

COOPF UPDATE & SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW

Neegahnee daa

Charting Our Own Path Forward Education
Symposium 2015

November 17-19 Thunder Bay

COOPF – The Big Picture

- ***Charting Our Own Path Forward*** is the overarching mandate of the First Nations Education Coordination Unit (FNECU) that was formed at the direction of the Chiefs in Assembly in 2000
- ***Scope*** – lifelong learning
- ***Core issues*** – jurisdiction and funding
- ***Activities*** include – support, coordination, communication, information sharing, intergovernmental liaison, develop strategies and policy/position papers

Mandates & Political Guidance

- *Sources of Mandates*
 - Terms of Reference
 - Political Confederacy Political Directives
 - COO Resolutions
- *Political Guidance*
 - PC Education Portfolio holder
 - Chiefs Education Committee (COO-CEC)
 - Political Confederacy

First Nations

First Nation
Communities

Aggregate
Organizations

Political
Confederacy/ Chiefs
in Assembly

Assembly of First
Nations

- Internal Collaboration
Social, Health and
Education Units meet
together quarterly

- FNECU participation
on AFN CCOE and
NIEC

FNECU & CEC Priority Areas:

- Early Learning
- K12
- Post Secondary & Training
- Special Education
- Data Governance

Outside Governments & Organizations

Provincial Government

Federal Government

Other Organizations

- Roundtable sessions
- Various Working Groups
- Education Partnership Table
- FNMI Minister's Advisory Council
- Minister's Early Years Advisory Groups
- Aboriginal Post Secondary Education and Training Working Group

Coordinate & Advocate

Mandate Focus for Symposium

- **Resolution 12/12** – directs FNECU to work with First Nations to develop recommendations to the Chiefs in Assembly on systems and funding mechanisms
- **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

Analyze Systems

What do we have now?

How can they be improved or streamlined?

What do we want?

- ✓ Look at governance tables
- ✓ Gather input from communities and organizations
- ✓ Look at other models
- ✓ Build on successes

Analyze Funding Mechanisms

What do we have now?

How can it be improved or streamlined?

How much will it cost and how will it flow?

- ✓ Comparison with provincial system
- ✓ Review the work of the governance tables
- ✓ Research other existing models and mechanisms

Methodology

- Environmental Scan (What do we have now?)
- Focus Group Sessions (Vision, improve, streamline, input)
- Education Officer Gatherings (vision, improve, streamline, input)
- Symposiums and Summit (share information, build on successes, input)

COOPF 2015 - Document

- Evergreen (living) document
 - Embraces a spirit of unity, vision and organic evolution
- Synthesizes collective input to date
 - Support Circles Framework lens
- Provides context
 - Stats
 - Reality
- Ideas and options on systems and funding utilizing the Support Circles Framework lens

COOPF 2015 - Appendices

Appendix A – Relevant COO Resolutions

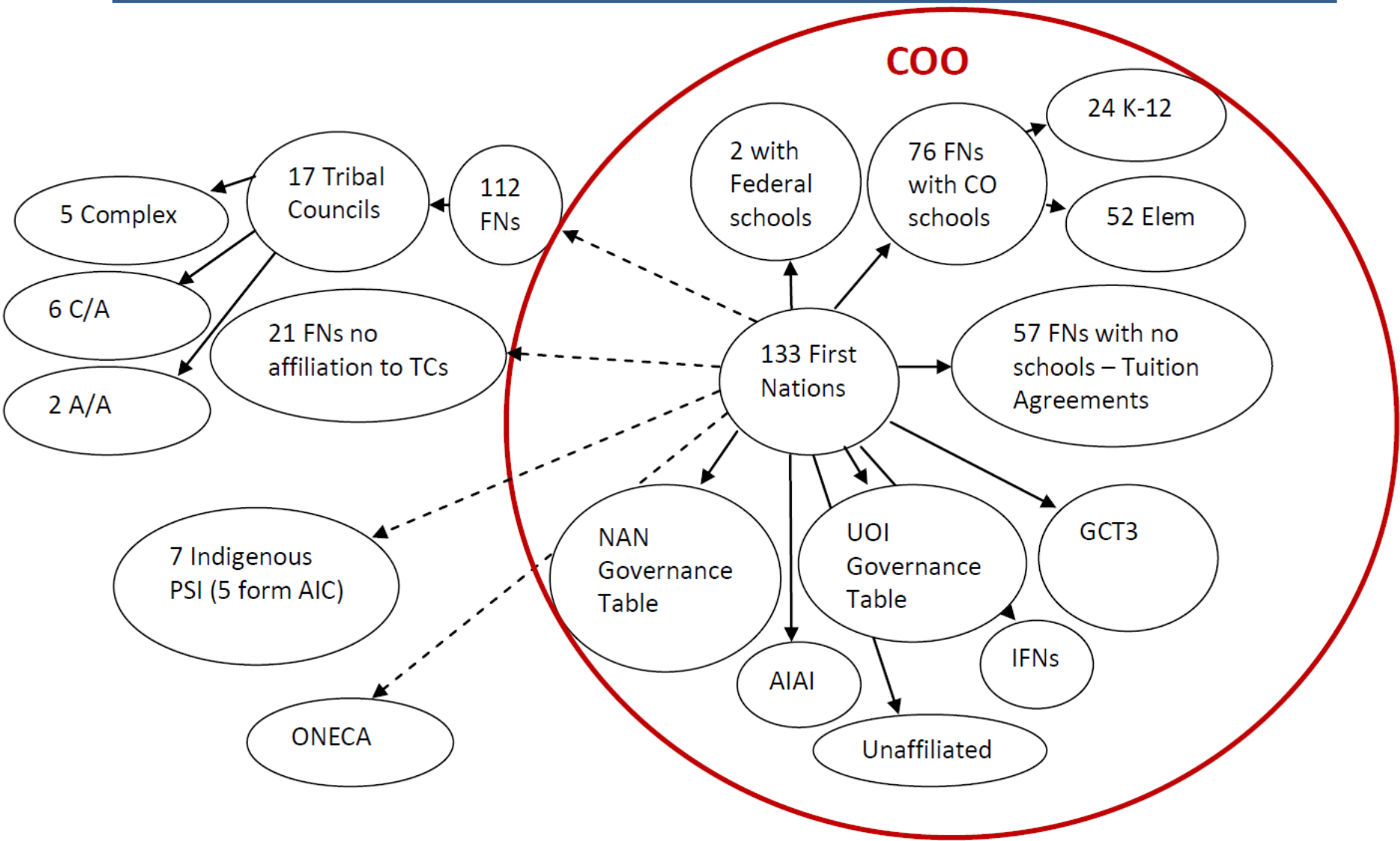
Appendix B – First Nations Inherent Jurisdiction over Education

- Was developed to provide a rationale for First Nations jurisdiction over education

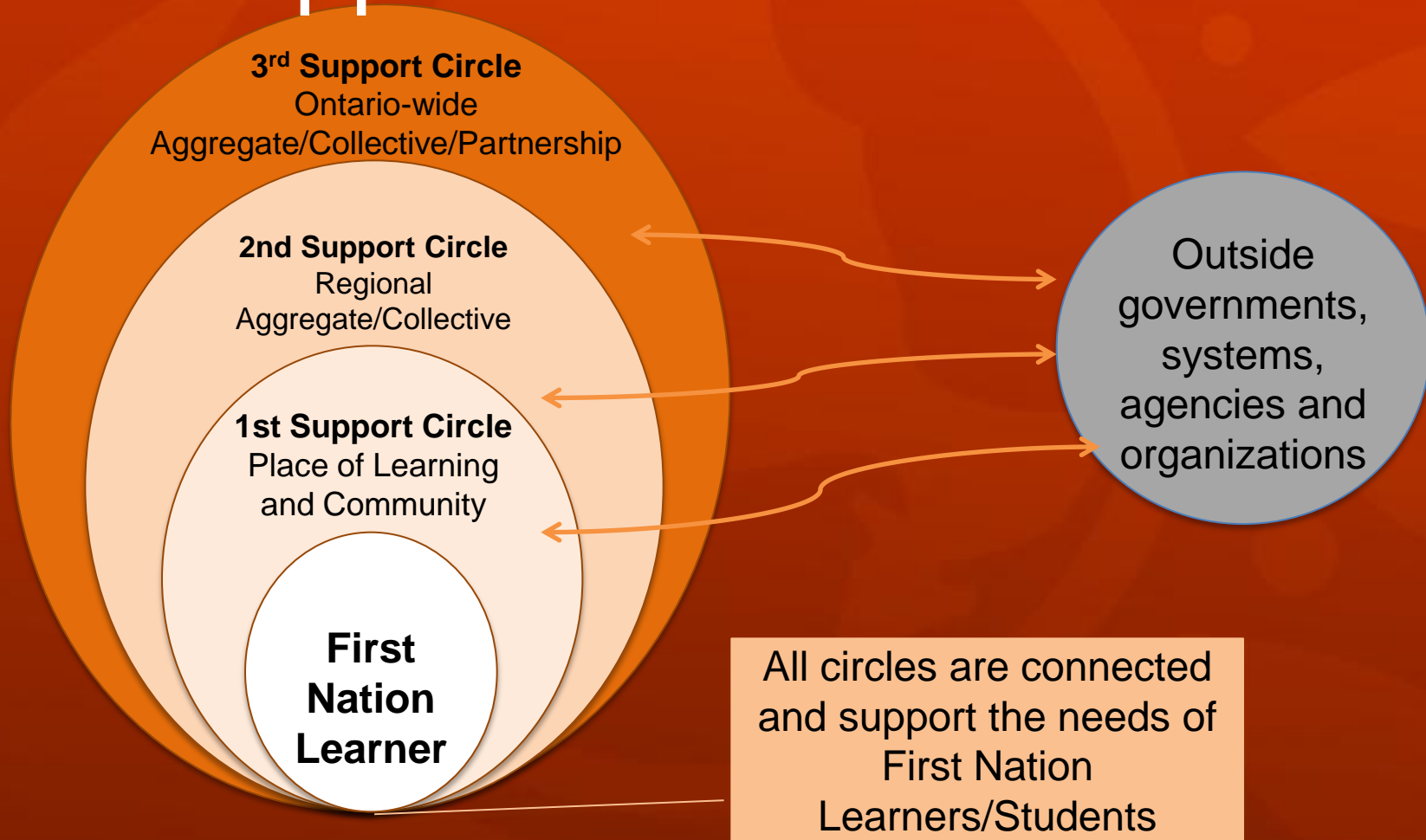
Appendix C – Draft Education Declaration

- Called for repeatedly
- Draft to begin discussions

Current Reality



Support Circles Framework



Fundamental Considerations

1. Support First Nation learners – lifelong learning
2. Respect First Nation sovereignty and inherent rights
3. Support First Nation control of First Nation education
4. Respect autonomy and embrace diversity

2nd and 3rd Support Circle Models “Discussion Starters”

- Geographical Proximity
- Treaty - based
- Tribal Council - focused
- PTO - based
- Nation – based
- Blended/Combination

Funding Considerations

Previous discussions and analysis reveal that funding should be flowed to First Nations via a Treasury Board transfer with levels determined through a Comprehensive Funding Formula.

- Ideas and options on funding flow will be further explored and discussed
- Outcomes of the Symposium will assist in the continued analysis of funding levels required
- Further analysis is required on the actual mechanism required to trigger the TB transfer

Symposium Overview

Focus – visionary and solution-oriented

Purpose – to gather people involved in First Nation education to review previous activity and build on the knowledge gathered to date

Intended Outcome – a more comprehensive vision for systems and funding that will provide a basis for subsequent input leading to recommendations

The Agenda

- Visionary and motivating *speakers*
- *Panel presentations* on success stories from within the 1st and 2nd Support Circles
- Dedicated time for *group discussions* and opportunity to provide *feedback and input* on what is being presented and direction for moving forward

Next Steps - Post Symposium

- Roll-up document from Symposium that includes systems and funding ideas and options that reflect *all* input received (January 2016)
- Follow up activity on COO Education Portal to refine ideas and options until recommendations to leadership are drafted (January – April 2016)
- Ongoing political guidance will be sought through PC Education Portfolio, COO-CEC and PC