



eBulletin

BC Tripartite Education Agreement
Supporting First Nation Student Success

AUGUST 2018

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We are pleased to announce that a renewed *BC Tripartite Education Agreement: Supporting First Nation Student Success (BCTEA)* has been signed, resulting in important and positive changes for First Nations education in British Columbia.

For the first year of BCTEA we will be sending out this monthly BCTEA eBulletin. View the full agreement at www.fnesc.ca/BCTEA.

Changes to Support the BC First Nations Education System

New BCTEA Funding

One-Time Funding Commitments

- \$1,380,000 for new computers for First Nation schools (already allocated to schools)
- \$4,030,000 for First Nation school connectivity upgrades (being completed now)
- \$1,702,000 for First Nation school bus purchases (allocated in spring 2018)
- Estimated up to \$11,488,326 for maintaining First Nation school connectivity from 2018-2023. (This funding is being allocated by the Department of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) as part of the TEFA Funding Formula for First Nation schools).

Other Additional Funding

Canada has made a commitment to provide an additional \$20 million dollars annually for First Nations education in BC. At a provincial TEFA information session held on March 12, 2018, the 160 First Nation and First Nation school representatives in attendance supported the following priorities for the new \$20 million investment *each year*.

- First Nations Language and Culture programs (approx. \$14 million)
- Increased funding for transportation costs of First Nation schools (approx. \$1.3 million)
- More transportation capital (school buses) for First Nation schools (approx. \$1 million)
- Increased funding for First Nations adult education (approx. \$900,000)
- Increased Second and Third Level Services for schools and communities (approx. \$2.7 million)

Language and Culture Funding and Transportation Capital

The allocation dates for the **Language and Culture Funding and Transportation Capital** have not yet been determined, but it is expected to be mid to late fall. Another bulletin specific to language and culture will be distributed before school begins.

The allocation methodology for Language and Culture that was endorsed by the First Nations Schools Association (FNSA) is a base plus per capita model, and schools will be asked to complete a work plan (in a process similar to that used for the special education program).

Special Education Program

The existing special education program, which was not included in the first phase of TEFA, will be incorporated into the new agreement, at the existing funding level of \$24 million and confirming a continuation of the program model designed by and for First Nations schools in BC.

Government Commitments in BCTEA

Canada's New Commitments

- BC First Nations will have access to any new federal investments in First Nations education.
- Canada's discretion to update or not update the funding formula will be limited.
- A BC-specific approach to compliance reviews for the nominal roll (student count) will eliminate the attendance requirement that previously resulted in many students being removed from nominal roll.
- Students will now be eligible for dual credit programs.
- Funding for full-day K4 will be forthcoming (dates to be confirmed).

BC's New Commitments

- Boards of education will discuss school transportation with First Nations and create joint plans to address the transportation needs of students who live on reserves and attend public schools; the resulting transportation services will be funded through a targeted transportation fund for First Nation students complete with a formal process monitored by a tripartite committee (BC, Canada and FNEESC), to be implemented in 2019/20.
- First Nations schools and Boards of Education have historically entered into LEAs, which will continue and be encouraged. In addition, First Nations without an LEA will now have the option to have a provincial LEA take effect.

- BC will provide funding to support FNEC's participation in provincial processes and engage with the Ministry and to support improved student outcomes in BC schools (amount to be determined).
- There will be improved accountability and reporting for students in public schools through the provision of First Nation community specific data, a second enrolment count, and annual student outcome reports to FNEC.
- One of the province's six annual teacher professional development days will focus on enhancing First Nations student learning outcomes, starting in the 2019/2020 school year.

New Changes to Nominal Roll

Under the new BCTEA, Nominal Roll enrolment will be verified jointly by First Nations and school district Secretary-Treasurers before the October 15 due date. A pilot project will be used this year to have joint verification, with a formal process designed for September 2019.

Under BCTEA, First Nation students enrolling in more than eight courses (including dual credit students) can claim in excess of 1.0 FTE. For example, one additional course (4 credits) will equal 0.125 FTE.

In late August, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) will be sending out Instructions for Completing the 2018-2019 Nominal Roll – BC Region, which will outline the details for reporting the 2018-19 nominal roll.

Key Nominal Roll Dates

- **September 30** Nominal Roll count due date
- **October 15** Nominal Roll due for validation to Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)
- **January 31** Deadline for *Addition to Grades Application* for the following school year. Contact the BC Region ISC Program Advisor for more information.

Regional Sessions

Our annual Regional Sessions provide an opportunity to learn more about the work of FNEC and our partners, facilitating dialogue about current First Nations education issues. The second day of the 2018 Fall Regional Sessions will focus on details related to BCTEA for First Nations schools, including the new funding for language and culture programming and transportation capital.

Kelowna, October 4-5, 2018, Delta Grand Okanagan Resort

Prince Rupert, October 10-11, 2018, Crest Hotel

Prince George, October 22-23, 2018, Courtyard by Marriott

Kamloops, November 6-7, 2018, Sandman Signature

Nanaimo, November 15-16, 2018, Best Western Dorchester

Cranbrook, November 28-29, 2018, St. Eugene Golf Resort

Vancouver, January 9-10, 2019, Pinnacle Harbourfront

[Register for a Regional Session](#)

Welcome to Karen Linkert, Director of Instructional Services

We are pleased to announce that Karen Linkert will now be filling the role of Director of Instructional Services. Karen has worked with our organizations for well over a decade as a Regional Principal. In her new position, Karen will be leading the instructional services team, assisting with the provision of direct supports for First Nation schools. Karen can be contacted at karenl@fnesc.ca.

Feedback and Support

For the latest BCTEA information, support contacts and past issues of the eBulletin (previously called the TEFA eBulletin), visit our BCTEA webpage.



[Learn more about BCTEA](#)

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