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# BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

November 9, 2017  
Draft Meeting Notes

## Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, 1138 Melville St. Vancouver, BC

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### PARTICIPANTS:

#### BC Association of Institutes and Universities (BCAIU)

- Ruth Wittenberg, President

#### BC Colleges

- Colin Ewart, President

#### First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

- Thane Bonar, FNESC, Director of Communications & Policy

#### Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA)

- Verna Billy-Minnabarriet, Chair

#### Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

- Catherine Lappe, Regional Director General
- Jody Kaden, Director, Programs and Partnerships
- Alison Olney, Advisor, Education Programs

#### Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)

- Deb Hull, Executive Director, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Aboriginal Programs
- Carrie Dusterhoft, Director, Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training

#### Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation

- Stephanie Gabel, Senior Advisor, Socio-Economic Partnerships

#### Ministry of Education

- Ted Cadwallader, Provincial Director/Aboriginal Education

### FACILITATION:

- Don Avison, Chair
- Nicolas Mejia, FNESC Manager of Post-Secondary Education and Training

### 1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 10am. The draft agenda was approved.

### 2. Review of Draft Meeting Notes – September 21, 2017

The Draft Meeting Notes from September 21, 2017 were approved with no further changes.

### 3. Aboriginal Teacher Recruitment, Retention and Deployment

Don Avison provided an update on the work of the Aboriginal Teacher Recruitment, Retention and Deployment Working Group. It was mentioned that the Supreme Court of Canada's decision on class size and composition has made the recruitment and retention of teachers challenging for First Nations schools, particularly for those in remote areas, given the increase in opportunities in the public system.

It was further mentioned that the teaching profession could be better promoted to students in the K – 12 system through a mandatory Aboriginal course or bundle of credits and a Grade 10 course focused on teaching as a career. There is also a need to develop more effective and sustainable mechanisms to support community-based delivery of teacher education programs.

**Action Item:** FNESC to provide information on the impact of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision on class size and composition on First Nations schools.

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#### 4. BC NDP Platform Commitments

There was discussion on BC NDP Platform commitments, specifically around the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Minister Melanie Mark and Minister Rob Fleming's mandate letters contain key commitments to advancing Aboriginal education in BC, notably providing greater access to adult basic education, expanding the tuition fee waiver program for former children in care, implementing First Nations history curriculum and developing full-course offerings in Aboriginal languages.

**Action Item:** FNEESC to organize Post-Secondary Education and Training (PSE) Partners meeting with Minister Melanie Mark.

#### 5. Provincial Programs and Initiatives

##### a) Aboriginal Student Data Report

Participants were asked if they had any further feedback on the latest iteration of the Aboriginal Student Data Report. It was noted that the total population of international students is significant at individual institutions, but not at BC institutions overall. There was discussion around using the terminology "Indigenous", rather than Aboriginal, in future iterations of the Aboriginal Student Data Report and for other new and emerging programs and initiatives. There was consensus that the Report must be a catalyst for change and inform policy and practice. It is expected to be released once approval has been given by the Minister of AEST.

##### b) Student Financial Assistance Project

An overview of the status of the Student Financial Assistance Project was provided. A final report is expected to be released in February 2019.

##### c) Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships Program

Successful proponents of the Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships Program are being contacted. It was noted that funding will be able to flow directly to communities if all project proponents agree. Participants expressed the need to move away from proposal-based programming and recommended developing mechanisms which support sustainable, predictable funding to communities for community-based delivery of post-secondary education and training.

##### d) Tuition Free Adult Basic Education

The Ministry has concluded the first phase of engagement on the tuition free Adult Basic Education policy. The second phase of engagement will look into wrap-around supports for Adult learners.

##### e) Tuition Fee Waivers for Former Children and Youth in Care

An overview of the expansion of the tuition fee waiver programs for former children and youth in care to all 25 public post-secondary institutions was provided. Participants noted that former children and youth in care attending post-secondary often lack wrap-around supports and that there is no mechanism for Aboriginal-controlled institutes to support the actual costs of delivering community-based programming to former children and youth in care.

**Action Item:** FNEESC to add discussion around using the terminology "Indigenous" to the next PSE Partners meeting draft agenda.

#### 6. Federal PSE Funding

##### a) Federal Commitments

The federal government is moving towards a distinctions-based approach to PSE funding for Indigenous peoples. As part of this approach, it has committed to a First Nations-led review of all

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federal PSE programs for First Nations students. The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Education is leading this review, and a submission with recommendations is expected to be presented at the 2018 AFN Annual General Assembly, followed by a memorandum to cabinet in fall 2018.

**b) Renewed Relationship with Indigenous Peoples**

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada is being dissolved into two separate departments, which are Indigenous Services Canada and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. A consultation process on the dissolution of INAC is currently underway. The purpose of the dissolution is to move towards better supporting self-government and self-determination and moving away from the Indian Act.

**7. Future Meeting Dates**

It was agreed that FNEESC staff would circulate potential meeting dates for the next PSE Partners meeting.

**8. Other**