
BC Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

September 17, 2019

Meeting Notes

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

PARTICIPANTS:

BC

BC Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance Member (BCATEAM)

- Deanne McLeod, Program Coordinator

BC Association of Institutes and Universities

- Ruth Wittenberg, 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

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

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

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)

- Deb Hull, Executive Director, Teaching Universities, Institutes and Aboriginal Programs
- Fiona Cubitt, Director, Policy and Planning

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)

- Stephanie Gabel, Senior Advisor, Socio-Economic Partnerships (Teleconference)

Research Universities' Council of BC (RUCBC)

- Jim Martell, Director (Teleconference)

GUESTS:

- Tony Nelson Director, Targeted Learner Supports Programs, AEST (Teleconference)
- Emily Cronin, Executive Director, Governance, Engagement and Corporate Services Branch, AEST (Teleconference)
- Jeanne Sedun, Executive Director, Sector Business Innovation, AEST (Teleconference)
- Nancy Singh, Director, Sector Business Innovation, AEST (Teleconference)

FACILITATION:

- Judith Sayers, Chair
- Nicolas Mejia, FNESC Manager, Post-Secondary Education and Training

1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda

The PSE Partners reviewed the Draft Agenda for the September 17, 2019 meeting. Discussion on the 9th professional standard for BC educators was added to the agenda under “Other”. The amended agenda was approved.

2. Review of Draft Meeting Notes—June 12, 2019

The amended draft meeting notes were reviewed and approved.

Action: FNEESC to circulate the updated PSE Partners Terms of Reference and upload to the Partners webpage.

3. Children and Youth in Care in PSE

a) FNEESC Strategy

FNEESC shared information on its education strategy for current and former children and youth in care. The Union of BC Indian Chiefs and First Nations Summit have passed resolutions supporting FNEESC in advancing its strategy, and a third resolution is expected to be presented at the next BC Assembly of First Nations meeting. FNEESC will be delivering a presentation on children and youth in care at an upcoming Child Welfare Forum in October. It was further mentioned that Mary Turpel Lefond will be the keynote at FNEESC’s conference in November. FNEESC mentioned that they will be costing out the different elements within their strategy. FNEESC will share additional details on its strategy as unfolds.

It was mentioned that quality data is critical to informing the way forward with respect to policy and programming for former children and youth in care in PSE. There are some notable limitation within the *How Are we Doing Report? Children and Youth in Government Care and Youth on Youth Agreements* report, and FNEESC will have more conversations on the variables that need to be included in the Report. It was also noted that more data is needed on the eligibility of children and youth in care graduating from K-12 to attend PSE.

b) Tuition Waiver Program

Tony Nelson joined the Partners meeting via teleconference in order to speak about the tuition waiver program for former children and youth in care. Tony noted that 864 former children and youth in care are receiving support through the TWP and that program is more subscribed than the budget allocated for it. Concerns were raised regarding the existing eligibility criteria for the Program. It was mentioned that addressing the under representation of males in the PSE system will entail expanding the age cap for the TWP.

4. Federal Programs and Initiatives Updates

Nicolas Mejia provided an update on the changes to the terms and conditions for federal programs for First Nations PSE students. The changes aim to address concerns that First Nations have raised with respect to the guidelines for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP). Guidelines for the PSPP and PSSSP have been drafted and are still awaiting approval. A call for proposals for the PSPP was not released for 2019 – 20, and it was mentioned that PSPP funding will now flow exclusively to First Nations and their designated organizations, rather than public post-secondary institutions, under the new terms and conditions.

5. Indigenous Policy Framework Refresh

Fiona Cubitt provided information on the status of the Policy Framework refresh and summarized discussions that have taken place at the Policy Working Group to date. Partners discussed additional actions and objectives that should be included in the new Policy Framework and raised the need to include commitments related to former children and youth in care and addressing racism, to seek input from Indigenous student unions, to devote more focus on addressing the gap in Indigenous males transitioning to PSE, and to develop measures for tracking progress on the implementation of the Policy Framework.

6. Provincial Program and Initiatives Updates

a) Indigenous Board Member Representation/Forum

AEST is working with FNEESC and MNBC to organize a gathering of all Indigenous public post-secondary institution board members. The gathering, to take place at the Musqueam Cultural Pavillion, will allow the board members to discuss challenges they are facing within their respective institutions, what supports they require in order to have an effective voice and changes needed to the onboarding and recruitment process. Partners expressed that the Gathering should

take place annually.

b) Indigenous Skills Training Alignment Project

Emily Cronin joined the Partners via teleconference in order to provide an update on the Indigenous Skills Training Alignment Project. AEST has met with the First Nations Leadership Council in order to discuss the creation of a First Nations tripartite employment and training table. This table is expected to provide recommendations that will lead to a more integrated approach to the delivery of Indigenous skills training in BC. Partners discussed the need for this work to align with the BC Tripartite PSE Model and to ensure that Indigenous skills training programming does not perpetuate the racism of low expectations by only supporting projects focused on short-term training.

c) Aboriginal student data report

AEST is working with FNEESC and MNBC on the next iteration of the *Aboriginal Learners in BC's Public Post-Secondary System*. The Ministry will be including data on former children and youth in care and retention rates in the Report. The Ministry hopes to bring the next iteration of the Report at Policy Working Group in October and December PSE Partners meeting.

d) Student housing framework

Nancy Singh and Jeanne Sedun joined the Partners meeting via teleconference to discuss the Province of BC's student housing framework. AEST is seeking to increase the number of on-campus student housing beds by 5000. Concern was raised that international students may be displacing Indigenous students with respect to on-campus housing, and it was recommended that a mechanism be developed to track the number of beds being allotted to First Nations students.

The Ministry also discussed the student housing demand survey, which received 16,000 responses from students, 1,000 (7%) of which were Indigenous students. The contractor for this project is currently developing a report, and Ministry staff will be briefing the Minister on its findings in October. The Ministry is also hosting a Student housing workshop, which will support capacity-building in the area of student housing across the province. The 5 themes of the workshop are: community life, student health and well-being, Indigenous student supports, diversity and inclusion.

7. Other

At the last PSE Partners meeting, it was agreed that a meeting with the Vice-Presidents (VP) Academic of BC's public post-secondary institutions would be organized in order to discuss what is being done to ensure that pre-service teachers are equipped with the knowledge necessary to implement the 9th standard for the education, competence and professional conduct of educators in BC. Partners discussed the matter further, as some felt that a meeting with the Deans of BC's teacher education programs was more viable. It was agreed that this meeting should take place at the VP academics.

Action: AEST and FNEESC to coordinate a meeting with the VP Academic of institutions with teacher education programs.

Action: Staff to bring copies of the First Nations land title and governance teacher resource guide to the next Partners meeting.