

Post-Secondary Education

Background

Current Status/Activity

Next Steps

BACKGROUND

Based on our inherent responsibilities and Aboriginal and Treaty rights First Nations across Canada have called on the Government of Canada to engage in an honourable process to develop a new fiscal framework for First Nations education

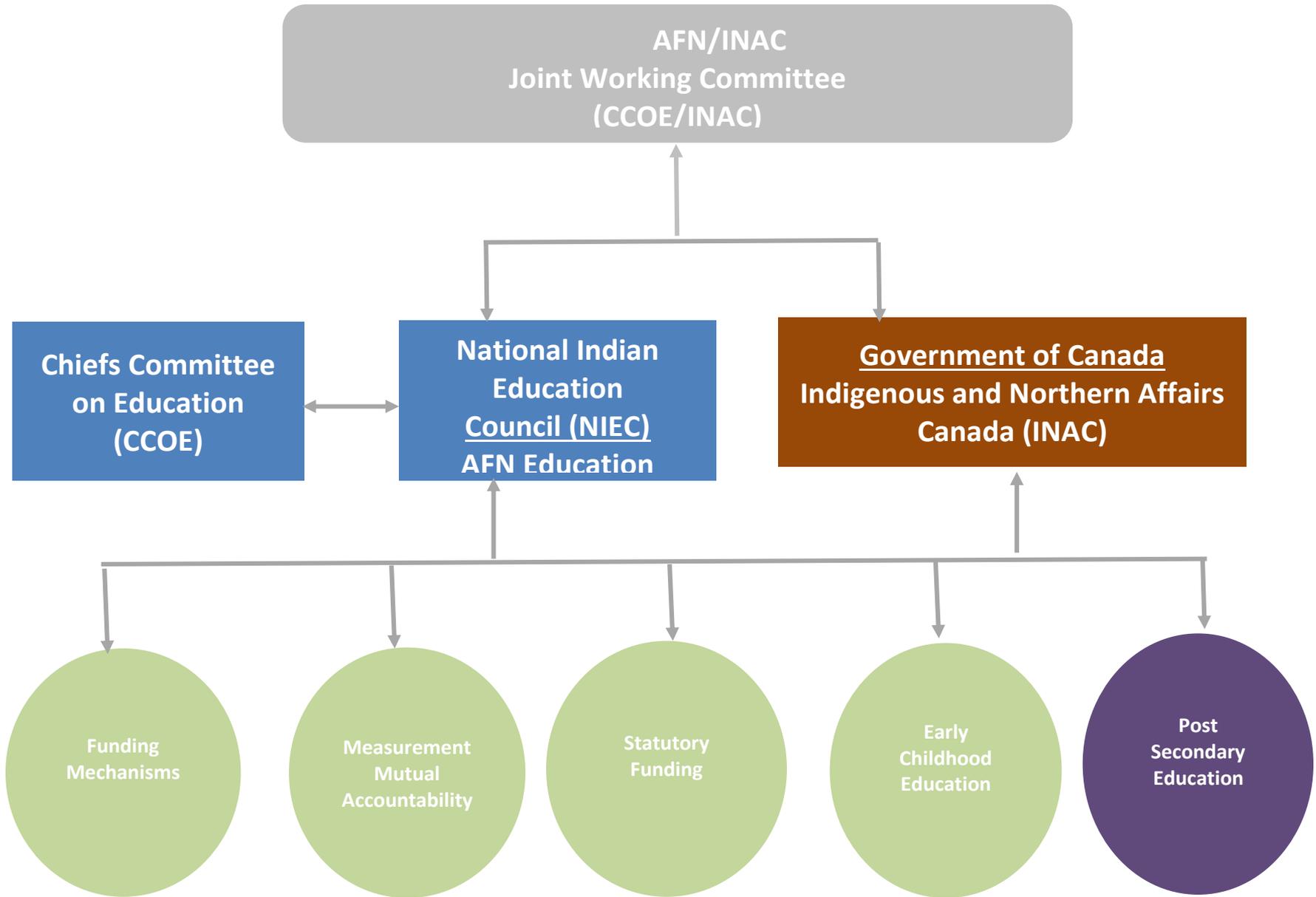
A mechanism is required to ensure a statutory guarantee of education funding from the Government of Canada to First Nations. This work will be guided by AFN Resolution 35/2014, “A Federal Act for Funding First Nation Education,” which called for the development of an honourable process between First Nations and the federal government to achieve statutory funding and AFN Resolution 16/2016 on “Honourable Process to develop recommendations to support First Nations Education Reform.”

In 2016, Prime Minister Trudeau declared that the Government of Canada is committed to a “renewed Nation to Nation relationship with Indigenous Peoples, based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation and partnership” and to fully implement the Calls to Action (CTA) of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, starting with the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. CTA #8 called for “the federal government to eliminate the discrepancy in federal education funding for First Nations children being educated on reserve and those First Nations children being educated off reserve.”

In response, INAC seeks to work collaboratively with the AFN and the CCOE to move toward sufficient, predictable and sustained funding. INAC is committed to improve the way education funding is provided to First Nations and First Nation organizations so that all First Nation students receive a holistic, culturally-responsive, high-quality education that improves student outcomes, while respecting the principle of First Nations control of First Nations education

JOINT COLLABORATION

First Nations – Government of Canada Terms of Reference for Joint Collaboration between the Assembly of First Nations' (AFN) Chiefs Committee on Education (CCOE) and Canada as represented by Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) to develop new funding mechanisms for First Nations Education that support First Nations development of a holistic, culturally-responsive, high-quality education for First Nation students (2016-2018).



AFN Mandate

AFN Resolutions and key documents related to Post Secondary Education:

- *AFN Resolution 36/2016 Inherent and Treaty Right to Post-Secondary Education.*
- *AFN Resolution 40/2016 Call on Canada to address the backlog for eligible First Nation post-secondary students.*
- *AFN Resolution 94/2016 Changes to the Post -Secondary Students National Policy Guidelines.*

AFN Mandate cont'd

- AFN Resolution 122/2016 Post -Secondary Education.
- 2010 AFN policy document First Nations Control of First Nations Education

INAC Mandate

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (**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.

INAC PSE Programs

Post-Secondary Student Support Program

- provides financial assistance to First Nation and eligible Inuit students who are enrolled in eligible post-secondary and UCEP programs.
- aims to improve the employability of First Nation and eligible Inuit students by providing them with funding to access education and skills development opportunities at the post-secondary level.

INAC PSE Programs

[Post-Secondary Partnerships Program \(PSPP\)](#) provides funding to eligible Canadian post-secondary institutions including First Nations University of Canada (7 Million of \$21 Million) to design and deliver university- and college-level courses tailored for First Nations and eligible Inuit students. These courses help students gain the skills they need to enter and succeed in the labour market.

National Allocations

In 2014-2015, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) invested \$341 million into post-secondary education for about 22,000 First Nation and Inuit students. This investment included support for the Indigenous-led **Indspire** and the **Purdy Crawford Chair of Aboriginal Business Studies** at Cape Breton University.

INAC PSSSP Funding Allocations

2014/2015 fiscal Year	Total	Block Funding	Non-Block Funding	Total population over the age of 18	% of the total population	% of the total funding
Alberta	\$ 42,744,708.00	\$ 24,527,656.00	\$ 18,217,052.00	83,584	12%	14%
Atlantic	\$ 12,676,788.00	\$ 4,647,402.00	\$ 8,029,386.00	34,925	5%	4%
British Columbia	\$ 50,776,904.00	\$ 15,379,232.00	\$ 35,397,672.00	110,113	16%	16%
Manitoba	\$ 46,171,043.00	\$ 24,626,126.00	\$ 21,544,917.00	103,701	15%	15%
North West Territories	\$ 383,559.00	\$ -	\$ 383,559.00	14,283	2%	0.12%
Nunavut	\$ 298,200.00	\$ -	\$ 298,200.00	26,700	4%	0.10%
Ontario	\$ 83,188,028.00	\$ 34,587,400.00	\$ 48,600,628.00	161,269	23%	27%
Quebec	\$ 23,393,526.00	\$ 19,419,433.00	\$ 3,974,093.00	65,390	9%	7%
Saskatchewan	\$ 51,227,033.00	\$ 9,987,783.00	\$ 41,239,250.00	102,753	14%	16%
Yukon	\$ 1,227,095.00	\$ -	\$ 1,227,095.00	7,536	1%	0.39%
	\$ 312,086,884.00	\$ 133,175,032.00	\$ 178,911,852.00	710,254	100%	100%

1) This data was based off of regional allocations for the 2014/2015 fiscal year and is reflective decisions made at the regional level

2) This data is reflective of the total amount allocated to each nation and is not adjusted to include halted or recovered funds

3) This data does not include funding for Post-Secondary Provided under Grants, Self-Government or any program administered outside of the Post Secondary Student Support Program or the University and College Preparation Program

4) All population data is current as of December 2016 and based on information in the Indian Registration System with the exception of Nunavut which is based on the 2006 census (See point XXX below)

5) Population information is reflective of all registered individuals over the age of 18, both off and on reserve

6) Population information includes C-3 status individuals

7) The population information for Nunavut is based on the 2006 census and is inclusive of all Inuit persons over the age of 19, it should be noted that Stats Can estimates only half of the known Inuit population resides in Nunavut.

INAC ON Region PSSSP Additional allocations

- An internal program review is completed when funds become available.
- For 2017/18 the additional allocation to regions is yet to be determined

JOINT AFN – INAC POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION TASK TEAM Operational Terms

Objective: To provide a national forum to use and share technical expertise and knowledge of First Nations post-secondary education. The task team will make recommendations in regards to post-secondary education funding for both First Nations students and Indigenous Institutes of Higher Learning.

Operational Terms cont'd

Outcomes and Outputs:

- 1) Work collaboratively to identify gaps and deficiencies of the current First Nations post-secondary education funding and identify real costs associated with closing the gap and secure statutory/legal guarantee of funding.
- 2) Review Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and suggest options that meet the needs of First Nations post-secondary students.
- 3) Review the suite of Canada's Post-Secondary Education programs, including Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP) and the University and College Entrance Preparation Program (UCEPP), and suggest options that meet the needs of First Nations post-secondary students.

FEDERAL BUDGET 2017 ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government will also undertake a comprehensive and collaborative review with Indigenous partners of all current federal programs that support Indigenous students who wish to pursue post-secondary education. The purpose of the review will be to ensure that these programs meet the needs of individual students while supporting attendance at, and completion of, a post-secondary degree or credential.

POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION TASK TEAM

Work Plan 2017-18

Goals	Meeting Dates and Deliverables
<p>1. Work collaboratively to identify gaps and deficiencies of the current First Nations post-secondary education funding and identify real costs associated with closing the gap and secure statutory/legal guarantee of funding.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Present/Discuss research 2. Define research for how many eligible students are there for PSE 3. Define a true partnership between FN institutes and mainstream institutes
<p>2. Review Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) and suggest options that meet the needs of First Nations post-secondary students.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation on current INAC PSPP, Inspire allocations – Discussion 2. Define a new student centered program – 1st Draft to be completed by July 2017
<p>3. Review the suite of Canada’s Post-Secondary Education programs, including Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP) and the University and College Entrance Preparation Program (UCEPP), and suggest options that meet the needs of First Nations post-secondary students.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define and present a new First Nation Institute program – 1st Draft to be completed by July 2017 2. Identify research for FNIHL

Recommendations

- The Joint Working Committee agrees that in order to achieve the mutual objective of establishing a more sustainable and predictable funding approach for First Nation education there is the need for INAC to expand its financial support for regionally-based technical discussions related to each Task Team topic, where required, in addition to the current national-level dialogue.

Recommendations cont'd

- For a First Nation Funding Task Team member to be available to Post-Secondary Task Team to answer questions relating to Post Secondary allocations as needed.
- CCOE and NIEC to be involved in determining how new increases in Post-Secondary Education for 2017-2018 budget will be allocated to regions as well as any revisions to PSSSP and PSPP program guidelines.

Next Steps as per Task Team Operational Terms

- January 2017 to June 2017 –Task teams discuss and elaborate various recommendations for reforming First Nation education.
- March 2017 to July 2017 – Regional leadership dialogues between Canada and First Nation leadership. Format and schedule to be determined.
- July 25-27, 2017 – Update on progress presented to Chiefs at AFN Annual General Assembly.
- September 2017 to December 2017 (TBC) – Options to Cabinet prepared and presented. Findings and recommendations to the Chiefs in Assembly for July 2017 AGA

Defining the need

Accurate, consistent, and comprehensive information needed for funded and unfunded students

Defining the need – a method to consider

- First Nations data that can affirm the “need” especially in light of the federal budget 2017

How?

- First Nations could sign up to gather and cost all eligible PSSSP applications using agreed upon funding levels for this purpose then submit data.
- Need enough regional data to make reliable projections and analysis.

Principles to guide recommendations

- Principles of a new student based funding model (equitable)
- Principles of a new community based model for Indigenous Higher Learning (multi-year core funding FN institutions)