

Memorandum of Understanding on Post-Secondary Education

Preamble

First Nations recognize the importance of adult and post-secondary education and training and will work in a coordinated manner to increase student opportunities and success in that area.

The area of post-secondary education and training is a rapidly changing and critically important facet of education. Accordingly, First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), Post-Secondary Sub Committee (PSSC), Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association (IAHLA) and Indian Studies Support Program (ISSP) Committee have been established to provide various support services to students, institutions, and communities. To ensure that there is no overlap or duplication of services FNESC, PSSC, IAHLA and ISSP Committee have agreed to sign this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Who are the signatories to this MOU?

IAHLA

The Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association was formed in 2003. Its membership is comprised of Indigenous controlled post-secondary institutions and adult learning programs. The purposes of the Society are to:

- promote quality post-secondary education for Aboriginal learners;
- maximize the use of resources for improving the quality of education for Aboriginal learners;
- support the work of Aboriginal Education Agencies in developing and implementing culturally appropriate, meaningful, and quality education programs;
- provide a forum for networking, communication, and liaison among First Nation post-secondary institutions, Agencies, other educational agencies, organizations, and the federal, provincial and other governments; and,
- receive funds and assets from government or any other source, and to apply these funds and assets for the attainment of the goals of the Society.

IAHLA will also:

- advocate for First Nations post-secondary institutions/agencies
- collaborate between province and post-secondary institutions
- provide national advocacy for BC First Nations post-secondary institutions

FNESC Post-Secondary Subcommittee

The First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) Post-Secondary Subcommittee was established to support First Nations in managing their post-secondary education programming.

The FNESC Post-Secondary Subcommittee has a specific purpose:

- to review the current INAC Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSS) policy'
- to identify gaps and challenges and to propose solutions.

The Sub-committee is also intended to advise FNESC regarding general current post-secondary education issues, advocacy strategies, and political needs.

Indian Studies Support Program Committee (ISSP)

The ISSP committee is appointed by INAC upon the recommendation of First Nations in BC. The Committee is responsible for reviewing funding submissions from First Nations communities and post-secondary institutions and making recommendations to INAC regarding successful submissions.

The committee also:

- provides some professional development opportunities regarding capacity building for First Nations post-secondary institutions/agencies
- recommends funding to First Nations post-secondary institutions/agencies.
- fully supports First Nations education, ie IAHLA, FNESC

Commitments of the FNESC, PSSC, IAHLA and ISSP Committee

The parties have identified the following opportunities to work together:

- 1) The parties agree to plan annual meetings of the Chairs/Presidents of each organization to discuss the workplans of each respective organization and build as much cooperation as possible.
- 2) The parties agree to meet as required, and to provide a united response to post-secondary issues whenever appropriate.
- 3) FNESC agrees to have the Chairs/Presidents or alternate of IAHLA and ISSP sit as non-voting members at the FNESC quarterly board meetings, if this person is not serving as a Community representative on the FNESC Board.. This can be used as the forum for each organization to provide regular updates and seek direction or advice as required.
- 4) Where political support is needed for post-secondary education and training, the three organizations may seek to provide joint briefings to political representatives and/or provide joint statements on developments in post-secondary education and training.

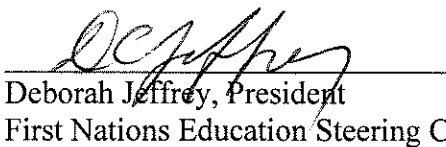
- 5) Where there is an overlap in interests, the three organizations may agree to make joint application for funding and establish working groups made up of representatives from each organization to direct joint work.
- 6) The FNESC Director of Post-Secondary Education and Training provides administrative and technical support to this agreement.
- 7) This Memorandum of Understanding maybe reviewed and amended from time to time.

The parties sign this agreement as evidence of their commitment to work together.

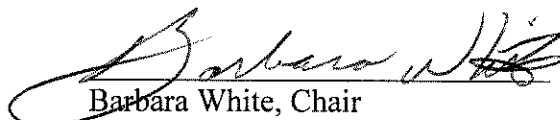
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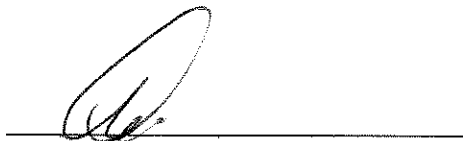
Verna Minnabarriet, Chair
Indigenous Adult and Higher Learning Association



Deborah Jeffrey, President
First Nations Education Steering Committee



Barbara White, Chair
FNESC Post-Secondary Sub-Committee



Lisa Wilson-Wells, Chair
Indian Studies Support Program Committee