



The Government of Canada's Support for Transforming First Nations Education

Chiefs of Ontario
April 26, 2017



INAC·AANC





What steps are the Government of Canada taking?

**1. Immediately make significant new investments
using existing programs**

Spring 2016 - Autumn 2018 (tbc)**



**2. Engage with First Nations leaders, educators, parents, students
and community members**

Nov 2016 – July 2017



3. Support the transformation of First Nations education

Dec 2016-ongoing

INAC·AANC





What the Government of Canada is doing

Budget 2016 committed unprecedented new resources to improving First Nations education outcomes

These investments are only a first step.

To help drive long-term changes, the Government of Canada is **engaging with First Nations leadership, educators, and communities.**

The Minister will **report back to Cabinet** in 2017 on the results of this engagement and to propose options:

- Extent of First Nations support for new education legislation
- Options for new First Nations education systems
- New approaches to funding First Nations education

New investments:

- funding to address immediate needs
- investments in language and cultural programs
- investments in literacy and numeracy programs
- investments in special needs education



INAC·AANC





Challenges with Current Funding Approach

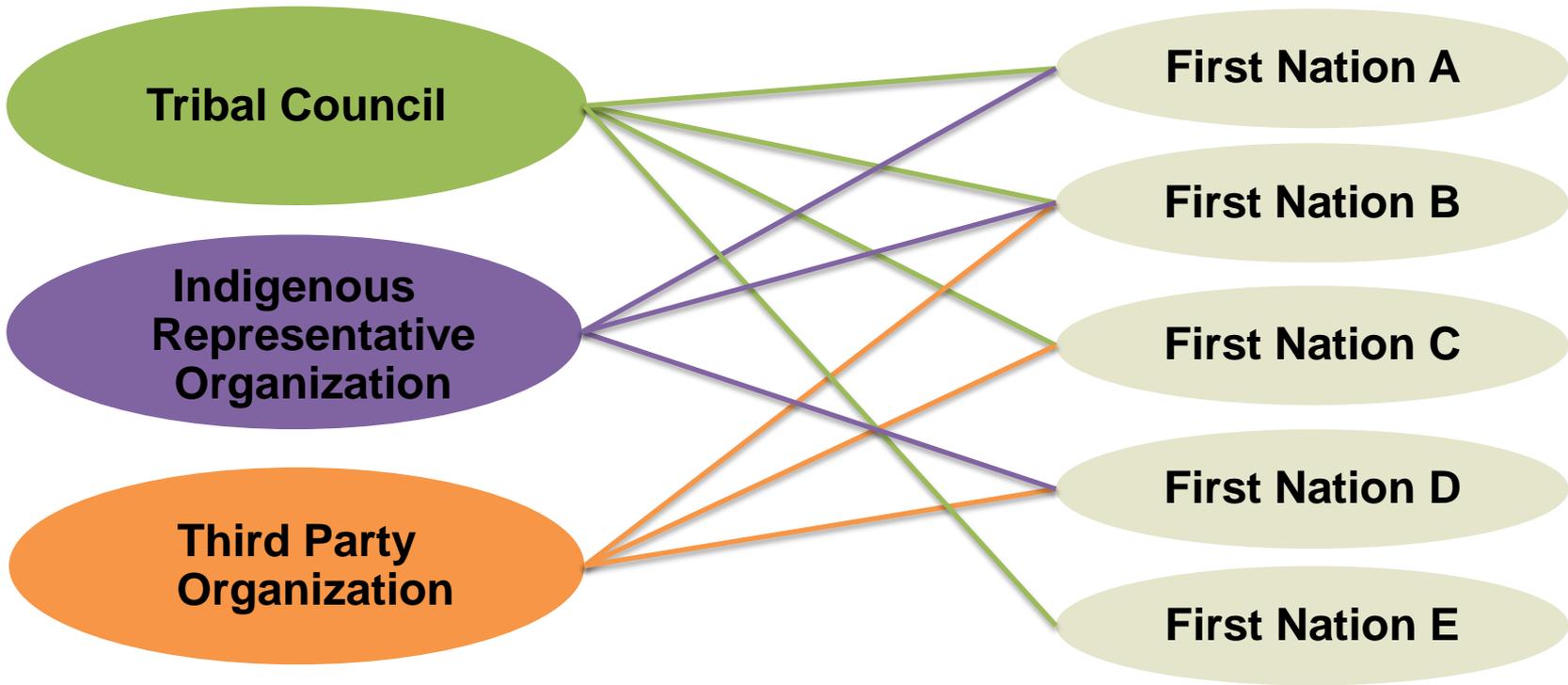
- Funding is allocated to regional offices and then reallocated to multiple recipient types which makes it difficult to track funding through the entire system
- Cannot separate out all funding by school type (band-operated or provincial)
- Largely based on historical allocations
- Growth funding is used for regional pressures on an ad hoc basis
- Block funding allocations are based on initial year of agreement and escalator is automatically applied- may not reflect actual price and volume
- Too much funding is proposal-based/targeted- it is burdensome, unpredictable

INAC has direction to move towards a funding approach for education that is transparent, sufficient, predictable, and sustainable. Formula-based allocations, like those used in other education systems across Canada, offer a practical means of doing this



How are second-level services being delivered?

- Funded by proposal-based / targeted programming
- Different picture in each region
- One First Nation can receive services from several organizations
- What is the value of services provided for each First Nation / student?

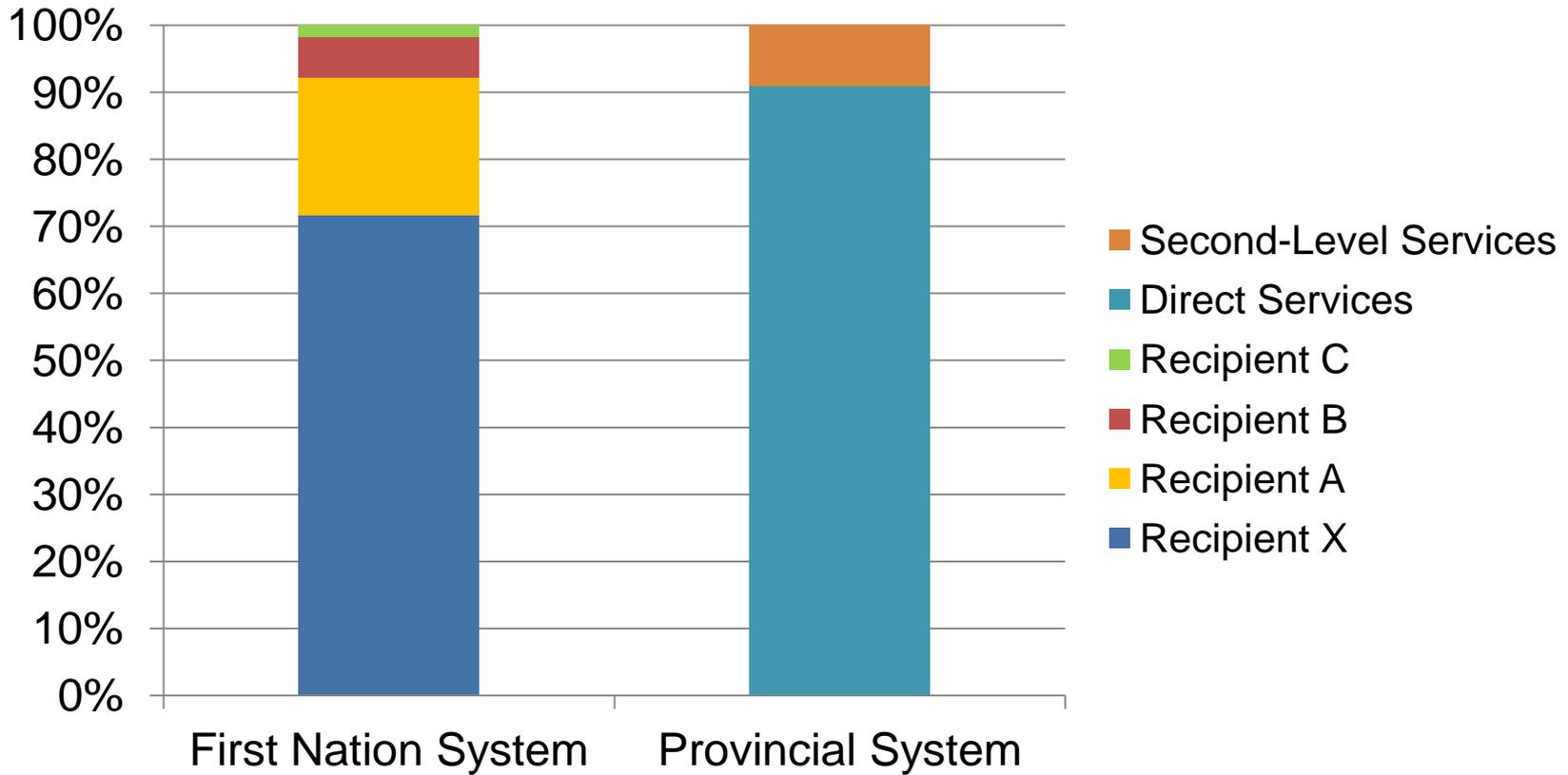


INAC·AANC





Funding and Service Delivery – Current Comparison

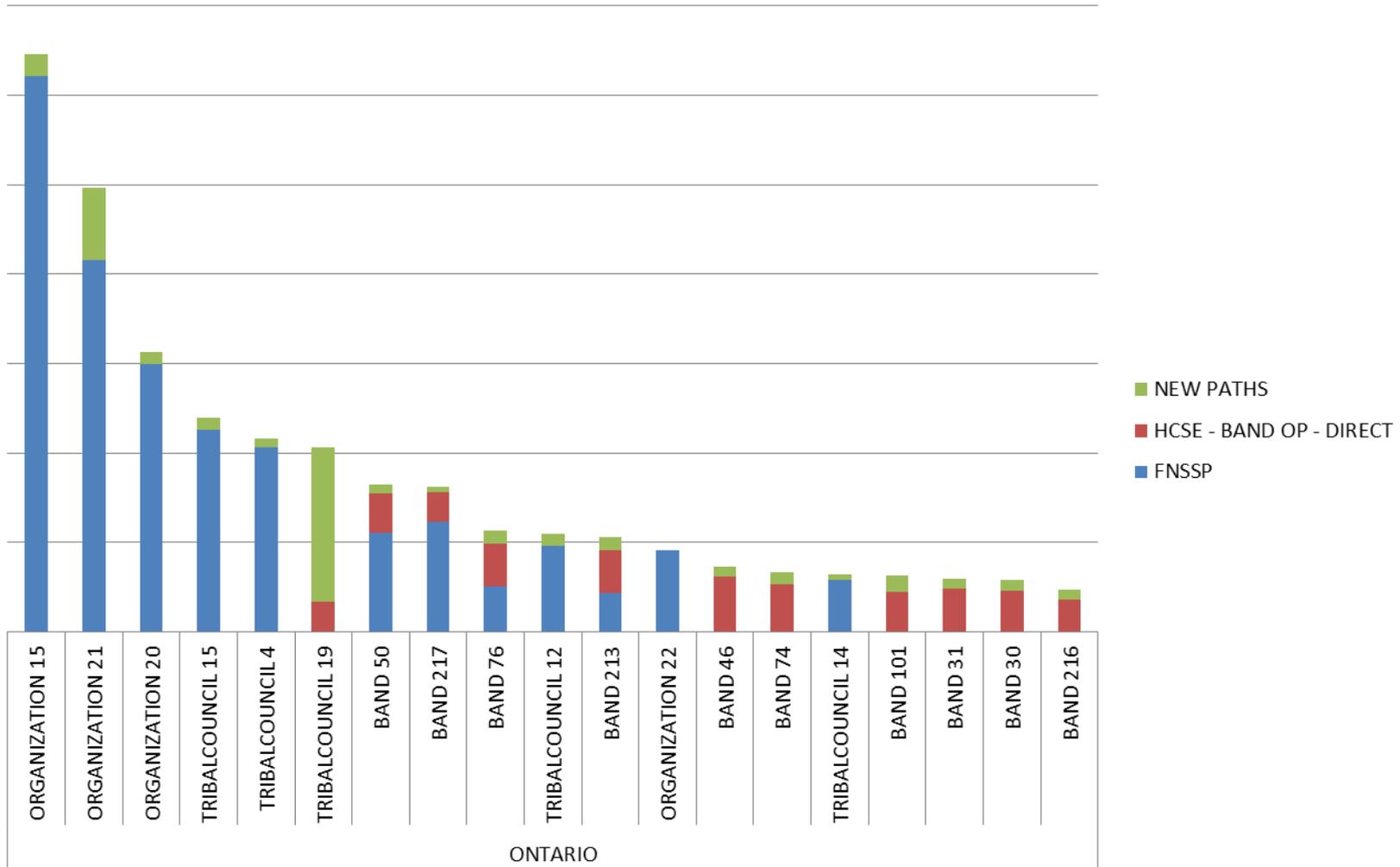


INAC-AANC





2015-16: Top recipients of proposal-based funding



INAC·AANC





Per Student Funding

- INAC per student funding levels should account for **all** sources of education funding provided directly to First Nations and to all organizations that deliver services, including:
 - Elementary / Secondary Core Funding
 - New Paths for Education
 - First Nation Student Success Program
 - High Cost Special Education Program
 - Education Partnerships Program
 - ** Band Support Funding
 - ** Employee Benefits
 - ** Operations and Maintenance of Education Infrastructure

The challenge is to identify and value all of INAC's education-related funding, and all funding for second level services on a per student basis



Challenges to Modernizing Funding

- Make funding more transparent, data driven, and predictable
- How to best reduce proposal-based funding
- Address cost drivers such as geographic indicators, school size, socio-economic determinants, special needs
- Ensure equitable distribution
- Respond to price and volume pressures
- Enable diverse student learning experiences and support First Nations students to build a strong cultural identity grounded in their language, traditions and ceremonies
- Support differences in regional approaches to First Nations education
- Assess and manage the impact of modernization on recipients





What could system transformation look like?

Currently, potential options that are discussed or in use are:

1. **First Nation School Boards** – First Nations-controlled organizations dedicated to student success
2. **Partnership between First Nations and Provincial School Boards:** transfers operations and management of schools to a provincial school board.
3. **Education self-government:** includes jurisdiction over elementary and secondary education

However, the Government of Canada is very open to exploring broader options

**There is no one-size-fits-all approach
We will not impose solutions from the top down**





What are we hearing?

- **Timing:** Some communities are ready to move now, some still need time.
- **First Nations students in provincial schools :**How can they be better supported?
- **New First Nations education act with statutory funding:** this concept has come up in active discussions between INAC, AFN, Chiefs Committee on Education and National Indian Education Council.
- **First Nation Education Institutions:** third-level type services comparable to a Ministry of education (i.e. developing curricula, setting standards for teachers and schools, creating funding formulas, etc.)
- **Supporting life long learning:** could transforming education systems lead to greater learning opportunities?
- **Engagement on early childhood education framework:** a more encompassing system for early childhood education?



Engagement

INAC, the AFN Chiefs Committee on Education, and the National Indian Education Council are collaborating to implement an engagement process aimed at developing recommendations to strengthen First Nation education

Community discussions

Technical task teams

Survey

Leadership dialogues

Nov 2016 Dec Jan 2017 Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept



INAC-AANC



Leadership Dialogues

The leadership dialogue will include face-to-face meetings across the country with First Nations Chiefs, Directors of Education, Elders, youth, and senior Government of Canada officials

- **Format:** approximately 10-12 two-day sessions held across Canada in summer and fall 2017
- **Purpose:** engage in a nation-to-nation dialogue to exchange information, ***with a regional lens, to help us understand*** what First Nations leadership is looking for regarding education transformation, funding modernization to ensure adequate, predictable, and sustainable funding
- Keeping in mind **recent resolutions supporting new legislation**, INAC will be interested to hear more from leadership
- INAC officials will work closely with First Nation organizations to ensure that **every First Nations Chief is invited to participate** in this meaningful dialogue





How to Participate

1. Fill out the online survey: www.aandc.gc.ca/education-engagement
2. Send an email to engagement-fn-education@aandc.gc.ca
3. Send a letter

First Nations Education Transformation: Engagement 2016-2017
10 Wellington Street, 23rd floor
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H4

4. Participate in a leadership dialogue

