

2025 -2026 GRANTS FOR SUPPORTING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR K-12 EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

The BC First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) is pleased to announce grants to support First Nations in building capacity for K-12 Education Governance.

FNESC recognizes that strong governance is a crucial factor in the success of First Nations students, wherever they attend school.

- First Nations can have a critical and positive influence over the education programs and services provided to their learners by public schools and independent schools that are located off-reserve.
- Governing Authorities have a critical role in leading the growth and success of First Nation schools.

These grants are intended to support First Nations in building their capacity for education governance – including support for community authorities that oversee First Nations education broadly, and/or First Nation School Governing Authorities specifically.

Note: Definition of Governing Authorities

A broad range of governance models exist for First Nations education and First Nations schools in BC, such as education governance by:

- Chief and Council, with no school board or education committee in existence;
- Chief and Council, advised or guided by an education or school committee / board;
- an education / school committee (non-legal entity) that is accountable to Chief and Council;
- a formal First Nation school board (a distinct legal entity).

In this document, the term “Governing Authority” is used for simplicity. First Nations are welcome to use these grants to support whatever governance structure they use to lead and oversee K-12 education matters.

Overview of the Grants

- \$5,002,720 million is available for the 2025/2026 K-12 Education Governance grants, which is being allocated using a base-plus-per-capita formula that reflects the total number of K- 12 students.
- **The funding grant available to your First Nation has been sent to your Nation’s representative via DocuSign.**

Possible Options for Education Governance Capacity Development Activities

The grants available through this funding opportunity can be used to support education governance capacity development activities set out below, depending on the unique structure of each First Nation and where their students attend school.

If you have questions about whether specific activities can be funded using these grants, please feel free to reach out to Sonia Okogbaa at soniao@fnesc.ca to discuss possible options.

Note: First Nations can choose to implement activities from any of the following types of activities. For example, this grant can be used to implement one or more activities to support governance of education broadly, as well as one or more activities related to governance of a First Nation school specifically. The scope of activities should reflect each First Nation's grant amount and their unique needs and circumstances.

Possible Activities to Support K-12 Education Governance

- Developing or reviewing / updating the Governing Authority's structure, operations, and/or procedures.
- Strengthening the capacity of governance and education leaders.
- Building capacity for working with education partners.
- Developing or reviewing / updating community education and/or First Nation school policies / plans.
- Enhancing family engagement for education transformation.
- Promoting community involvement in education.
- Succession planning / building the capacity of future education governance leaders.

**Please see the 25-26 Ed.Governance Suggested Activities
for suggested activities to be funded
using the K-12 Education Governance Grants.**

Eligible Expenditures

- Wages / fees for a program coordinator / education staff involved in the activities
- Consulting or legal fees for the development or review of governance documents / policies / agreements
- Honoraria for Elders or knowledge keepers involved in the activities
- Gifts for volunteers who contribute to the activities, recognition for students who contribute to the initiatives, etc.

- Costs of hosting a meeting / information sharing session (facilities, catering)
- Materials or supplies
- Accessing training / in-service
- Transportation costs directly related to program activities
- Computers or technology equipment directly related to program implementation
- Administration fees (no more than 5% of the total program costs)

Ineligible Expenditures

- Capital expenses (buying transportation, purchasing a site, expanding or renovating a learning site, etc.)
- Purchase of furniture or major information technology (e.g. servers etc.)

LETTERS OF INTENT ARE DUE BY **Friday October 3rd, 2025**

Completed Letters of Intent can be emailed to: soniao@fnesc.ca

Interim Reports for funded projects are due **Monday, March 16th, 2026**

Final Reports are due **Friday, May 22nd, 2026**

To support interested applicants, a zoom information session will be hosted to answer questions and facilitate the sharing of ideas.

September 9th, 2025, from 3:30pm – 4:30pm

Anyone requiring further information is also welcome to contact programs@fnesc.ca