



CHARTING OUR OWN PATH FORWARD  
Education Forum 2018

**COOPF and Federal  
Activity**

Wednesday May 2, 2018 - Thunder Bay

Brief Background

**CHARTING OUR OWN PATH  
FORWARD**

# Charting Our Own Path Forward

- 2012 – Our Children, Our Future, Our Vision: First Nation Jurisdiction Over First Nation Education
  - Result of parallel process to federal National Panel on Education
  - Approved via Resolution 12/12 – directs FNECU to work with First Nations to develop recommendations to the Chiefs in Assembly on systems and funding mechanisms

# COOPF - Trajectory

**Jurisdiction**

**Funding**

# COOPF Subsequent Mandates

- ***Resolution 13/14*** – directs scope of work for Unity in Education working group to build on previous activity on systems and funding
- ***Resolution 13/46*** – provides context on First Nation position on our inherent jurisdiction over education
- ***Resolution 21/16*** mandates the COO Chiefs Committee on Lifelong Learning to negotiate with Canada on the development of a funding methodology that adheres to several objectives

Policy Proposal for Memorandum to  
Cabinet

**FEDERAL/NATIONAL  
ACTIVITY LINKAGE**

# Co-Developed Policy Proposal

Proposed objective:

- Sufficient, predictable and sustained funding
- Unlock ~\$665 M in “Implementing Transformation” line of Federal Budget 2016 for distribution to First Nations
- Authorize the Minister of Indigenous Services to negotiate Regional Education Agreements

# Main Elements - Policy Proposal

## Regional Education Agreements 2018

Needs-based funding formula

Defined support service map

Mutual accountability mechanisms

Additional budget ask

## Interim Funding Approach 2019

Interim funding formula based on provincial model

Targeted funding for language and culture and full day kindergarten

Maintains existing support service map

Collapses proposal-based programs into core



# COOPF – Trajectory Revisited

## Jurisdiction

First Nation  
assertion through  
FNEA and  
beyond

## Funding

- Initial steps in IFA
- Needs-based through FNEA

1. First Nations to review requirements for FNEA as outlined in Policy Proposal
2. Contact federal government to access funding to establish a technical and negotiations table

## **REGIONAL EDUCATION AGREEMENTS**

# Finalize the Interim Funding Approach for First Nations in Ontario.

Includes:

- Adaptations
- Additions
- Proxies
- Support services map
- Community engagement

## **INTERIM FUNDING APPROACH**



# **COOPF ACTIVITIES – YEAR IN REVIEW**

# Activities

<b>Sep 2017</b>	<b>Develop Engagement Guide</b>	
<b>Oct – Nov 2017</b>	<b>Grassroots Engagement</b>	
<b>Dec 2017</b>	<b>Coordinator Roll-up</b>	
<b>Jan 2018</b>	<b>Province-wide Forum - Toronto</b>	
<b>Feb – Mar 2018</b>	<b>Grassroots Engagement</b>	
<b>Apr 2018</b>	<b>Coordinator Roll-up</b>	
<b>May 1-3, 2018</b>	<b>Province-wide Forum – Thunder Bay</b>	
<b>Late May 2018</b>	<b>Final Roll-up</b>	
<b>June 2018</b>	<b>Recommendations (if required)</b>	

# Grassroots Engagement

- Facilitated by PTOs/IFN/COO
- Engagement guide – Funding and Planning Focused
  - Interim Funding Approach (MC)
  - FNEA's (MC)
- Discussion on how to plan for and implement MC changes

# Focus Areas of Engagement

## Interim Funding Approach

- Community based education budget
- Supports required

## First Nation Education Agreements

- General Discussion
- Supports required



# Community Engagement Participation – Spring 2018

## 4 PTO's and IFN Conducted Sessions:

Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians (AIAI)	February 27 (& Community Visits)
Union of Ontario Indians (UOI)	March 1
Independent First Nations (IFN)	March 6 -7
Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)	March 20 - 21
Grand Council Treaty #3	March 27

**COO received 4 reports from the community sessions**

# COOPF Living Document

- Evergreen (living) document
  - Provides context
  - Embraces a spirit of unity, vision and organic evolution
  - Synthesizes collective input to date
- COOPF 2018 V3 document (to be developed for June 2018)



# REPORT BACK

# Consistent Themes

1. First Nation's **Treaty Right to education** must be upheld and respected in all negotiations and agreements.
2. Education transformation must be a **community based and led process**. It is important to involve Elders and Youth.

# Consistent Themes

3. Need a **strong community vision** for education and unity to move forward.
4. There is a fundamental need to implement **strong transparency, accountability and communication systems** within communities.

# Consistent Themes

5. It is going to be a complicated and complex process. Communities need to start planning and preparing for implementation. **Supports are required.**

# Focus Areas of Engagement

## Interim Funding Approach

- Community Based Budgets
- Supports Required



# Developing Community Based Education Budgets

- Include Education Committee and staff
- Engage Community (Elders & Youth)
- Base on community vision, needs and priorities
- Many factors that must be considered and included in budget; some unique to First Nation, geography, available resources, etc.

# Barriers to Address

- How to get community involved?
- Political support and leadership
- Building trust, transparency and accountability
- Communication and Planning
- Creating consistency and continuity
- Financial Management
- Finding resources and qualified personnel

# Measuring Success of Community Based Budget

- Ability to effectively plan
- Community involvement
- Program standards and evaluations
- Increased student success and well-being
- Staff retention
- Language fluency
- Extra-curricular activities
- No rush spending

# Community Based Education

## Budget – Support, Skills Required

Planning	Financial	Structures/Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Treaty rights</li> <li>- Vision, goals &amp; objectives</li> <li>- Roles and Responsibilities</li> <li>- Policy analysis</li> <li>- Research</li> <li>- Samples</li> <li>- Nominal roll fluctuations</li> <li>- Community needs</li> <li>- Special needs resources required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Budgeting and balancing budgets</li> <li>- Budget templates</li> <li>- Inflation rates</li> <li>- Account coding</li> <li>- Audit requirements</li> <li>- Financial accountability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communications strategy</li> <li>- Lobbyists, advocacy</li> <li>- Project Management</li> <li>- Legal support</li> <li>- Active, supportive Board of Education</li> <li>- IT Support and technology</li> <li>- Data collection, analysis and management</li> <li>- Recruitment &amp; retention strategy</li> <li>- HR</li> <li>- Board Training</li> <li>- Tuition agreement</li> </ul>

# Focus Areas of Engagement

**First Nation  
Education  
Agreements**

- **General Discussion**
- **Supports required**

# Is there value in FNEA?



- Strength in numbers
  - Negotiate better deal
  - Local control
  - Create own structures to address needs
  - Increases resources & services through sharing and cooperation
  - Strengthen cultural values
  - Increased accountability
- Education is an inherent right. What is it agreeing to?
  - Does this result in sovereign Nations?
  - Need more information to know if there is value.

# FNEA Supports/Resources Required

- Elder
- Protocols
- Ceremony
- Education
- Law
- Community profile
- Asset mapping
- Data
- Evaluations
- School boards
- Negotiators
- Lawyers
- Professional analyst
- Research
- Existing agreements
- Skilled facilitators
- Tuition Agreements
- Needs Assessment

# Strategic Steps to FNEA

Planning	Community Involvement	Negotiating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Readiness tools</li><li>- Needs assessment for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> level services</li><li>- Engagement Process</li><li>- Defined roles &amp; responsibilities</li><li>- Clear Vision</li><li>- Audit of existing programs and services</li><li>- Develop language immersion</li><li>- Community based constitution</li><li>- Decide model – Stand alone or collective</li><li>- Communications strategy</li><li>- Terms of reference</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- First Nation Advisory Board</li><li>- Regional Reps</li><li>- Plain language documents and conversations with communities</li><li>- Involve off-reserve members</li><li>- Community discussions</li><li>- Develop working groups</li><li>- Establish education committee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Tuition Agreements</li><li>- Use existing agreements as guide</li><li>- Lead negotiator</li><li>- Negotiating team</li></ul>





# MOVING FORWARD 2018/19

# Community

Communities need to plan and prepare for:

- Increased control of education budget (IFA)
- Determining community education needs, gaps and assets
- Model that fits community vision
- Negotiating FNEA

# Immediate IFA Issues and Concerns

- Require detailed estimates on community funding through Comparability Model
- Proxies and assumptions are not appropriate
- Process for block-funded communities
- Process for communities with federal schools
- Alternative funding options for COO and PTOs
- Large band status

# 2018-19 Activities

- Province-wide technical table to work with ISC to finalize Interim Funding Approach (OTTIFA)
- Analysis of Comparability Model developed by ISC and co-develop solutions to issues and concerns
- Need to determine how HCSEP funding will be distributed under IFA

# 2018-19 Activities

- Proposal has been developed for support from ISC to ensure individual community information sessions regarding the IFA once we are close to finalizing
- Joint work at national level on new Terms and Conditions for education program funding

# Today

- In response to requests for examples of established and developing Education Agreements we have several breakout sessions that are being provided today.

# Tomorrow

- We will provide a presentation detailing what the COOPF may lead to in the future.
- Together we will discuss specific tools and approaches required to foster positive outcomes and the future we all desire.





# Niá:wen (thank you)

Contact information:

Julia Candlish, Director of Education,  
Chiefs of Ontario

[julia@coo.org](mailto:julia@coo.org)

416 597-1266