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# BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

April 11, 2018  
Draft Meeting Notes

Department of Indigenous Services Canada, 1138 Melville St. Vancouver, BC

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## PARTICIPANTS:

Association of British Columbia Deans of Education (ABCDE)

- Jan Hare, Associate Dean of UBC

BC Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance Member (BCATEAM)

- Deanne McLeod

BC Colleges

- Colin Ewart, President

Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC)

- Milica Nauman, Manager, IGR Education
- Susan Klinkhamer, Education Advisor, Programs and Partnerships

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

- Debbie Jeffrey, Executive Director
- Thane Bonar, Director of Communications & Policy

First Nations Public Service Secretariat

- Celina Dorame, Executive Assistant

Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA)

- Verna Billy-Minnabarriet, Chair

Métis Nation BC (MNBC)

- Colleen Hodgson, Director

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
- Shannon Renault, Director, Sector and Project Based Programs

Ministry of Education

- Ted Cadwallader, Provincial Director/Aboriginal Education (Teleconference)

Research Universities' Council of BC

- Jim Martell, Director

## FACILITATION:

- Ruth Wittenberg, Acting 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 10:10am. The draft agenda was approved.

### 2. Review of Draft Meeting Notes – January 10, 2018

Minor edits were made to the January 10, 2018 Draft Meeting Notes. The amended minutes were approved with no further changes.

### 3. Provincial Budget 2018

Deb Hull provided an update on Provincial Budget 2018. The provincial government has increased investments in areas related to Aboriginal post-secondary education (PSE), in particular, housing, adult basic education, tuition waivers for former children and youth in care, the Agreements for Young Adults program, Indigenous Skills Training and Indigenous language revitalization.

Concern was raised that there is a lack of information on the contribution agreement for the \$50 million allocated to First Peoples Cultural Council to support Indigenous language revitalization. In particular, it is unclear how

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Aboriginal-controlled institutes will benefit from this funding, if it can support the Language Proficiency Degree and how funding will flow to communities. Partners also flagged the need for more equitable distribution of language revitalization funding and for FNEC and IAHLA to be meaningfully involved in the roll out of such funding.

#### 4. Provincial Programs and Initiatives

##### a) ASP Review

*Directions: Evidence and Policy Research Group* has been selected to conduct a review of the Aboriginal Service Plan (ASP) initiative. Once the report for the ASP Review has been submitted and approved by the Ministry, it will be shared with the Partners Table.

##### b) Leading Practices

The work on the *Indigenous Leading Practices in Post-Secondary Education* is ongoing. The document will be brought to the Policy Working Group for final revision before going back to the Partners Table.

##### c) Agreements with Young Adults Program Budget 2018

BC Budget 2018 provides \$30 million over three years to the Agreements with Young Adults Program, which helps offset living costs for young adults while they attend school, rehabilitation, vocational or life skills programs. This new funding will increase the age of eligibility to age 26 from age 24, in alignment with the provincial tuition waiver program age limit.

#### 5. Indigenous Skills Training Alignment Project

The aim of the Indigenous Skills Training Alignment Project is to review Indigenous skills training programming in order to identify gaps and duplication in services and better approaches to the design and delivery of such programming. A final report with recommendations is expected between January and February 2019. Partners raised the need for First Nations to be meaningfully engaged throughout all stages of this project and for a more coordinated approach to developing and delivering skills training in partnership with communities.

It was also brought to the attention of the Partners that the new Workforce Development Agreement (WDA) and Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA) have been signed. It was noted that First Nations need to be involved in decisions entailing the transfer of funds from the federal government to the province for dollars which are earmarked for First Nations.

**Action:** FNEC to undertake an analysis of the WDA and LMDA and raise any concerns with AEST.

#### 6. Federal Budget 2018

Milica Nauman provided an update on Federal Budget 2018. No new investments in the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) are included in Budget 2018, as the federal government is waiting for the completion of the review of post-secondary prior to increasing funding for the program.

#### 7. Federal PSE Funding

##### a) Federal PSE Review

Federal Budget 2017 called for a comprehensive review of all federal programs that support Indigenous post-secondary learners. First Nations are leading the First Nations portion of the Review through the Assembly of First Nations's PSE Review Working Group. Following the completion of the Review, a Memorandum to Cabinet with recommendations on First Nations PSE is expected to be delivered in the Fall.

##### b) PSSSP

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The injection of \$90 million in the PSSSP as part of Budget 2017 resulted in an additional \$6.8 million in funding for the BC Region in fiscal 2017 – 18. DISC has increased flexibility in the 2017 – 18 National Program Guidelines, which will allow for more local control and decision-making around the administration of funding for the Program.

**c) PSPP**

The call for proposal for the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP) has closed. DISC BC Region has received a number of proposals for the Program and has forwarded the shortlist to DISC Headquarters.

**8. United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) 94 Calls to Action – Aboriginal Policy Framework/Strategy**

AEST has done a review of all of the UNDRIP articles and TRC Calls to Action in order to determine which are relevant to the work of the Ministry. It was proposed that the *BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework and Action Plan* (the Policy Framework) be updated in light of UNDRIP and the TRC. It was mentioned that commitments around support for Aboriginal-controlled institutes and protection of Indigenous traditional knowledge and intellectual property need to be strengthened in the Policy Framework and for there to be a more concrete action plan with measurable deliverables in the document.

**9. Aboriginal Teacher Recruitment, Retention and Deployment**

The provincial government is investing \$409 million in the Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF) in order to increase the number of teachers in the workforce. It was noted that there is a need to better support pre-service Aboriginal teachers and for the Province to develop a First Nations language policy.

Jan Hare also spoke about the *ABCDE Report on the Aboriginal Student Retention and Recruitment in Teacher Education Symposium*. The Report summarizes lessons learned from the presenters and recommendations. Jan Hare also discussed the work of the ABCDE-FNESC-IAHLA Indigenous Education Working Group. The Working Group continues to advance research in relation to recruitment and retention of Aboriginal learners into teacher education programs.

**Action:** FNESC to bring sample promotional materials on working in First Nations Schools to the next Aboriginal Teacher Recruitment, Retention, and Deployment Working Group meeting.

**10. Terminology: “Indigenous” and “Aboriginal” – Discussion**

Given that the provincial government is standardizing the use of the word “Indigenous” throughout all of its Ministries, Deb Hull asked the PSE Partners Table if there were any objections to its standardization in relation to the work of the PSE Partners Table. No objections were made at the Table, but FNESC indicated that they would like to confirm that the First Nations Leadership Council would not be in opposition.

**Action:** FNESC to confirm that the First Nations Leadership Council has no objections to the use of “Indigenous” in the context of the work of the PSE Partners Table.

**11. Other – New Members**

Partners discussed inviting the Industry Training Authority (ITA) to join the PSE Partners Table, given its responsibility for skills training and that their work has not yet been considered in the context of the Policy Framework. It was agreed that the ITA should be invited, as they are an important part of the Table’s discussions and the development of positive change for Aboriginal PSE learners.

**Action:** AEST to invite the ITA to join the PSE Partners Table.