

Charting Our Own Path Forward –
Education Forum: National Joint
Collaboration

Funding Mechanisms Task Team

Wednesday April 26, 2017

Background - AFN Mandate

AFN Resolutions and key documents calling for a statutory funding guarantee for education:

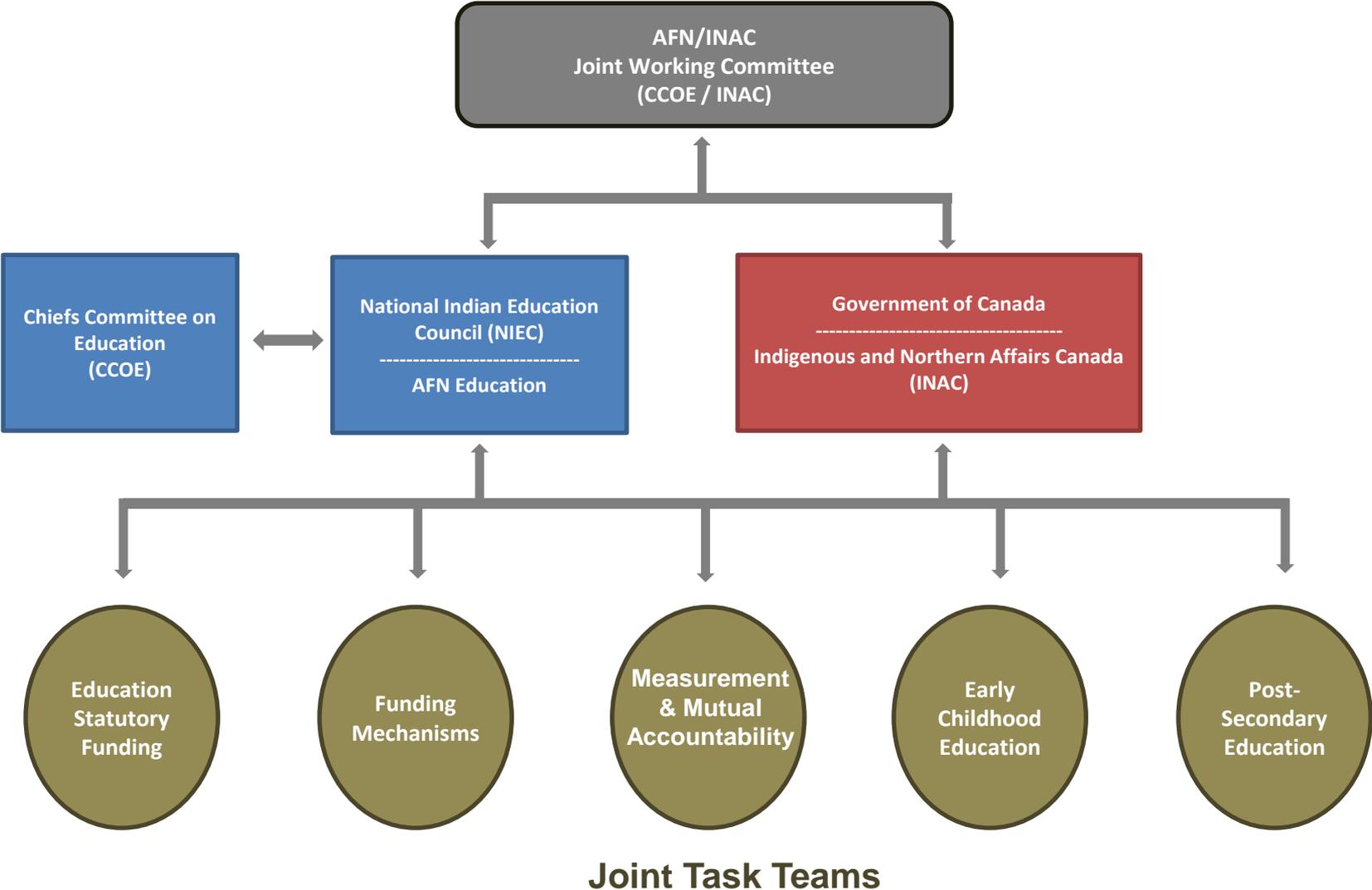
- AFN Resolution 35/2014 *A Federal Act for Funding First Nation Education*
- AFN Resolution 16/2016 *Honourable Process to develop recommendations to support First Nations Education Reform*
- 2010 AFN policy document *First Nations Control of First Nations Education*

Background - INAC Mandate

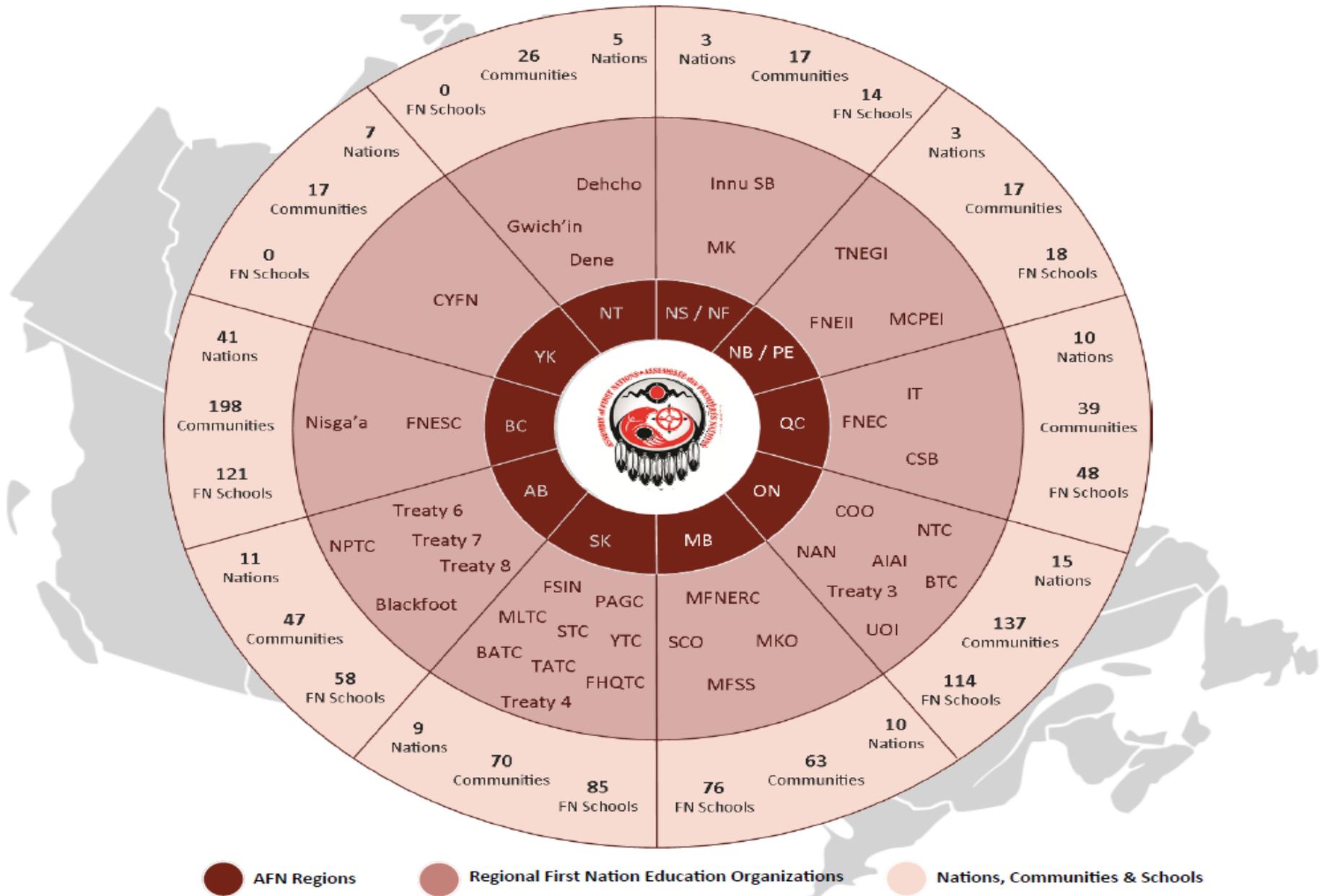
INAC supports Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) and northern peoples in their efforts to:

- Improve social well-being and economic prosperity
- Develop healthier, more sustainable communities
- Participate more fully in Canada's political, social and economic development – to the benefit of all Canadians.

Background - Joint AFN/INAC Process



Background – FOCUS on First Nations Regional Approaches



Funding Mechanisms

Operational Terms - OBJECTIVE

Objective:

To provide a national forum for jointly discussing and elaborating options for regionally-based fiscal frameworks and funding mechanisms for First Nations K-12 education that would replace current INAC funding methodologies.

Funding Mechanisms

Operational Terms – OUTCOMES & GOALS

Outcomes & Outputs:

A list of deliverable(s) will be finalized as the Joint Task Team completes its workplan regarding both short-term (before March 31, 2017) and longer-term outcomes. The main outcomes will include the following:

1. Work collaboratively to share research, regional frameworks and/or funding mechanisms.
2. Discuss options for transferring existing proposal-based funding into core funding structures and agreements by region.
3. Review existing and emerging regionally-based and international fiscal framework(s) for K-12 education and develop options for modernizing INAC's current funding methodologies.

Overview of Work Plan

ACTIVITIES

Jan 31-Feb1, 2017

- 1 – INAC provided overview of existing federal funding mechanisms.
- 2 – Task Team developed Joint Work Plan outlining activities and timelines.
- 3 – Task Team discussed a set of Principles for First Nation Education Funding.

Feb 20-21, 2017

- 1 – INAC provided an overview of commitments through Federal Budget 2016.
- 2 – INAC shared the 2017 Funding Management Regime to provide an overview of how funding currently is determined and allocated across the regions.
- 3 – First Nations regional education organizations share their regional funding formulas:
 - First Nations Education Steering Committee, BC
 - Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre, MB
 - First Nation Education Council, QC
 - Mi'kmaw Kinatneway, NS
- 4 – Task Team began discussion on funding for second-level services.
- 5 – Task team began discussion on moving away from proposal-based funding.

Overview of Work Plan

ACTIVITIES

March 27-28, 2017

- 1 – Task Team further discussed costs and services required for second-level service organizations.
- 2 – Task Team discussed implications of moving proposal-based funding into core funding.
- 3 – Presentation from Ontario on how they fund and support special education.
- 4 – Discussion about regional concerns regarding provincial tuition rates.
- 5 – Task Team identified potential gaps in information and research to conduct on funding, including funding for language and culture, technology and governance.

April 27-28, 2017

Task Team will continue to discuss and analyse gaps in information that require further research and funding for First Nation education:

- Language & Culture
- Education Governance
- Technology

Principles for First Nations Education Funding

Funding Level

Equitable: Funding transfers that vary directly with fiscal need and ensure both horizontal equity (access for everyone) and vertical equity (differentiated by need).

Adequate: Provides the funding required to ensure every First Nation student has access to quality and culturally-relevant educational opportunities that supports every child to fulfill their full learning potential.

Sustainable: Provides ongoing, annual funding that responds to both price (cost of education) and volume (student population) at the local, regional or national level as appropriate.

Responsive: Provides the funding required to support the changing educational needs and emerging issues (i.e. curricular, transportation, technological, educational facilities,...) in a timely manner.

Protective: Provides the support to mitigative substantive decreases in annual funding estimates and alleviate impacts on students, schools and communities (i.e. declining enrolment, small schools...).

Principles for First Nations Education Funding

Accountability

Transparent: Funding allocations and expenditures are reported in a public and transparent manner that supports timely communication and mutual accountability between First Nations and Canada.

Simple: Uses clear and concise terminology, indices and methodologies, wherever possible.

Objective: Funding allocations and expenditures are determined using verifiable, data-driven facts and information.

Consistent: Supports consistent fiscal rules, policies and processes across Canada, where applicable.

Transferable: Supports a smooth transition between First Nation and other education systems without academic penalty.

Principles for First Nations Education Funding

First Nations Context

Culturally and Linguistically Supportive: Provides the funding required to ensure First Nation students have the opportunity to have educational programming in their own language and culture in a manner appropriate to their cultural methods of teaching and learning.

Grounded in a First Nation Vision of Learning: Affirms First Nations Control of First Nations education. Respects existing Aboriginal, Inherent and Treaty rights of First Nations students through the UNDRIP. Supports a First Nations vision of holistic learning (social, emotional, physical and intellectual) approach that involves formal and informal learning that occurs in the school, home, community and on the land.

Student-Centered: Provides funding allocations that enable diverse student learning experiences, ensure safe and secure environments for learners, and support First Nation students to build a strong cultural identity grounded in their language, histories, worldviews and traditions..

Support Partnerships: Supports local and regional education partnerships to support the learning needs of First Nations students.

Principles for First Nations Education Funding

Governance

Predictable and Stable: Provides funding in a secure and timely manner to support the required preparations and planning of a quality education system.

Flexible: Supports the movement of funding within and between fiscal years to address local priorities as required.

Regionally Based: Recognizes the unique and diverse circumstances of First Nations across Canada and enables local and regional control over First Nations education.

Next Steps

- Task Team identify research gaps and commission research to better understanding funding requirements across Canada.
- Recommendations for any funding modernization and new distribution formulas to be brought to Joint Working Committee before July.
- Agreed-upon recommendations will support a new Memorandum-to-Cabinet in the Fall 2017.

Discussion

Form small groups to discuss (15 min.) one of the following topics:

1. What funding formula modernizations are required to support First Nations education?
2. Are there any funding elements that should remain proposal-based?
3. What parameters (if any) should be required for First Nations and/or organizations to access INAC's new funding for 'transformation' (i.e. education systems funding)?

Report back on #1 priority for each small group (10 min.)