

SCHEDULE G

TRANSPORTATION FOR FIRST NATION STUDENTS ATTENDING BC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS

- A. Over the past several years, the Parties have become increasingly aware of concerns regarding the transportation of First Nation students living on reserve who attend BC Public Schools.
- B. During the term of TEFA, the Ministry's funding formula for education as set out in the OGM has included a student location factor, but the Ministry does not target provincial funds to provide transportation or mandate boards of education to provide transportation services.
- C. In spring 2017, FNEESC undertook research involving site visits to 15 First Nations, as well as a survey of all First Nations in the province, in order to better understand related issues and investigate common transportation challenges among First Nations.
- D. Prior to this Agreement, Canada expected transportation services to be provided by boards of education through the student location factor funding included in the First Nations Billing Rate.
- E. FNEESC has identified outstanding transportation issues that have not been addressed within the education funding framework in BC, despite the inclusion of a student location factor in the OGM and the province and local boards of education receiving funding for the student location factor from Canada.
- F. The Parties are committed to developing and implementing effective measures to address existing and future issues arising from the transportation of First Nation Students to BC Public Schools.

THEREFORE the Parties agree as follows:

1.0 TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

- 1.1 The Parties will undertake the steps in this Schedule to fulfill their commitment under section 4.10 of the Agreement to develop and implement a strategy to address and resolve First Nation Student transportation issues.

2.0 FIRST NATION STUDENT TRANSPORTATION FUND

- 2.1 The Parties agree to establish a First Nation Student Transportation Fund to fund the transportation of First Nation Students to BC Public Schools commencing in the 2019/20 School Year.
- 2.2 The base amount for the First Nation Student Transportation Fund for the 2019/20 School Year will be equivalent to the amount of the Student Location Factor in the OGM, paid by Canada to British Columbia or paid by Canada to First Nations to pay to boards of education, in the 2018/19 School Year as determined by the Parties.
- 2.3 Commencing with the 2019/20 School Year:
 - a) Canada will pay the First Nation Student Transportation Fund to BC; and
 - b) British Columbia will allocate and pay the First Nation Student Transportation Fund to school districts by way of a special grant pursuant to section 115 of the *School Act*.
- 2.4 In allocating the First Nation Student Transportation Fund under section 2.3(b), the Minister will impose strict requirements upon boards of education that those funds may only be used for the transportation needs of First Nation Students attending BC Public Schools in accordance with a plan approved by one or more First Nations and the board of education for that school district.

3.0 JOINT FIRST NATION STUDENT TRANSPORTATION PLANS

- 3.1 All boards of education will be required to develop and submit to the Ministry, annually, a Joint First Nation Students Transportation Plan for First Nations served by the board of education, to be jointly signed off with each First Nation needing transportation for their First Nation Students to a BC Public School.
- 3.2 The Parties will establish a tripartite First Nation Student Transportation Committee (the "Committee") to assess the Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans submitted by each board of education and First Nations. The Committee may consult transportation experts to assist in assessing Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans.
- 3.3 In considering the Joint First Nation Students Transportation Plans, the Committee shall consider:

- a) whether previous audited financial statements indicate that the annual First Nation Student Transportation Funding has been fully and appropriately expended by the board of education; and
- b) whether the board of education and First Nation have demonstrated consideration of options to find efficiencies and share services where appropriate.

3.4 Upon approval of a Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan by the Committee, the Ministry will fund the plan from the funding available in the First Nation Student Transportation Fund.

3.5 In the event that a First Nation and board of education determine they need to revise a Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan and that the revisions require further funding, they may jointly submit a revised plan to the Committee for consideration.

3.6 Subject to clause 5.7 of the Agreement, in the event that the First Nation Student Transportation Fund is not sufficient to fund all Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans, Canada will fund the necessary increase to the First Nation Student Transportation Fund, and the Ministry will pay that additional funding to boards of education in accordance with the approved Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan.

4.0 ACCOUNTABILITY

4.1 The Minister will require boards of education to report on the spending of all First Nation Student Transportation Funding received by the board of education and the spending of the First Nation Student Transportation Funding for each district will be verified using audited financial statements.

4.2 In the event that the First Nation Student Transportation Fund is not fully spent within any year, any remaining portion of the funds shall be carried forward and applied to the transportation of First Nation Students attending BC Public Schools in the following year.

4.3 For boards of education with continuing or emergent First Nation Students transportation issues, or boards of education failing to submit a Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan, the Ministry will intervene to determine outstanding transportation issues and, as necessary, direct the board of education to address the identified transportation issue with available First Nation Student Transportation Funding in consultation and agreement with the First Nation.

5.0 TRANSITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 The Parties acknowledge some LEAs include provisions regarding transportation. Boards of education and First Nations with LEAs must submit a Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan to confirm or ensure that the transportation needs of First Nation Students from such First Nations who are attending a BC Public School are being addressed.
- 5.2 For greater certainty, a board of education and one or more First Nations may submit a Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plan that confirms that transportation of First Nation Students is effectively addressed by an existing LEA, but the Plan must identify the scope of transportation services being provided by the school district and the cost of those services.
- 5.3 The Parties will examine the implications of the Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans and take measures, as necessary, to support the best integration of the Plans and LEAs.

6.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 6.1 The Parties confirm that the development of Joint First Nation Student Transportation Plans is intended to ensure First Nation Students have transportation to BC Public Schools to improve student attendance and educational outcomes for First Nation Students.
- 6.2 The Parties will review the effectiveness of the strategy outlined in this Schedule after 2 years, or as otherwise agreed by the Oversight Committee, to assess whether the strategy has effectively addressed and resolved transportation issues for First Nation Students attending BC Public Schools and, where necessary, identify and implement improvements and/or further options.