

SCHEDULE F

GRADUATION CREDENTIAL

WHEREAS

- A. Under TEFA, British Columbia and FNEC developed and implemented a process to permit a student who has completed an educational program at a First Nations Schools Association-certified school, having achieved learning outcomes substantially comparable to those required for graduation by the Ministry of Education, to be considered for the B.C. Certificate of Graduation (the “Dogwood”).
- B. British Columbia and FNEC are committed to continuing to work collaboratively to implement this process, in accordance with this Schedule.

THEREFORE the Parties agree as follows:

1.0 GRADUATION APPROACH

- 1.1 Consistent with existing practice, in order to award students the Dogwood, non-Independent First Nations Schools will meet the following criteria:
 - a) The First Nation School has current First Nations Schools Association (FNSA) Certification, based upon completion of the FNSA School Assessment Process and continued achievement of the FNSA Certification criteria;
 - b) The First Nation School employs teachers with a teaching certificate in good standing issued by a provincial education ministry or a recognized Canadian teacher certification authority;
 - c) The First Nation School’s teachers and staff have undergone a criminal record check if they:
 - i. work with children directly; and/or
 - ii. have, or potentially have, unsupervised access to children;
 - d) The First Nation has applied for Personal Education Numbers (PENs) for all eligible students;
 - e) Permanent Student Records have been established for all eligible students, consistent with the information requirements set out in the Permanent Student Record Order, MO82/09;

- f) The school provides an educational program sufficient to allow students, where applicable, to transfer without academic penalty, at similar levels of achievement, between First Nations Schools and BC Schools; and
- g) Students in the First Nation School have access to an education program that meets graduation requirements set out in the Graduation Program Order, MO 302/04.

1.2 To build on non-Independent First Nations schools' access to the Dogwood graduation certificate, BC will work with FNEESC, and the FNSA, to develop processes empowering students attending those schools to earn credit towards the Dogwood in a variety of ways, such as Board/Authority authorized courses, challenge processes, equivalency, external credentials, and independent directed study. BC recognizes these processes may be different than those in BC Schools, and must be grounded in the principles of the Agreement, including First Nations control of First Nations education.

2.0 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 Under the terms of the Agreement, and in accordance with Schedule J [Funding Protocol], Canada agrees to provide Second and Third Level Services funding to FNEESC.

2.2 FNEESC, working with the FNSA, will:

- a) support First Nation Schools in accessing the provincial Dogwood / Adult Dogwood Graduation Certificate through the provision of information, the operation of DRUMS, the implementation of the First Nations Schools Assessment and Certification Process, and direct support as requested or required;
- b) on request, and no less than annually, provide the BC Ministry of Education an updated list of FNSA certified schools;
- h) report annually on the number of students graduating from non-Independent First Nations schools who have been awarded a Dogwood Graduation Certificate; and
- i) allocate funding described in 2.1 for:
 - i. the continued operation of the Data Reporting and User Management System (DRUMS), which facilitates necessary information sharing between First Nations Schools and the Ministry; and
 - ii. the continued implementation of the FNSA First Nations Schools Assessment Process, which is required for non-Independent First Nation Schools to meet the requirements for First Nations Students to earn a Dogwood Graduation Certificate.

2.3 British Columbia and FNEESC, working with the FNSA, will:

- a) annually update and disseminate the *Checklist for Non-Independent First Nations Schools Planning to Award Graduating Students the BC Dogwood Graduation Certificate*, as well as the *First Nations School Dogwood Graduation Certificate Process Formatting and Information Pamphlet*;
- b) work together to develop and implement processes to enable students attending First Nation Schools to earn credit towards the Dogwood;
- c) support First Nation Schools in accessing the Dogwood and Adult Dogwood graduation certificates through the operation of the BC Provincial Student Information System, where First Nations have opted to use the Ministry's platform (currently known as 'MyEducation BC');
- d) be involved in any and all reviews of and changes to the Ministry's graduation credentials and approach; and
- e) convene discussions, no later than October 2018, with the intent of developing a process enabling First Nation Schools to access the Adult Dogwood.