Quebec and Saskatchewan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-To ensure the impact of the process is maximized</li> <li>-To further solidify our</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Conference call to explore opportunities</li> <li>-Possible joint submission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-May 16</li> <li>-TBD</li> </ul>	

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<b>(TBC)</b>	shared interest in attaining FNCFNE that is solidly based on Treaty rights	-Possible meeting at AGA	-July	
<b>Communication and Information Collection Plan</b>	- To ensure all avenues of communication are utilized in advising First Nations about the project and collecting the information necessary for a comprehensive report	-Julia to talk to Andre -Murray to talk to UOI -WG to move forward on recommendations from Julia and Murray (to include facebook and twitter, KNET, Virtual Summit etc) -Plan is implemented and monitored by Coordinator	-Late May -Late May -Early June  -Early July	
<b>AOCC</b>	-Mandate requests and update on progress be provided at AOCC	-Progress will be reported via briefing materials -Possible special briefing session	-Mid June	
<b>Consultation Sessions</b>	-Consultations sessions will be designed in a manner that includes a wide representation of First Nations and non-First Nations perspectives on First Nations education issues related to	-2 sessions will be held (north, south) -Toronto -Thunder Bay -Interviews -Virtual Summit	-August -September -August -September	

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	resourcing and control			
<b>Report</b>	<p>- Will provide a clear understanding regarding Ontario's position on resourcing inequity and the need to increase FN control of FN lifelong learning for all First Nation learners.</p> <p>-Treaty rights and federal obligations will be central</p>	<p>-Identify potential report writers</p> <p>-Create an inventory of appropriate literature to be utilized for the report submission (WG, FNECU)</p> <p>-WG and FNECU recommend on awarding of contract to COO and to offer contract</p> <p>-Writer receives orientation and literature for review</p> <p>-Writer attends consultation sessions and receives information collected by Coordinator at interviews and virtual summit</p> <p>-Draft report is completed</p> <p>-Draft report is reviewed and revised</p> <p>-Final report is ratified by leadership and sent to National Chief and INAC</p>	<p>-Late May</p> <p>-Late June</p> <p>-Late June</p> <p>-Early July</p> <p>-August, September</p> <p>-Early October</p> <p>-Late October</p> <p>-Early November</p>	

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		Minister		