



CHARTING OUR OWN PATH FORWARD  
**Education Forum 2017**

**First Nation Lifelong Learning  
Table**

Languages and Culture

Tuesday April 25, 2017

# Background

**There are 3 objectives within this priority area:**

- **Focus Area A – Languages Strategy:** Development, implementation and evaluation of a Languages Strategy that results in increased access to quality Indigenous languages programming for First Nation learners along the lifelong learning continuum.
- **Focus Area B – Indigenous Languages Instructors Strategy:** Development, implementation and evaluation of an Indigenous Languages Instructors Strategy that results in increased access to quality Indigenous languages programming for First Nation learners along the lifelong learning continuum.
- **Focus Area C – Languages Resources:** Ensure required and appropriate Indigenous Languages resources are available and accessible to support Indigenous Languages Instructors and Indigenous Languages Programming along the lifelong learning continuum.

# The Journey Together

- As part of *The Journey Together*, Ontario's response to the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's (TRC) Calls to Action*, the Ministry of Education (EDU) and the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development (MAESD) committed to working with Indigenous partners and educational stakeholders to co-host an Indigenous Languages Symposium.

# Chiefs of Ontario Resolution 12/18

- *COO Resolution 12/18 Native Languages Programming in Schools Operated by Ontario: Ongoing Commitment to Funding and Maintaining Programs* calls for partnership in revitalizing the Ministry of Education's commitment to Native Languages programming K-12.

# Chiefs of Ontario Resolution 45/16

- *COO Resolution 45/16* approves that start-up funding will be provided by COO towards the re-establishment of the Anishinaabek, Mushkegowuk, ONkwehonwe Language Commission of Oniatari':io as a means to ensure First Nation oversight on any First Nations Languages activity undertaken in the Bilateral Process activities.

# Current Status/Activity

## Focus Area A:

- The Indigenous Languages Symposium (ILS) supports the first year activities for the Languages and Culture priority area of the Strategic Plan. The ILS will review current programs, determine gaps, identify community priorities and supports needed to promote Indigenous languages. It is intended to provide a platform for Indigenous partners and education stakeholders to discuss potential next steps for Ontario's commitment to support Indigenous languages. The ILS will be the first step, in a multi-year ongoing strategy, to implement Ontario's plan to support the revitalization of Indigenous Languages. The Symposium ensures that Indigenous partners and education stakeholders co-develop next steps.

# Current Status/Activity

- The ILS will be held from May 29, 2017 to June 1, 2017 in Thunder Bay at Lakehead University and is being organized by a Planning Committee composed of Indigenous partners, education stakeholders, EDU and MAESD representatives.

# Current Status/Activity

## Focus Area B:

- The Chiefs of Ontario are currently working with a consultant to facilitate an environmental scan of Indigenous language instructors within the provincial education system including the identification of gaps in service delivery by geographic area and numbers of teachers, recruitment practises, professional development, language resources and accreditation of Indigenous languages teachers.

# Current Status/Activity

## Focus Area C:

- In addition to the ILS, EDU and MAESD have committed to supporting a collaborative research project, in partnership with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit partners, which focuses on Indigenous languages in Ontario. The study will build an inventory and establish baseline data of the current state of the province's Indigenous languages and dialects in Ontario. The research project would be reflective of community programs, reserve and urban, as well as educational programming available in the province.

# Implications for First Nation Communities and Organizations

- A collaboratively developed Provincial Language Strategy.
- To increase access to quality Indigenous languages programming for First Nation learners along the lifelong learning continuum.
- Under OCAP<sup>®</sup>, a copy of the baseline data gathered through the Indigenous Language research will be retained and may be utilized by First Nations to continue to develop their internal language strategies.

# Discussion Questions

1. Are there additional activities you could identify that would assist in any of the three Focus Areas?
2. Who would you identify as someone who could best inform and provide the skills/knowledge necessary to ensure the success of the above Task Teams?
3. How would you like to be involved in or communicated with on a regular basis on the work of this Priority Area?