
BC Indigenous Post-Secondary Education and Training Partners

September 16, 2020

Videoconference

PARTICIPANTS:

Association of BC Deans of Education (ABCDE)

- Jan Hare, Associate Dean, Indigenous Education

BC Aboriginal Training Employment Alliance Member (BCATEAM)

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

BC Colleges

- Colin Ewart, President

Department of Indigenous Services Canada (DISC)

- Wendy Rogers, Director, Programs and Partnerships
- Laura Langs, Education Programs Advisor

First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC)

- Deborah Jeffrey, Executive Director
- Thane Bonar, Director, Communications and Policy

First Nations Public Service Secretariat (FNPSS)

- Jehan Casey, Director
- Bernice Timmer, Intergovernmental Relations and Policy, First Nations

Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA)

- Dr. Verna Billy Minnabarriet, Chair

Métis Nation BC

- Madelaine Green, Education Coordinator

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)

- Nicola Lemmer, Assistant Deputy Minister
- Monica Cox, Executive Director, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch
- Fiona Cubitt, Director, Policy and Planning, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch

- Naomi Adams, Senior Policy Analyst, Policy and Planning, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch
- Bryan Dreilich, Director, Post-Secondary Engagement & Partnerships, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch
- Janet Hanuse, Director, Indigenous Programs, Workforce Innovation and Division Responsible for Skills and Training
- Helana Harbuckle, Policy Analyst, Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Relations
- Sunjit Bains, A/Director, Intergovernmental and Stakeholder Relations
- Ashley McGinnis, Aboriginal Youth Internship Program Intern, Indigenous Policy and Engagement Branch

Ministry of Education (MOE)

- Nicole Ryan, A/Director, Indigenous Education

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR)

- Stephanie Gabel, Senior Advisor, Social/Economic Planning

Service Canada,

- Sam Boonstra, Citizen Services & Program Delivery Branch

Research Universities' Council of BC (RUCBC)

- Jim Martell, Director

FACILITATION:

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

1. Welcome and Review of Draft Agenda

The Partners reviewed the Draft Agenda for the September 16, 2020 meeting. The Sustainable Teacher Workforce Labour Market Project Report was added to the Draft Agenda under “Other”. The Partners approved the amended agenda.

2. Review of Draft Meeting Notes

AEST had minor revisions to the Draft Meeting Notes for June 23, 2020 Post-Secondary Education and Training (PSE) Partners meeting, which they will forward to FNEC following the meeting. The meeting notes were reviewed and approved.

3. Anti-Racism Discussion

AEST opened the discussion on anti-racism. A cross-ministry working group has been formed to advanced broad-based discussions within the public service on addressing racism. FNEC mentioned that in spite delays to its research on racism in the public post-secondary system due in part to COVID-19, this work is continuing. It was expressed that there is a need for the Partners table to take a leadership role in advancing these important discussions.

An Indigenous roundtable on racism has been proposed, and FNEC continues to call on the provincial government to implement a mandatory course or bundle of credits in K-12 on Indigenous culture, history and knowledge. Measures to address racism against Indigenous people in BC’s education system has been included in FNEC’s submission for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DRIPA) Action Plan.

Action: Add BC Human Rights Commissioner’s work on disaggregated data to the next PSE Partners meeting agenda.

4. COVID-19 Impacts and Response Roundtable

All of BC’s public post-secondary institutes have developed COVID-19 safety plans and are implementing measures to ensure safety of students and faculty for programs where remote delivery is not possible. AEST will continue to monitor and review the *COVID-19 Go-Forward Guidelines for B.C.’s Post-Secondary Sector* to ensure they remain consistent with the directives of the Provincial Health Officer.

FNEC and the Ministry will be sending out a joint letter to BC’s public post-secondary institutes reminding them of the importance of maintaining and building partnerships with Indigenous communities and institutes, as they plan for program delivery in the fall. FNEC mentioned that they have submitted a proposal as part of the Province’s economic recovery plan and raised concern around the declining enrollment in adult basic education learners in the post-secondary system.

5. First Nations Public Service Secretariat Presentation

The FNPSS delivered a presentation to the PSE Partners on their work and areas of potential collaboration with the Partners.

6. Update on First Nations Children and Youth In Care Protocol

FNEC and AEST provided an update on the First Nations Children and Youth in Care Protocol. The working group which was established to advance work falling under the protocol met to discuss FNEC and the First Nations Leadership Council’s recommendations for the K-12 system and have another meeting planned for September 28, 2020. FNEC stressed the need to harness existing resources more effectively and for a more focused plan for addressing the educational needs of children and youth care.

7. Provincial Program and Initiatives Updates

a) Aboriginal Policy Framework Refresh

AEST provided an update on progress achieved in updating the 2012 *Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training Framework and Action Plan (Aboriginal Policy Framework)*. The Ministry is working with Indigenous Policy Working Group to ensure the Aboriginal Policy Framework accurately reflects all of AEST’s programming and services and prioritizes actions within the document, given the cost implications. It was raised that such prioritization must be consistent with FNEC’s submission for the DRIPA Action Plan.

b) Indigenous Skills Training

AEST provided an update on the delivery of its interim approach to Indigenous skills training programming. \$11 million

dollars has been committed to support the delivery of community-based programming this fiscal year. It was expressed that community-based programming is critical to supporting the inherent rights of First Nations to post-secondary education and advancing systemic change. It was also mentioned that going forward the Ministry's approach to supporting community-based programming must not perpetuate the racism of low expectations and ensure equitable access to funding.

c) Aboriginal Student Data Report

AEST has been working with FNEESC and MNBC on the next iteration of the *Aboriginal Learners in BC's Public Post-Secondary System* report. An initial draft is being reviewed by the Indigenous Policy Working Group. It was mentioned that the Aboriginal Student Data Report needs to be informed by the work of the BC human rights commissioner on distinctions-based data.

d) Student Housing Framework

A number of new beds for students have been created thanks to provincial government and post-secondary institution investments. AEST will be delivering a presentation on the results of the Student Housing Demand Survey, and a number of post-secondary partners will be invited, including the PSE Partners Group. It was mentioned that more conversations are needed on how international students are represented in the data on student housing.

e) Indigenous Board Member Gathering

AEST will be co-hosting with FNEESC and MNBC the second gathering of Indigenous public post-secondary board members on Monday, September 28, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the gathering will be held virtually and will focus on challenges and opportunities in Indigenous post-secondary education, anti-racism, implementation of DRIPA, and support for Indigenous rights in times of emergency. The event will be facilitated by Patrick Kelly and is expected to be attended by a similar number of participants as the last gathering.

8. Other

FNEESC opened discussion on the Sustainable Teacher Workforce Labour Market Project Report. Frustration was expressed that the report has not been released. It was noted that part of the challenge is that though the project was advanced through support from AEST, the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCSPEA) is the proprietor of the report. AEST committed to engaging with the BCSPEA on its release.

9. Adjournment and Closing

The meeting was adjourned.