

2009

Summary of the FNEESC Post Secondary  
Education Coordinator Workshops



## Education Coordinator Workshops 2009

### Project Summary

In March 2009, the First Nations Education Steering Committee's (FNESC) provided funding to deliver five regional workshops on Post-Secondary Education. These workshops were delivered in collaboration with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) . The information sessions were targeted for Education Workers, Finance Managers, Band Administrators, Chiefs and Councils to assist them in gaining more knowledge about the post-secondary sector. The training topics included: Post-Secondary Funding – BC Allocation Methodology, Program Reviews, PSE Guidelines; Finances – difference between Contribution and Flexible Transfer Payments and Preparing Education Audits (eligible expenditures). Staff from StudentAid BC attended to present information on StudentAid BC, student loans and the repayment program. Also, the workshops offered updates regarding the Education Coordinator's Diploma Program and "what's happening in PSE," and provided opportunities to network and learn what other First Nation communities are doing in each region.

### Final Report Collation

<b>Location</b>	<b>Kelowna</b>	<b>Prince George</b>	<b>Nanaimo</b>	<b>Terrace</b>	<b>Vancouver</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>
<b>Dates</b>	March 4 & 5	March 9 & 10	March 16 & 17	March 19 & 20	March 30 & 31	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Number of Participants</b>	Day 1 = 18 Day 2 = 15	Day 1 = 28 Day 2 = 24	Day 1 = 33 Day 2 = 31	Day 1 = 16 Day 2 = 16	Day 1 = 36 Day 2 = 35	<b>Day 1 = 131 Day 2 = 121</b>
<b>Number of Evaluations</b>	8	24	23	14	30	<b>99</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$7,912.04	\$8,756.68	\$8,891.27	\$5,270.66	\$13,790.86	<b>\$ 44,621.51</b>

**Average scores of the participant evaluations (total = 99):**

<b>QUESTION:</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>No Comment</b>
<b>What overall rating would you give this event?</b>	26.26%	60.60%	12.12 %	--	--	1.01%
<b>Please rate the facilitator's performance.</b>	43.43%	45.45%	9.09%	--	--	2.02%
<b>Materials (kits &amp; handouts)</b>	19.19%	57.57%	20.20%	--	--	3.03%
<b>Topics addressed</b>	33.33%	53.53%	12.12%			1.01%
<b>Opportunities for asking questions.</b>	43.43%	46.46%	10.10%	--	--	--
<b>Opportunities for discussing local education issues</b>	31.31%	50.50%	16.16%	1.01%	--	1.01%
<b>Venue</b>	17.17%	42.42%	27.27%	8.08%	1.01%	4.04%
<b>Food</b>	12.12%	39.39%	38.38%	7.07%	1.01%	2.02%
<b>QUESTION</b>	<b>Very</b>	<b>Somewhat</b>	<b>Not At All</b>	<b>No comment</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>Were you satisfied with the number of participants?</b>	67.67%	27.27%	2.02%	3.03%	--	--

**Comments on facilitators' performance:**

The main facilitators for the workshops were Cici Sterritt, Post-Secondary Program Officer, FNESC and Pauline Bechtel, Funding Services, INAC. Cici and Pauline worked well together and participants appreciated having the INAC and FNESC facilitators work together. StudentAid BC provided three presenters; Thomas Wall, Vivian Qualizza and Glenn Colthorpe, who were well received in the areas in which they presented.

The following are some of the comments received:

- The facilitators are very knowledgeable, willing to listen, and also follow-up.
- Pauline & Cici – great tag team!
- Facilitators were excellent – kept us interested at all times.
- Awesome selection of facilitators.

### **What other local groups should be encouraged to attend next year?**

The notice for the Workshop included Education Coordinators, Finance Administrators, Band Managers, and Chiefs and Councils. The suggestions for other participants received included the following.

- First Nation Educators/specifically principals
- First Nations Social Development Workers
- Colleges/Universities, First Nation Access Coordinators
- Ministry of Education, School Districts
- Continued leadership & finance participation
- Post-secondary students, high school graduates
- Friendship Centers, AHRDA's, Employment Centers, EI Offices, Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance
- Other industry funding opportunities in area
- Apprenticeship Branch
- Adult Education Programs

### **How could we increase participation next year?**

The notice for the Workshop was faxed to all First Nations communities and Tribal Councils. The main challenge was the short time frame in scheduling and conducting the workshops. Listed are the ideas provided.

- Advanced advertisement and reminder; 3 months
- Opportunity to win computers for schools and students; offer door prizes
- Continued expense reimbursement; increase travel rate
- Using our email addresses instead of the fax will be better

### **Additional Comments and Suggestions**

The five areas in B.C. where the Workshops were held proved to be agreeable to participants; however, feedback received from Terrace, Nanaimo and Vancouver participants indicated dissatisfaction with the venues.

Participants were appreciative of the PSE Workshops and requested that similar Workshops be held annually and include 'hands on' training for INAC reporting requirements, such as the completion of the Nominal Roll and Post-Secondary Student Registry (PSSR) forms. Other comments and suggestions included the following.

- More interactive activities would be nice!
- I loved the idea of extending the workshop to Chief and Council, finance – very helpful!!
- This type of meeting is great for Education Coordinators to receive the information update to help them with their jobs & with their students. Good “hands-on” information that was very relevant.
- Liked the interaction of FNEESC/INAC/BC Loans people
- Have the power point down loadable to share, have these handouts on FNEESC website under this event
- Create a blog on PSE
- Need more information on nominal role reporting. So often people are put in these positions with little or no training and not all of the information needed. Finally something that addressed this! Thank you!
- These types of workshops need to happen on a yearly basis; to keep informed on changes.
- Very approachable facilitator – it makes a big difference
- Training sessions on: PSSSR Nominal Role, K-12 Nominal Role, Application for Protected Pool funds
- Bands always have a huge turn-over in staff.
- This workshop was very informative and learned from all other participants.
- Lots of opportunity for questions and information sharing.
- Please have NR & PSSR Training every 2<sup>nd</sup> Year, Coordinators change every couple years.
- FNEESC update Education Coordinators every year. I am new at this and never seen very much upcoming events like this.
- Database (affordable)
- Best practices specific to Education Coordinator positions
- Excellent suggestions. Meet to review filing system, workshop to exercise best practices and apply National Policy to ensure reporting is consistent across the province
- Very informative both from the grassroots level and board level