

May 29, 2006

Dear colleagues and partners,

We are writing to inform you of the cooperative policy development process for Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's (INAC) First Nation Education Policy Framework (EPF) and invite your participation in upcoming dialogue sessions on the EPF.

As you may be aware, Chapter 5 of the Auditor General's report of November 2004 made a number of observations and recommendations in relation to INAC's education programs. In response, the department developed an Education Action Plan, which was tabled with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts in May 2005. The Education Action Plan contained a commitment to develop a First Nation EPF by June 2006, in cooperation with First Nations. This will be followed by the completion of an education management framework by June 2007.

The EPF is intended to provide the foundation for the development of future INAC First Nation education policies and programs over the next 10 years. It was agreed that the development of the EPF would be carried out in cooperation with the Assembly of First Nations (AFN).

The attached documents have been prepared jointly by the AFN and INAC to stimulate thought, guide discussions and gain feedback from participants. The feedback from discussions across the country will be used to prepare a draft document by the end of June 2006, which will inform further dialogue and, ultimately, become the final policy framework for the department. A second round of dialogue sessions will be held later this summer on the draft EPF to seek further comments and feedback before the EPF becomes a final document.

We cordially invite you to participate in the first round of dialogue sessions. The EPF is a significant document primarily because it will establish, for the first time and in a comprehensive manner, the overall directions, scope and nature of roles and responsibilities regarding First Nations. We value your insight and ask that you share with us your views and thoughts to help contribute to the overall document and take part in shaping various components of this overarching and important education document.

Should you not be able to attend the first dialogue session but still wish to contribute, the attached workbook provides an opportunity to answer questions and provide comments on material prepared to date.

Once again, we encourage you to participate in these dialogues in order for us to develop, together, a well informed and mutually respectful education policy framework.

Sincerely,



Peter Garrow  
Director of Education, Jurisdiction &  
Governance  
Assembly of First Nations



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