

# A Quick Guide to FNEESC, the FNSA and IAHLA for Education Coordinators

## What are they?

The **First Nations Education Steering Committee** (FNEESC), the **First Nations Schools Association** (FNSA), and the **Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association** (IAHLA) all serve First Nations learners and education institutes in British Columbia. They are independent, non-profit societies based in the same West Vancouver office.

**FNEESC** is led by an 80-member Board of Directors consisting of education technicians appointed by BC First Nations communities. Every BC First Nation is welcome to appoint a FNEESC board member. FNEESC's goal is to support quality education for all First Nations learners, from early learning, through K-12, adult education, training and post-secondary education. Read more about FNEESC at [www.fnesc.ca](http://www.fnesc.ca) and link to the latest [FNEESC Annual Report](#).

The **FNSA** has a membership of about 125 First Nations schools and a ten-member Board of Directors, consisting of educators elected by the membership to represent each region of the province. The FNSA's goal is to collaborate with the schools to create nurturing environments that produce successful learners who have pride and competence in their First Nations language and heritage. Visit the FNSA online at [www.fnsa.ca](http://www.fnsa.ca) to learn about School Assessment, Teacher Certification and FNSA data collection and follow this link to the latest [FNSA Annual Report](#).

**IAHLA** represents the interests of Indigenous adult and higher education institutes in BC. IAHLA currently has 32 member institutes across the province. Visit IAHLA at [www.fnesc.ca/iahla/](http://www.fnesc.ca/iahla/), see and link to a [video](#) about IAHLA.

On the websites, you can see a listing of [FNEESC Board Members](#), the [FNSA Board of Directors](#), the [IAHLA Board Members](#), and the [staff directory](#). FNEESC staff members provide services to FNSA and IAHLA on a contract basis.

## What programs do you offer?

FNEESC and the FNSA administer several programs that provide education-related funding and services to First Nations schools and communities in BC. Those programs include INAC programs such as New Paths for Education and First Nations SchoolNet, as well as programs offered through other partnerships, including ArtStarts, SET-BC, and Friends for Life.

The main weblink for programs is <http://www.fnesc.ca/programs/index.php>. You'll find special education on its own page here: <http://www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm>. Education Coordinators can also consult the [Virtual Binder](#) for program details, reporting templates, deadlines, and tips.

**The New Paths for Education Program** supports the themes of Capacity Building, Governance and Infrastructure, Improving School Effectiveness, School to Work Transition, and New Relationship Trust. [Read more...](#)

**The Parental & Community Engagement Program** provides funding to First Nations schools and communities to support the role of parents in their children's education. [Read more...](#)

**First Nations SchoolNet** connects First Nations schools to the Internet by providing and maintaining computers and providing subsidies for access. [Read more...](#)

**First Nations & Inuit Youth Employment Strategy (FNIYES) Programs** are designed for First Nations youth ordinarily resident on reserve, ages 15 – 30, and include the [Summer Work Experience Program](#), and the [Skills Link Program](#). [Read more...](#)

**Teacher Recruitment and Retention: Professional Development (TRR: PD) Program:** assists Band-operated schools in the recruitment and retention of qualified teachers and educators by giving them funding to provide professional development opportunities.

**Special Education Program:** First Nations schools are allocated special education funding each year. Visit the [program page](#) for the work plan form and the program handbook.

**Artists in Education** provides First Nations schools with grants on a rotating basis.

## What free services do you offer?

**The Education Coordinators Post-Secondary Resource Line:** (NEW!) Need help with government forms? Have questions about post-secondary guidelines or policies? UCEP questions? Call toll-free: 1-877-280-4151 [cicis@fnesc.ca](mailto:cicis@fnesc.ca)

**First Nations School Principals Networking Site** – (NEW!) A social networking site designed to promote communication and liaison amongst First Nations school staff. To join, visit <http://fnsapricadmin.ning.com/>

**Special Education Toll-Free Resource Line:** Parents, teachers and education coordinators are welcome to call to discuss special education topics and learn about resources, approaches and professional development. Call toll-free 1-877-547-1919 [hollys@fnesc.ca](mailto:hollys@fnesc.ca). Subscribe to the [Connections Newsletter](#).

**Speech and Language Resource Line:** This free service connects teachers, administrators, parents, and service providers to the information they need to support First Nations students with speech language needs. Toll-Free: 1-877-547-5926 [deannez@fnesc.ca](mailto:deannez@fnesc.ca)

**Seventh Generation Club:** This club serves more than 7000 young First Nations students and it encourages them to make healthy choices, be proud of their cultures, and succeed in school. There are participation and school attendance prizes, newsletters, and school dayplanners. Membership is free - click [here](#) for registration information or contact [seventhgen@fnesc.ca](mailto:seventhgen@fnesc.ca).

**First Nations Parents Club:** With over 2000 members across BC, the club celebrates and supports the important role of parents and other family members with informative newsletters, incentive prizes, and more. Click [here](#) for registration information or email [s\\_sec@fnesc.ca](mailto:s_sec@fnesc.ca).

**Special Education Services:** The FNESC/FNSA Special Education Team travels to First Nations schools providing free services for staff, students, families and community members. Available services include psycho-educational assessments, speech language pathology services, education technology services, specialist support, and more. Contact [s\\_sec@fnesc.ca](mailto:s_sec@fnesc.ca) and visit <http://www.fnsa.ca/specialed.htm>.

**Anti-Racism and Diversity Workshops:** workshops available to First Nations school staff, students and parents and tailored to audience needs. First Nations schools may be eligible for a full workshop subsidy. Contact [jenniferw@fnesc.ca](mailto:jenniferw@fnesc.ca).

**Aboriginal Learning Links (ALL):** this is a “one-stop shop” for Aboriginal adult and post-secondary learners for links to financial support, housing, transportation, career planning or employment services and childcare. <http://www.aboriginallearning.ca/about>

**FNESC/FNSA Lending Library and Special Education Lending Library:** Free to FNSA member schools <http://www.fnesc.org:88>

## What annual events and training do you offer?

For details and registration forms, visit <http://www.fnesc.bc.ca/conferences/index.php> and <http://www.fnsa.ca/currentevents.htm>

**First Nations Languages Conference:** focuses on sharing language revitalization and education strategies. It is offered every two years. Next one: summer 2011.

**Regional Sessions:** an annual series of community meetings, in which FNESC/FNSA, the Ministry of Education, and INAC report on their work for communities and schools and listen to community feedback on education topics. Happening in the fall and winter of 2010.

**Provincial Conference on Aboriginal Education:** a major conference offered each fall in Vancouver, which addresses successful practices in Aboriginal education. This year: November 5-7, 2009.

**First Nations Schools Association Annual Conference and AGM:** every April. The next one is April 22-24, 2010

**First Nations Parents Conference:** offered every two years. Next one, spring 2010.

**Special Education Workshops:** [First Nations Speech Language Assistant Certificate \(FNSL\)](#)

**Education Coordinators Professional Development:** [Read more...](#)

## What other resources do you offer?

**Newsletters:** Subscribe to our newsletter mail lists for the FNESC newsletter, FNSA newsletter, IAHLA newsletter and Special Education Connections! Email [jenniferw@fnesc.ca](mailto:jenniferw@fnesc.ca).

**Publications Catalogue:** <http://www.fnesc.ca/publications/index.php>. You'll find electronic copies of almost all of our publications plus mail-order information

Samples:

[Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education in BC: A Place for Aboriginal Institutes](#)

[Creating the Future - A Planning Handbook for Board Members and Administrators of First Nations' Boards](#)

[Teaching in a First Nations School: An Information Handbook for Teachers New to First Nations Schools](#)

**TEKKRU Media Blog:** offers Aboriginal youth news and perspectives <http://tekkr.u.wordpress.com/>

**English 12 First Peoples:** bring this innovative Grade 12 course that celebrates the literature of First Peoples into your school! [Read more...](#)

**Education Jurisdiction:** here you'll find a presentation about jurisdiction, jurisdiction templates, upcoming meeting dates, and more! [Read more...](#)

**Scholarships and Bursaries:** find them on [Aboriginal Learning Links](#)

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**I'd like more information! How can I reach you?**

Call toll-free in BC 1-877-422-3672 or email: [info@fnesc.ca](mailto:info@fnesc.ca)