



Co-operative Education Program (Co-op) 2020-2021 Call for Proposals

Objectives

The Co-op has the following objectives:

- to promote the benefits of education as key to labour market participation
- to support the development and enhancement of essential employability skills among First Nations youth such as communication skills, problem solving and working with others
- to introduce youth to a variety of career options
- to support the provision of mentored school-based work and study opportunities such as co-operative education and internships
- to help First Nations youth overcome barriers to employment

Expected results

Key expected results of the Co-op are:

- enhanced employability skills for participating First Nations youth
- increased awareness of the benefits of education
- enhanced ability to make employment-related decisions
- improved attitudes toward the transition from school to work
- increased ability of First Nations youth to participate in the labour market

Eligible recipients

Eligible recipients for co-operative education activities are First Nations schools on reserve.

Eligible participants

Co-operative education eligible participants are students in grades 7 to 12, enrolled in and attending a First Nations school who are ordinarily resident on reserve.

Activities

The key activities of Co-op are:

- training experiences that support youth in acquiring skills needed for work placements
- career development information, including awareness and support activities like career fairs and leadership projects
- career planning and counselling activities

Expenditures

For co-operative education placements and internships

- salaries for Program Coordinator / Lead Teacher (not already covered by other DISC funding, including TEFA core funding or elementary / secondary education or band support/tribal council funding)
- Equipment for students and other necessary costs directly related to a work placement including, but not limited to, criminal record check, uniforms required by the workplace,

personal safety gear such as work boots, safety hats up to a maximum of \$300 per participant

- actual costs for special equipment and facilities to accommodate the needs of a disabled individual, up to a maximum of \$3,000 per participant
- staff training directly related to co-operative education
- other incidental co-op and internship placement costs including insurance for students during their co-op or internship placement
- travel for co-op coordinator/teacher to meet employers
- participant costs such as living expenses, travel costs and room and board.

Ineligible expenditures

- co-op education placements:
 - salaries or wages for students
 - dependent care or daycare
 - office infrastructure or equipment purchases such as computer and software
 - Capital costs for the construction of a building (other than small repairs or renovations to support the participation of persons with disabilities) or the purchase of land or buildings

Proposals Due: Friday, September 11, 2020

Submit to: reception@fnesc.ca or by fax to 604-925-6097

For any questions, please contact Kylee Mayers, FNESC Programs Officer

Email: kyleem@fnesc.ca or by phone at 604-925-6087

Final Reports Due: March 19, 2021

**First Nations & Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES)
2020-2021 Cooperative Education Program
COVID-19 Suggestions & Support**

FNESC and FNSA understand that preparing proposals during the uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic is especially difficult. Planning and implementing programs that are meant to help students explore work-related opportunities and skills development activities pose particular challenges, given that restrictions on travel and closing of businesses may limit program options.

To augment the regular program guidelines and documents, the following suggestions are intended to share ideas to help with First Nations schools' Cooperative Education Program planning. These suggestions have been identified to address varying levels of restrictions, including some activities that can be completed by students working from home and others in small groups or outside.

Please consider these as ideas only; you are welcome to establish your own program within the COOP guidelines. But all activities should be considered carefully with the safety and well-being of participants in mind, and recognizing any related First Nations' directives related to social distancing.

As COVID-19 regulations are ever changing and future developments can't be fully anticipated, we understand that programs may need to be changed in the course of their implementation. In such cases, please contact the program manager kyleem@fnesc.ca, to make sure any program changes meet the guidelines.

Cooperative Education (COOP)

- Coop placements that are safe and follow provincial health guidelines can still be implemented.
- Any COOP placements should be considered carefully with the safety and well-being of participants in mind, and recognizing any related First Nations' directives related to social distancing.
- It may be beneficial to include Covid-19/ Pandemic Awareness training during an orientation before the start of COOP placements. Some resource materials and training courses can be found here: https://www.ccohs.ca/products/courses/pandemic_aware/, <https://worksitesafety.ca/product/training/online/coronavirus-covid-19/>, <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/about-us/covid-19-updates/health-and-safety>
- Implementing volunteer programs in the community, such as community clean-ups and supporting community events, may be possible. Such initiatives can include: an introduction to volunteering, its value for community and self; planning; and work ethics. Coop Ed funding can be used to purchase necessary equipment, and activities could be completed individually or in small groups. Some resources and information for Coordinators and for students to learn about volunteering can be found under the following links:

<https://www.workbc.ca/WorkBC-Blog/Read-WorkBC-s-Blog/Three-Benefits-of-Volunteering.aspx>
<https://volunteerbc.bc.ca/are-you-a-volunteer/>
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1JPeKl7yQYCnG8hsmXbWpKMcC-TJojOUD>
<https://ceric.ca/2017/10/obvious-and-unexpected-the-benefits-of-volunteering-for-youth/>

- Creating film, documentary, and/or music projects can facilitate experiential learning related to technology applications, film making, media, arts etc. Projects can be done individually with remote support (if required) or in small groups. Funding can be used to purchase camera/filming/audio equipment and fees for mentors.

See following resource link:

[Create to Learn@Home](#)- These video tutorials on digital skills and/or traditional knowledge using digital tools are all created by First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists and media makers to share their skills with students.

- Creating projects with science and maker kits can help students explore career areas, and can be done independently by students at home with remote support.
[\(https://chemistryhall.com/science-kits-for-teens/\)](https://chemistryhall.com/science-kits-for-teens/)
- Building a community / home garden can teach work ethics and important skills, and you can use funding to purchase garden boxes, raised garden kits, tools and materials.
- Acquiring job related certificates online may be possible, including: Food Safe, Serving it right, WHMIS, Fall Protection, H2S, etc. COOP programs can support students who are interested in employment opportunities requiring certificates to get training and certification in relevant areas. Ideally, students will then be placed in related COOP placements. *Reminder: COOP placements should be considered carefully with the safety and well-being of participants in mind, and recognizing any related First Nations' directives related to social distancing.*
- Implementing employment readiness activities should be possible, preparing students for applying to work or education opportunities through resume/ cover letter writing, creating portfolios, interview strategies, etc. Mock interviews may be possible one-on-one, or by zoom or phone.
- COOP coordinators can be engaged to manage programs and activities.