

PSE ENGAGEMENT

Questions & Answers

What federal programs support post-secondary education?

The Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSP) is a program that provides funding for status First Nation students to attend post-secondary education. The funding is administered by First Nation communities and some designated organizations, and is often referred to as "band funding". The Post-Secondary Partnership Program (PSPP) provides support to First Nations established post-secondary education institutions and First Nations-directed community-based programming.

Post-secondary engagement is a process to evaluate the current provision of post-secondary education support in Ontario from a First Nations perspective and to make recommendations to the federal government for new post-secondary education models that will better support First Nation learners, communities, and institutions.

What is post-secondary engagement?

Who is responsible for post-secondary engagement?

Engagement is happening with First Nations throughout Ontario. First Nations, Provincial-Territorial Organizations (PTOs), and Independent First Nations are gathering information from community members through surveys, focus groups, and interviews. An Ontario-wide First Nations Post-Secondary Engagement Committee is gathering information from stakeholders to understand their current and potential roles in First Nation post-secondary education

The purpose of post-secondary engagement is to develop new post-secondary education models that:

- provide sufficient resources
- support First Nation post-secondary learners, communities, and institutions;
- allow for flexibility to accommodate the diversity of needs among learners; communities and institutions;
- are culturally appropriate; and
- align with First Nation treaty rights to education

What is the purpose of post-secondary engagement?

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Why is post-secondary engagement happening?

The AFN post-secondary review recommended that new regional models to support First Nation post-secondary education be developed and directed by First Nations and/or regional/Treaty organizations. In 2019, the Federal Government committed \$7.5M nationally over three years for First Nations to conduct a post-secondary engagement process. The purpose of the engagement funding is to support First Nations within each designated AFN region across the country to develop comprehensive and integrated First Nations post-secondary education models that will be accessible to all First Nations

In 2017, the federal government indicated that it would be conducting a review of post-secondary programs that support Indigenous post-secondary students.

In response, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) passed a resolution calling on the federal government to commit to a First Nations-specific review of post-secondary programs. The federal government and the AFN reached an agreement and the AFN began a six-month post-secondary review process in consultation with representatives from most regions across Canada.

When did post-secondary engagement start?

The post-secondary engagement process began in April of 2019. However, the Ontario region did not receive funding to support the engagement process until March 2020. This delay in funding, along with transitions to virtual platforms due to the Covid-19 pandemic, resulted in significant delays to the start of the engagement process

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When does post-secondary end?

Post-secondary engagement is a three-year process that is currently scheduled to end in March 2022.

Participation is open to all First Nation community members in Ontario, as well as potential stakeholders. Please see the next slide for more information.

Who can participate in post-secondary engagement?

How can I participate in post-secondary engagement?

Post-secondary engagement is a First Nations-led process. First Nations, Provincial-Territorial Organizations (PTOs), Independent and unaffiliated First Nations and Indigenous Post-Secondary Institutes are conducting engagement within their respective communities, organizations, and institutions.

If you are a First Nation community member, you can find your engagement coordinator's contact information in the proceeding slides. If you are unsure which coordinator to contact, or you are an interested stakeholder, please contact Natalie (Natalie.snow@coo.org) or Amanda (Amanda.bruce@coo.org) for assistance.

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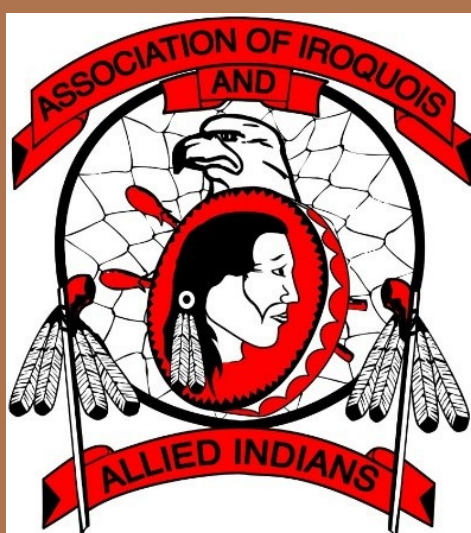
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TREATY #3

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE ANISHINAABE NATION IN TREATY #3

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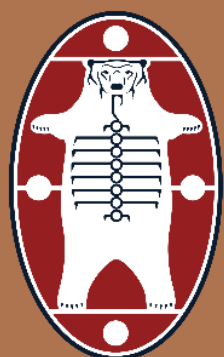


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Why is participation important?

The information gathered during the engagement process will be used to make recommendations to the federal government on a new way forward for First Nation post-secondary education in Ontario. Your participation will allow the Engagement Committee to make recommendations that reflect the needs of First Nation learners, communities, and institutions. It will allow First Nations to build on successful programs and services; develop new programs and services to address barriers and challenges, and fill identified needs and gaps in the current approach.

How will my personal information be used?

All data collected for post-secondary engagement will be aggregated and used anonymously. All data collected will be held by First Nations or First Nation organizations. No identifying information will be used.

