
BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

June 16, 2017

Draft Meeting Notes

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

PARTICIPANTS:

Association of BC Deans of Education

- Jan Hare, Associate Dean of UBC

British Columbia Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance

Member (BCATEAM)

- Deanne McLeod

BC Colleges

- Colin Ewart, President

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

- Debbie Jeffrey, Executive Director
- 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 (afternoon)

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

Ministry of Advanced Education (AVED)

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

Ministry of Education

- Ted Cadwallader, Provincial Director/Aboriginal Education

FACILITATION:

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

1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM. It was agreed that the discussion on Aboriginal teacher recruitment and retention would come after the update on the Aboriginal Community-Based Training Partnerships (ACBTP) 2017 – 18 Call for Proposals (CFP) and that the update on the 2016 – 17 Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Coordinator Workshop would come before the update on federal PSE funding. The amended agenda was approved.

2. Review of Draft Meeting Notes – February 23, 2017

The Draft Meeting Notes from February 23, 2017 were approved with no further changes. It was noted that AVED was not able to disaggregate domestic full-time equivalent (FTE) data at UBCO from UBC.

3. Policy Working Group Update

Eugene Johnson provided an update on the Aboriginal PSE student data report. Partners noted the improvements to the latest draft and made several recommendations for the further improvement, particularly in relation to the conclusion section. Partners highlighted the importance of the final report being ready in time for the All Chiefs Gathering in September 2017.

Eugene Johnson also provided an update on AVED's research on financial assistance accessed by Aboriginal learners. In spite of not having been involved in the development of the CFP, FNESC expressed its appreciation for

being involved in the selection of the consultant. Further discussion is needed on how FNEC and IAHLA will be involved in the project going forward.

In addition, the Draft Leading Practices in Aboriginal PSE has been reviewed by the Policy Working Group. This project is still in the beginning stages as more detail on how these leading practices can be implemented and research demonstrating their effectiveness in supporting Aboriginal learners is needed.

Action Item: Partners to provide feedback to AVED on the latest draft of *Aboriginal Learners in British Columbia's Public Post-Secondary System* by June 30, 2017.

4. Aboriginal Service Plan Evaluation Update

Deb Hull updated the Partners Table on the status of the review of the Aboriginal Service Plan initiative. Further discussion is required on how to proceed with the review. FNEC highlighted the need for an external review.

5. ACBTP 2017 – 18 CFP Update

Deb Hull provided information on the ACBTP program 2017 – 18 CFP. All parties to the proposal review process are currently evaluating 79 submissions. Final decisions on successful proponents should be made by the Fall, and programs are due to start in January 2018.

6. ABCDE Symposium: Aboriginal Student Recruitment and Retention in Teacher Education

Jan Hare provided an update on the ABCDE Symposium. The symposium explored various themes related to Aboriginal student recruitment and retention in teacher education programs. It was noted that a draft report on the symposium should be available for circulation to the PSE Partners in two weeks. It was brought to the table's attention that a national symposium on teacher education and recruitment will be taking place in 2018 and that further discussion is needed to determine how the PSE Partners can be involved.

Partners raised concern about the urgent need for a comprehensive strategy to support recruitment and retention. It was agreed that the issue of Aboriginal teacher recruitment and retention required further discussion at the next PSE Partners meeting. It was further agreed that a joint K-12/PSE Partners meeting should be organized to focus specifically on this matter and that the Chair of the BC School Superintendents Association, BC Teacher's Federation (BCTF), ABCDE, BC School Trustees Association should be invited.

Action Item: Don Avison to invite Glen Hansman, President of the BCTF, to jointly hold a meeting on Aboriginal teacher recruitment and retention.

Action Item: FNEC to coordinate Aboriginal teacher recruitment and retention meeting.

7. Indigenous Language Fluency Degree

Thane Bonar provided an overview of the progress achieved towards the development of the indigenous language fluency degree (LFD). The LFD Consortium is working on the course framework, and the next step will be the development of local curriculum, which will require additional funding. IAHLA and the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology have jointly submitted a proposal to Heritage Canada in order to pilot the development and delivery of articulated and transferable language fluency courses at a number of pilot sites.

8. Federal PSE Funding

Jody Kaden updated the Table on the federal government's investments in PSE funding for First Nation learners. The federal government has committed to investing an additional \$90 million into the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP), which will result in \$6.8 million dollars of enhanced funding for BC. The federal government will launch its comprehensive review of federal PSE funding for Indigenous students this fall. There will not be a 2017 – 18 call for applications for the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP). INAC is seeking

to reform the PSPP through the Joint INAC-AFN PSE Task Team process, with the intention of it being based on national principles with regional structures. Debbie Jeffrey reiterated the need for core funding to support IAHLA and Aboriginal-controlled institutes, for federal PSE programs to be administered according to regional guidelines, and for INAC to reinstate a First Nations-driven, regional adjudication process, limit eligible recipients to Aboriginal-controlled institutes and First Nations, and for a proportionate allocation for BC for the PSPP. FNEESC is also concerned with the lack of coordination and articulation between various federal government programs, policies, initiatives and engagement processes related to education and the adverse effect this is having on FNEESC's ability to respond and participate effectively.

9. Joint INAC-AFN PSE Task Team

Developments at the Joint INAC-AFN Task Team were discussed during the update on federal PSE funding.

10. 2016 – 2017 PSE Coordinator Workshop

Nicolas Mejia presented a PowerPoint summarizing feedback from the PSE Coordinator Workshop on federal/provincial PSE programs and initiatives, as well as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) 94 Calls to Action. Feedback from the five regional workshops was comprehensive, and the PowerPoint offered PSE Partners the opportunity to hear directly from communities on challenges they face in supporting their learners. INAC expressed interest in presenting at the 2017 – 18 workshops.

Action Item: FNEESC to share PSE Coordinator Workshops Feedback PowerPoint with the PSE Partners Table.

11. Follow-up on BC Public Post-Secondary Truth and Reconciliation Summit

Deb Hull shared a drafted a report on the Truth and Reconciliation Summit. The report will be available online once it is distributed. Partners discussed the need to develop a strategy for ongoing engagement with public post-secondary institutions on the implementation of the TRC Calls to Action.

12. Future Meeting Dates

Partners agreed to have a PSE Partners meeting and a joint K-12-PSE Partners meeting focusing on teacher recruitment and retention in the fall.

Action Item: FNEESC to propose dates and send out invitations for the next PSE Partners meeting and the Aboriginal Teacher Recruitment and Retention meeting.

13. Other

Don Avison discussed the challenges the BC election results may pose for advancing the work of the PSE Partners Table, especially in regards to engaging cabinet ministers.

Action Item: FNEESC to circulate the Liberal, NDP and Green responses to the First Nation Leadership Council's 2017 BC Election Package.