



eBulletin

BC Tripartite Education Agreement
Supporting First Nation Student Success

SEPTEMBER 2018

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The 2018 *BC Tripartite Education Agreement: Supporting First Nation Student Success (BCTEA)*, signed by the BC First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), Canada, and British Columbia, and witnessed by the BC First Nations Schools Association (FNESA), is intended to promote systemic shifts and collective efforts that will support improved educational outcomes of all First Nation students in British Columbia (BC), regardless of where they live or are enrolled in school.

View the full agreement at www.fnesc.ca/BCTEA.

Language and Culture Activities, BCTEA

Among the many issues addressed in BCTEA, the agreement explicitly recognizes that the BC First Nations Education System was created to build upon and reflect First Nations' languages, cultures, values, and traditions. BCTEA also acknowledges that the revitalization, preservation and maintenance of languages is integral to the well-being of First Nation communities.

Accordingly, attention to First Nation language and culture learning is a central component of BCTEA, with provisions for a comprehensive First Nations Schools Language and Culture Program for First Nation schools, as well as policy and program efforts related to First Nation language programming in public schools.

First Nation Schools Language and Culture Program

Through BCTEA, approximately \$14 million will be provided annually to First Nation schools beginning in the 2018/2019 school year. These new resources are in addition to the \$5 million distributed directly to First Nation schools through the BCTEA funding formula.

The new \$14 million will be allocated through school grants calculated using a base-plus-per-capita formula, based on Canada's nominal roll for FTE (full-time equivalent) students attending First Nation schools.

Letters have been sent to all First Nation schools notifying them of their specific grant amount, as well as the process for accessing the new funding. Schools will be asked to submit a Language and Culture Workplan (due November 16 tbc), and interim report (due March 4) and final report (due June 3) – all of which is described in an information package that is being distributed.

In addition to the school grants, FNEsc and FNsa are planning a range of programs and services to provide collective supports to First Nation schools and communities. Those services will include:

- Language and Culture Coaches who will visit schools throughout the province to support school staff and students, depending on funding and time availability;
- regional First Nation school information sessions;
- workshops on curriculum and resource development; and
- a range of professional development opportunities for language teachers.

More details about these initiatives will be distributed soon.

Systemic Changes to Support Language and Culture Programming in Public Schools

BCTEA also recognizes that all students should have the opportunity to learn an Indigenous language whenever possible, and should do so with the support of the Indigenous community. Therefore, the agreement includes mutual commitments related to:

- the development of a collaborative, co-created process to support K-12 Indigenous language learning in public schools, including joint work on a Ministry of Education Indigenous Language Policy and implementation plan;
- the collection and analysis of meaningful Language and Culture learning data;
- the advancement of full-course offerings in First Nation languages; and
- the inclusion of FNEsc in any reviews of or changes to relevant standards and policies.

Who Can Help?

For further information about all First Nation Language and Culture activities, please contact the Director, First Nations Language and Culture, Kirsten Baker-Williams at kbaker@fnesc.ca, 604-925-6087 or Toll-free 1-877-422-3672.

Regional Sessions

The annual Regional Sessions provide an opportunity to learn more about the work of FNEESC and our partners, facilitating dialogue about current First Nation education issues. The 2018 Regional Sessions will focus on details related to BCTEA, 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](#)

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.



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