

Our Gifted Children

Iakhinorónhkwa Iakhiio'okòn:a

Highlights In This Issue



Special Education and
Education Transformation

Community Success Stories

Special Education in the School:
Supporting Students



Special Education and Education Transformation

The transformation of First Nations elementary and secondary education continues with the establishment of the Ontario Technical Table for Interim Funding Approach (OTTIFA). OTTIFA consists of Education Directors and/or technicians from the PTO's and Independent First Nations, Chiefs of Ontario, and representatives from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Ontario Region and Headquarters. OTTIFA is responsible for the on-going development, implementation and evaluation of the Interim Funding Approach for Ontario First Nations. The Interim Funding Approach (IFA) is the new funding formula for First Nation education that uses the provincial funding model as a base and is a building block to the development of First Nation Regional Education Agreements.

ISC produced the first iteration of the 2019-2020 education budgets through the IFA in November 2018. Due to this late release, regional gatherings replaced the planned second community visits to share budget information. This was to ensure communities received a consistent message, had budget information in a timely manner and ample time to plan accordingly. Approximately 95% of First Nations with a nominal roll have received their proposed 2019-2020 budget numbers with the caveat there are some areas within the IFA that needed work. One area being the special education distribution as some communities were seeing a decrease in Special Education funding.

Feedback solicited from initial community information sessions revealed that the vast majority of First Nations have a high demand for Special Education services and insufficient funding. Many communities communicated the desire for designated funding specifically for Special Education purposes to meet the need. Given this information, OTTIFA reassessed the IFA Special Education distribution and made adjustments. The new distribution prevents a decrease in special education funding from a First Nation's 17/18 levels, however this move will modify some increases for Special Education that were seen by First Nations in the first IFA budget. New budgets will be sent out from ISC in the coming weeks.

OTTIFA will continue to develop the IFA and the Special Education allocation to the benefit of communities.

If you have questions regarding the Education Transformation process please contact COO Policy Analyst, Angel Maracle at angel.maracle@coo.org

Murray Maracle, Interim Director of Education

Chiefs of Ontario



Upcoming Special Education Information Sharing Sessions 2019

The education team at the Chiefs of Ontario are continuously planning future Special Education Sharing Forums. These sharing forums consist of a combination of keynote speakers, case studies, workshops, developments in research, and training sessions, meant to leave educators with newfound knowledge, skills, and tools that can be utilized in their school and community. Special Education Sharing Forums provide excellent opportunities for communities to network with other communities. If you have any ideas as to possible topics that you and your community would like to see featured at future Sharing Forums please email your ideas to Senior Special Education Technician Patrik Lowen at Patrik.lowen@coo.org

Building Capacity In Education

January 29-30 2019 Sault Ste. Marie The Delta Hotel

Speakers will include:

Keynote Speaker Day 1 : Dr. Wabie, Laurentian University

Keynote Speaker Day 1 : Dr. Cunningham, University of Toronto,

Keynote Speaker Day 2 : Liisa Freure, International Dyslexia Association

Loni Rudnicki, Autism Ontario

Bronwyn Lamond, OISE

Coulter Lewis, Microsoft

Marnee Buckles, Behavior Strats

Dr. Noni Boyle, Algoma University

Robin Walker, SLP

Amanda McLean, KERC

Shelley Knott-Fife, ISC



Striving Forward: Supporting Student Success

SAVE THE DATE April 16-17 2019

Toronto (downtown) Courtyard by Marriott

Speakers will include:

"The Techdudes" Stacy Falconer, Laurier Faith OISE, Darla Benton-Kearney Mohawk College, Hayley Stinson Child Development Institute, Jeremy Green Kawenní:io/Gawęni:yoh School, Jennifer Hearn Ministry of Education, National Institute for Learning Disabilities Canada, Leah Hogan Mohawk College... and more

Parental Information

Is my child gifted?

Yes, absolutely! Every child has their own unique gifts and learning styles that they naturally excel at. Children that are supported and encouraged to use their strengths and gifts at home and school will often experience growth and increased self-confidence.



Children can excel in many ways that may not necessarily show up in a report card or at a specific age level. Therefore we would caution parents and guardians to define giftedness strictly from an academic lens. Howard Gardener's theory of Multiple Intelligences provides support that children can excel in different areas of intelligences.

What if my child is intellectually gifted?

Students that are considered intellectually gifted will often require a differentiated learning experience that will allow the student to explore subject matters in greater depth. These students will need to be challenged beyond the scope of the regular curriculum to avoid boredom.

Strategies in the classroom for intellectually gifted children

As with all other students the program that an intellectually gifted child should receive is based on the idea that the students will achieve his or her full potential. Teachers can support intellectually gifted children much in the same way they would support other students by creating a learning environment that encourages risk-taking, creativity, thought, and analysis. In addition to this, teachers may provide intellectually gifted students with opportunities to interact with older students, adults, or experts in order to challenge them further.



Sources: Bennett, S., Weber, K. J., & Dworet, D. (2013). *Special education in Ontario schools*. Toronto: Highland Press. & Special Education in Ontario, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Resource Guide (2017).

Community Stories

Wasaho Cree Nation : School's Special Education Resource Program is Evolving!



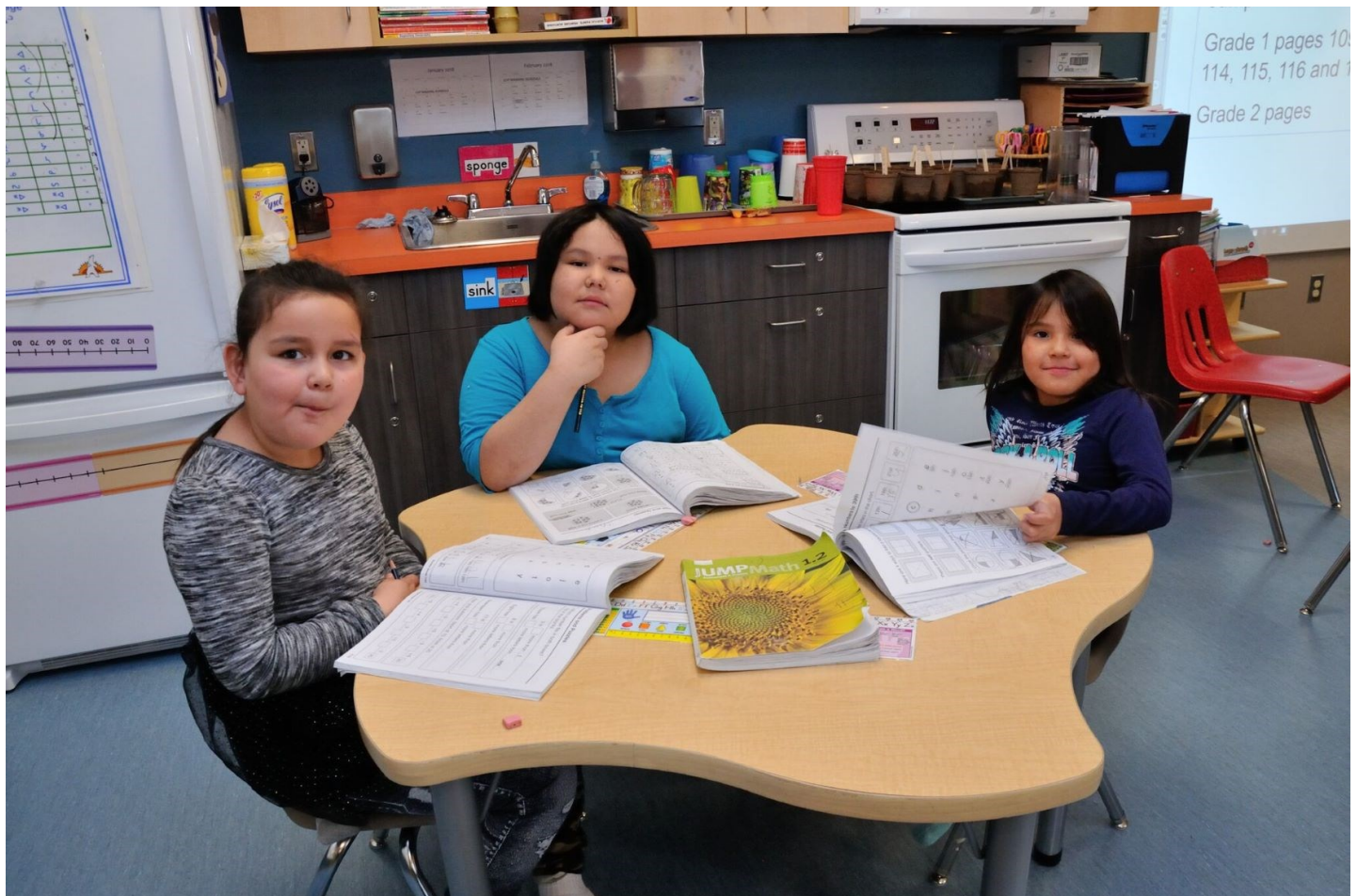
This past October we celebrated our second year in our new school building.

Our first year was spent getting used to all the new resources, procedures and new technology. The building was planned with a designated Learning Centre. A small room setup for testing and storage of the Special Education Resources. We soon outgrew it. The latter half of the second year was spent renovating the seldom used computer lab which lost it's use as all students in the school have their own Chromebooks or iPad. With the support of High Cost Funding, Jordan's Principle, and Keewatinook Okimakanak Board of Education, the school was able to fully equip our Special Education Resource Room. The New Learning Centre is now the shared home to the Special Education Program and the Early Reading Intervention Program. We were also able to install FM systems in each of the classrooms, as well as in the gymnasium. All our classrooms have interactive touch board with supportive interactive program.



All of our students in need have had cognitive assessments, hearing, speech and language testing in order for us to create individual programs. Our Special Education Resource Teacher has created IEPs for those identified with needs. We are hoping to run an inclusive program, with a few students being pulled out for remediation and individual programs. In constant consultation with the Keewatinook Okimakanak Board of Education Speech and Language Lead, the Speech and Language Assistant runs a daily program and a day and a half of video conferencing speech lessons with the Lead at KOBE.

Our Early Reading Intervention Teacher also runs inclusive and pull-out programs. This individual instruction allows for constant monitoring of progress and models for the teacher, as well as the classroom assistants, how to organize and run guided reading sessions. The students are progressing well with the model and it is our hope that the EQAO results in grade 3 will provide evidence. In the Learning Centre, there is a sensory area as well as an area for students to self-regulate. Teacher assistants can access these areas when students are in need. Self-regulation is an important aspect of the special education program. Each classroom has a teaching assistant, tutor escorts who work with specific students, and special education assistants. Jordan's Principle and Tikinagan Child and Family Services have also provided extra support assistants for students who are learning self-regulation.



Fort Severn is the most northern community in Ontario. With the gracious support from High Cost Funding, Jordan's Principle, Keewatinook Okimakanak Board of Education, Tikinagan and the very strong backing from the Fort Severn Wasaho Education Authority (Chief and Council) the school is working hard to meet the needs of all the young people in the community.

Submitted by: Robin Chamney, Principal, Wasaho Cree Nation School



Our Special Education Sharing Forums have been well received and there have been consistent requests for these to continue. To date, we have covered *Policy and Administration, Behaviour and Exceptionalities, and Trauma, Mental Health, Drug related issues.*

We are currently looking for suggestions and recommendations for future Special Education Sharing Information Forums and future Webinars. Do you have an idea you want to share? Is there a practitioner or expert you would recommend? Is there a specific topic or theme that you would like to see featured ?

Please send these recommendations to Patrik Lowen at patrik.lowen@coo.org

You can find many great resources on our **Education Portal**
<http://education.chiefs-of-ontario.org>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Chiefs of Ontario Education Portal. The header is green with the logo on the left and navigation links (ABOUT US, PRIORITIES, RESOURCES, NEWS, EVENTS, SHARE) on the right. Below the header is a large banner featuring a photo of children in a gymnasium and a welcome message. At the bottom, there are three colored boxes: a green 'Resource Bank', a blue 'Interactive Maps', and an orange 'Member Forums'.

CHIEFS OF ONTARIO EDUCATION PORTAL

Portal Home | COO Home

Member Login: email password [Login](#) Search the site

Welcome to the Chiefs of Ontario Education Portal

This portal will help bring together all the First Nations educators of Ontario for networking, professional development and problem solving. It will help create and sustain an online platform where thought leadership around First Nations Education can thrive. The portal will aim to be a go-to place for everything concerning First Nations education in Ontario.

Resource Bank
A repository of information on First Nations pedagogy, curriculum, language, culture and more

Interactive Maps
An interactive tool rich in information about schools and programs in First Nations Education in Ontario

Member Forums
Ask questions and engage in discussions about topics that matter to you in First Nations education

Special Education Information Sharing Forum



April 16 & 17, 2019 - Courtyard by Marriott, 475 Yonge Street, Toronto

Striving Forward Supporting Student Success

Each child has their own unique gifts and strengths. From this perspective, how do we as educators better understand how to support and nurture those gifts?

For more information contact Holly Golabek - holly.golabek@coo.org

Ontario First Nation Special Education Working Group

In 2005, the Ontario First Nations Special Education Working group (OFNSEWG) was formed as a subcommittee to the First Nations Education Coordination Unit (FNECU). It is a joint technical and advisory body mandated by the FNECU to provide recommendations on issues and specific strategies for political review and/or approval for action. The OFNSEWG is made up of representatives from the First Nations Education Coordination Unit and Indigenous Service Canada.

Ontario First Nation Special Education Working Group	
Name	Organization
Murray Maracle	Chiefs of Ontario
Dobi-Dawn Frenette (Cherity Calder)	Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Murray Waboose	Union of Ontario Indians
Gina McGahey	Association of Iroquois Allied Indians
Yolanda Fobister	Grand Council Treaty #3
Debbie Terrance	Independent First Nations
Shelley Knott-Fife	Indigenous Services Canada

The Special Education Technicians

What is a Special Education Support Technician (SEST)?

There are three SESTs providing support to the First Nations in Ontario. They are based out of the Kenora, Thunder Bay, and Southern parts of Ontario. The SEST positions are the result of an All Ontario Chiefs Resolution in 2016, following an increase to the High Cost Special Education Program (HCSEP). The role of a SEST is to support and assist First Nations with:

- Effective use of HCSEP funding;
- Understanding and addressing capacity issues around special education;
- Collection and analysis of information related to improving the First Nations special education programs;
- Liaise and strengthen relationships with First Nations, Tribal Councils, Chiefs of Ontario, school boards and other organizations;
- Identifying and addressing barriers and challenges in the delivery of special education services;
- Organize Special Education Sharing Forums across Ontario.

Special Education Support Technician Community Listing



North Eastern Region

Patricia Magiskan

416-970-0521

Patricia.magiskan@coo.org

Aroland First Nation	Kingfisher Lake First Nation	(New Post)
Attawapiskat First Nation	Marten Falls First Nation	Wawakapewin First Nation
Bearskin Lake First Nation	Moose Cree First Nation	Webequie First Nation
Cat Lake First Nation	Muskrat Dam First Nation	Weenusk First Nation
Constance Lake First Nation	Neskantaga - Lansdowne House	Wahgoshig - Abitibi #70
Eabametoong First Nation	North Caribou Lake	Whitesand First Nation
Fort Albany First Nation	Ojibways of Saugeen #258	Keewaytinook Okimakanak Tribal Council
Fort Severn First Nation	Pays Plat First Nation	Independent First Nations Alliance-IFNA
Fort William First Nation	Red Rock First Nation	Northern Nishnawbe Ed Council (NNEC)
Ginoogaming - Long Lac #77	Sachigo First Nation	Mattagami First Nation
Kasabonika First Nation	Sandy Lake First Nation	
Kashechewan First Nation	Shibogama First Nations Council	
Kiashke Zaaging Anishinaabek - Gull Bay	Taykwa Tagamou Nation	



North Western Region

Vincent Ostberg

807-407-6233

vin-

cent.ostberg@coo.org

Anishnaabe of Naogash-
ing - Big Island

Big Grassy First Nation

Couchiching First Nation

Deer Lake First Nation

Eagle Lake First Nation

Grassy Narrows First
Nation

Iskatewizaagegan #39

Lac La Croix First Nation

Kitchenuhmaykoosib -

Big Trout Lake

Keewaywin First Nation

Mishkeegogamang

Mitaanjigaming First
Nation

Naicatchewenin First
Nation

Naotkamegwaning -
Whitefish Bay

Nibinamik First Nation

Nicickousemenecaning
Nigigoonsiminikaan-
ing

North Spirit Lake First
Nation

Northwest Angle #33
First Nation

Northwest Angle #37 -
Animakee Wa Zhing

Obashkaandagang -
Washagamis Bay

Ochiich-
agwe'babigo'ining –
Dalles

Ojibways of Onigaming –
Sabaskong

Pikangikum First Nation

Poplar Hill First Nation

Rainy River First Nation

Seine River First Nation

Shoal Lake #40

Slate Falls First Nation

Wabaseemoong First
Nation

Alderville First Nation

Algonquins of Pikwakanagan
First Nation

Batchewana First Nation

Bkejwanong - Walpole Island

Chippewas of Kettle & Stony
Point

Chippewas of Nawash - Cape
Croker

Chippewas of Saugeen First
Nation

Chippewas of the Thames

Curve Lake First Nation

Hiawatha First Nation

Ketegaunseebee - Ojibways
of Garden River

Mattagami First Nation

Mississauga #8

Mississaugas of New Credit

M'Chigeeng First Nation

Mohawks of Akwesasne

Mohawks of the Bay of
Quinte

Moravian of the Thames -
Delaware Nation

Sheguiandah First Nation

Six Nations of the Grand
River

Temagami First Nation

Thessalon First Nation

Wahta Mohawk Territory

Wikwemikong Unceded

United Chiefs and Councils
of Mnidoo Mnising/KTEI

Brunswick House First Na-
tion

Chapleau Cree First Nation

Chapleau Ojibway

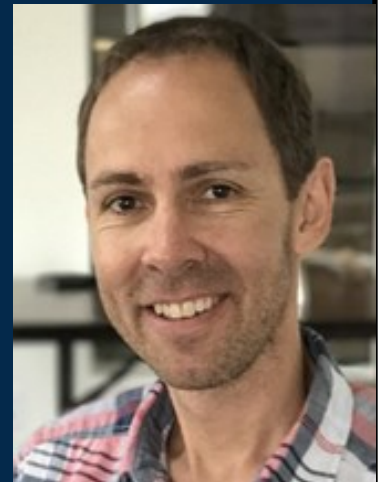
Matachewan First Nation

Oneida Nation of the
Thames

Sagamok First Nation

Serpent River First Nation

Shawanaga First Nation



South Central Region

Patrik Lowen

519-717-0161

patrik.lowen@coo.org



Contact:

Chiefs of Ontario

**468 Queen Street East, Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5A 1T7
Toll Free: 1-877-517-6527
Phone: 1-416-597-1266**

Political Office Location

**Taykwa Tagamou Nation
RR#2 Box 3310
Cochrane, ON P0L 1C0**