
BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

November 19, 2018
Draft Meeting Notes

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

PARTICIPANTS:

Association of British Columbia Deans of Education (ABCDE)

- Jan Hare, Associate Dean, Indigenous Education

BC Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance Member (BCATEAM)

- Deanne McLeod, Program Coordinator

BC Colleges

- Colin Ewart, President

Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC)

- Catherine Lappe, Regional Director General
- Milica Nauman, Manager, IGR Education
- Wendy Rogers, Director, Programs and Partnerships
- Laura Langs, Advisor
- Crystal Easton, Senior Program Officer

Service Canada

- Jeff Scott, Director, Indigenous Program Delivery

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

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

Métis Nation BC (MNBC)

- Colleen Hodgson, Director

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)

- Jeff Vasey, Assistant Deputy Minister
- Deb Hull, Executive Director, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Aboriginal Programs
- Catherine Poole, Executive Director, Design and Delivery Branch
- Fiona Cubitt, Director, Policy and Planning

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)

- Stephanie Gabel, Senior Advisor, Socio-Economic Partnerships

Research Universities' Council of BC (RUCBC)

- Robin Ciceri, President
- Jim Martell, Director

Six Nations Polytechnic

- Rebecca Jamieson, President/CEO

FACILITATION:

- Ruth Wittenberg, Acting Chair
- Nicolas Mejia, FNESC Manager, Post-Secondary Education and Training

1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am. The draft agenda was amended to include “Terms of Reference” under “Other”. The amended draft agenda was approved.

2. Review of Draft Meeting Notes—July 27, 2018

During the review of the draft meeting notes, Partners expressed the need for a more coherent approach to the implementation of the 9th Teaching Standard. The draft meeting notes were approved with no changes.

Action Item: AEST to meet with the Ministry of Education to discuss the implementation of the 9th Standard.

3. BC-Specific Post-Secondary Education Model

a) Post-Secondary Education Policy Proposal

FNESC is participating in the development of a draft policy proposal to be appended to a memorandum to cabinet. The Policy Proposal includes a request for the continuation of the federal government’s \$45 million

investment in the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and updated terms and conditions for PSSSP and the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program, increased support for all current funded and unfunded students, governance funding for First Nations-mandated institutes, and authority to support First Nations and DISC to co-develop regional post-secondary models. The memorandum to cabinet is expected to be presented to Cabinet for consideration in December 2018.

Action Item: FNEESC to provide an update on the Policy Proposal at the next PSE Partners meeting.

b) A Responsive Public Post-Secondary System

The BC-Specific Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Model includes a fourth pillar, the purpose of which is to ensure that the public post-secondary system is responsive to the needs and accountable for the outcomes of First Nations learners, as well as develop mechanisms for ensuring that programming and services for First Nations learners are driven by First Nations. Further discussion to refine of this component of the model is needed.

4. Ontario Aboriginal Institutes Funding

Rebecca Jamieson from Six Nations Polytechnic joined the PSE Partners meeting via teleconference in order to discuss Ontario's model for funding Aboriginal institutes and the *Indigenous Institutes Act* (2017). This act allows for Aboriginal institutes to grant stand-alone credentials approved by an Indigenous controlled and governed council and creates the legislative base for ongoing operational funding for these institutes. It was mentioned that BC First Nations may consider legislative options for supporting First Nations-mandated institutes as well.

5. BC Tripartite Education Agreement (BCTEA)

Debbie Jeffrey provided a presentation on BCTEA. BCTEA promotes systemic shifts and collective efforts to facilitate improved educational outcomes of First Nation students in BC, regardless of where they live or are enrolled in school. BCTEA updates and expands upon the 2012-2018 Tripartite Education Framework Agreement.

Action Item: FNEESC to clarify if services under transportation plans can include adults who require transportation to local education centres.

6. Indigenous Language Revitalization in BC

a) Indigenous Language Fluency/Proficiency Degree

The Indigenous Language Fluency/Proficiency Degree (ILFPD) Consortium and Partnership Table continues to meet regularly. The last Partnership meeting took place on September 12, 2018 and focused on the collective route forward towards the implementation of the Degree. This initiative has not received additional support beyond funding for the development of the ILFPD Framework. A proposal has been submitted to AEST to pilot the initiative, and the Ministry will be convening a meeting of the Associate Vice Provost Academics of participating institutes to confirm institutional support and identify next steps.

b) Ministry of Education Indigenous Language Policy Development

Approximately 600 learners are enrolled in Indigenous language programming in the BC K-12 system. There is a need for full course offerings in Indigenous languages in the K-12 system and further work with the Province is needed to accomplish this.

7. Ministry of Education Indigenous Language Policy Development

a) Aboriginal Service Plan Review

Directions Evidence and Policy Research Group was selected to complete the review of the Aboriginal Service Plan initiative. *Directions* conducted surveys with students, public post-secondary institutions, Indigenous communities, and Indigenous organizations. The final report was completed in August 2018. AEST will be briefing Minister Melanie Mark on the final report and will engage with the Partners on the path forward at a later date.

b) Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework Refresh

The Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Policy Framework (Aboriginal Policy Framework) is currently being updated in order to align with the provincial government's commitment to fully implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action, and ensure it reflects the current climate of the post-secondary system in BC. It was mentioned that reconciliation needs to be a prominent theme of the updated Aboriginal Policy Framework and that substantive, long-term investments are required to fully implement it.

c) Aboriginal Student Data Report

In June 2018, AEST released the Aboriginal Learners in British Columbia's Public Post-Secondary System report. This baseline report on Aboriginal PSE is expected to inform policy and decision-making regarding the enrolment, achievement, and transitions of Aboriginal students in public post-secondary institutions. AEST is currently developing a retention measure and analyzing the impact of population growth on the access and completion rates of Aboriginal learners for the next iteration of the Report. Members raised the need for data on former children and youth in care to be included in the Report.

d) Workforce Development Agreement

On June 28, 2019 the BC provincial government announced the signing of two new agreements with the Federal government, the Workforce Development Agreement (WDA) and the Labour Market Development Agreement, which will invest \$2.5 billion over six years in the BC workforce. It was raised that labour market programs targeted for First Nations clients need to be developed in partnership with First Nations.

e) Indigenous Education Leading Practices

AEST shared the final version of the Indigenous Education Leading Practices document with the PSE Partners. These leading practices are supported by case studies demonstrating their effectiveness in improving Indigenous PSE.

f) Student Housing Framework

AEST is currently developing a Student Housing Framework in order to increase the number of on-campus student housing beds. This work is being guided by a Student Housing Working Group. Concern was raised that FNEESC is not a member of this working group.

Action Item: FNEESC to follow up with AEST regarding representation on the Student Housing Working Group.

g) British Columbia-First Nations Proposed Commitment Document

BC has endorsed the Commitment Document submitted by the BC First Nations Leadership Council, and expressed willingness to proceed to collaboratively develop legislation to implement the UN Declaration. This legislation will have significant implications with respect to commitments under development in the updated Aboriginal Policy Framework

8. Future Meeting Dates

The next PSE Partners Meeting will take place on March 6, 2019.

9. Other

a) Terms of Reference

It was agreed that updates to the terms of reference for the PSE Partners are needed, in particular changing the name of the Table to the "Indigenous Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners", consistently applying the term "Indigenous" throughout the document, and outlining the role of a vice chair.

Action Item: FNEESC to amend the terms of reference for the PSE Partners and present them at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Summary of Action Items

Action Item: AEST to meet with the Ministry of Education to discuss the implementation of the 9th Standard.

Action Item: FNEESC to provide an update on the Policy Proposal at the next PSE Partners meeting.

Action Item: FNEESC to clarify if the services under transportation plans can include adults who require transportation to local education centres.

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