
BC Indigenous Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

March 12, 2020

Meeting Notes

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

PARTICIPANTS:

BC Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance Member (BCATEAM)

- Deanne McLeod, Executive Director, North East Native Advancing Society

BC Association of Institutes and Universities

- Ruth Wittenberg, President

BC Colleges

- Colin Ewart, President

Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC)

- Wendy Rogers, Director, Programs and Partnerships British Columbia Region
- Alison Olney, Education Programs Manager
- Laura Langs, Education Programs Advisor

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNEESC)

- Deborah Jeffrey, Executive Director
- Thane Bonar, Director, Communications and Policy
- Nick Poullos, PSE Policy Analyst

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)

- Fiona Cubitt, Director, Policy and Planning, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch
- Bryan Dreilich, Director, Post-Secondary Engagement & Partnerships, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch
- Naomi Adams, Senior Policy Analyst, Policy and Planning, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch

Research Universities' Council of BC (RUCBC)

- Jim Martell, Director

TELECONFERENCE:

Association of BC Deans of Education (ABCDE)

- Jan Hare, Associate Dean, Indigenous Education

Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA)

- Dr. Verna Billy Minnabarriet, Chair

Service Canada

- Jennifer Campagnolo, Senior Development Officer - Aboriginal Programs

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)

- Tony Nelson, Director, Target Learner Supports Programs, StudentAid BC

Ministry of Education (EDUC)

- Kaleb Child, Director, Indigenous Education

FACILITATION:

- Judith Sayers, Chair
- Nicolas Mejia, FNEESC Manager, Post-Secondary Education and Training, IAHLA/FNEESC

1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda

The PSE Partners reviewed the Draft Agenda for the March 12, 2020 meeting. No additions were made to the draft agenda. The Draft Agenda was approved.

2. Review of Draft Meeting Notes—December 11, 2019

The Draft Meeting Notes were reviewed and approved as circulated.

One of the action items noted in the draft meeting notes for the December 11, 2019 meeting was for the PSE Partners to discuss the Network of Post-Secondary Indigenous Educational Leaders' (I-LEAD) request for membership with the PSE Partners table. Following discussion, it was agreed upon by the Partners that I-LEAD would not be granted membership and that the Chair would send the organization a letter explaining the Partners' decision.

Action: The PSE Partners Chair to write a letter to I-LEAD concerning their request for membership.

3. Bill 8 – Attachment of PENs at Birth

FNESC raised a number of concerns regarding *Bill 8 – Education Statutes Amendment Act, 2020*. This amendment gives authority to the Minister of Education to assign Personal Education Numbers (PENs) to children born in BC at birth. FNESC expressed that the collection of data is inherently political and such measures cannot be put in place without the consent of First Nations. The Bill was passed in the legislature in February, and given the lack of engagement with First Nations on this matter, FNESC has recommended that the Ministry not move forward with assigning PEN's to children at birth at this time.

4. BC Tripartite PSE Model Update

FNESC provided an update on FNESC's progress towards the development and implementation of the BC Tripartite PSE Model. FNESC continues to engage with First Nations on the Model, most recently at the 2019-20 PSE Coordinator Workshops. It was noted that unlike the BC Tripartite Education Agreement, the Model will be implemented through a series of agreements incrementally. FNESC will continue to update the Partners on developments and share more information as appropriate.

5. Federal Government Programs and Initiatives

a) PSSSP Guidelines

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) provided an overview of the 2019-2020 National Program Guidelines for the Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP)/University and College Entrance Preparation Program (UCEPP). The Guidelines have not yet been posted publicly or shared with First Nations, and it was noted that this has caused some challenges for First Nations needing clarity on the changes from last year's Guidelines. ISC explained that part of the reason for the delay is that the new Guidelines were being co-developed with First Nations at the national level.

b) PSPP Guidelines

ISC provided an overview of the 2020-21 National Program Guidelines for the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP). The new guidelines create the space for First Nations within their respective regions to jointly administer the Program with their ISC regional office or fully administer the Program themselves, rather than participating in the national call for proposals. It was noted that FNESC will submit a proposal to ISC in order to administer BC's share of PSPP funding and will work with IAHLA to develop BC-specific guidelines and processes.

6. Provincial Program and Initiatives Updates

a) Indigenous Policy Framework Refresh

Fiona Cubitt provided an update on progress achieved in updating the *Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Framework and Action Plan (Aboriginal Policy Framework)*. The Ministry is working on a consolidated draft of the new policy framework to be brought forward for consideration by the Policy Working Group. It was raised that the new policy framework will need to align with the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

b) Aboriginal Student Data Report

AEST has developed a draft of the new Aboriginal Student Data Report, which builds on the first report released in

2018. Once the Ministry has incorporated feedback from the Policy Working Group, they will bring it to the Partners table for review. They would also like to explore opportunities to present the data to the FNEESC and IAHLA boards. FNEESC requested that AEST prepare a presentation on international students for the next Partners meeting.

Action: AEST to prepare a presentation on international student data for the next PSE Partners meeting.

c) Student Housing Framework

Bryan Dreilich provided an update on the Student Housing Framework. Approximately 5,600 student housing beds have been initiated. Of these beds, 2,700 have been funded through loans and grants. There was also a student housing survey that was distributed to students at 24 of the 25 public post-secondary institution. Presentations are being planned for the PSE Partners and public post-secondary institutions on the results of this research. FNEESC noted that international student data will be particularly important for informing discussions on student housing.

d) AEST Support for Teacher Education Programs to Implement Call to Action 62

Naomi Adams provided an overview of funding AEST provided to support the implementation of Truth and Reconciliation Commission *Call to Action 62*. Last March-April, AEST provided funding to the 8 public post-secondary institutions with teacher education programs, as well as the ABCDE in order to support the indigenization of curriculum. This has enhanced work that has already been underway since 2012, and efforts are being made to reach in-service teachers and establish partnerships with communities.

7. Former Children and Youth in Care Data Supports

Tony Nelson joined the meeting to provide an update on the Tuition Waiver Program (TWP) and the data available on children and youth in care who are eligible or may become eligible for the Program. As of the end of February 2020, 1,272 unique students have accessed the TWP, with AEST having reimbursed \$6.8 million to public post-secondary institutions in tuition and administration fees. The TWP has a budget of \$2 million per year, and faces budgetary pressure of \$1.3 to 1.4 million. AEST had asked the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) for the number of individuals who would be eligible for the TWP. They estimated that just over 14,000 would currently meet the program's criteria. FNEESC raised that a more robust approach to gathering data on the educational outcomes of current and former children and youth in care is needed.

8. Indigenous Skills Training

Bryan Dreilich provided an overview of the Call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for Indigenous Skills Training Programs that was released in December. AEST has received 106 EOIs in total, which are currently being reviewed by the Ministry. FNEESC and IAHLA continue to have concerns with the new approach that has been taken to the delivery of community-based education and training and look forward to being more involved going forward.

9. Future Meeting Dates

FNEESC requested that the June 17th, 2020 meeting be moved to June 23rd. The Partners agreed to move the meeting as requested.

10. Adjournment and Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40pm.