



First Nations Post-Secondary Institutions

Fact Sheet

Mandated by First Nations, First Nations post-secondary institutions (FNIs) are meeting various labour market needs by providing a diverse range of quality programming—including adult education, community-based programs, and college and university programs—rooted in First Nations culture and pedagogy. This fact sheet is limited by data availability and does not fully reflect the support needed for First Nations Post-Secondary institutions.

First Nations Post-Secondary Institutions Overview

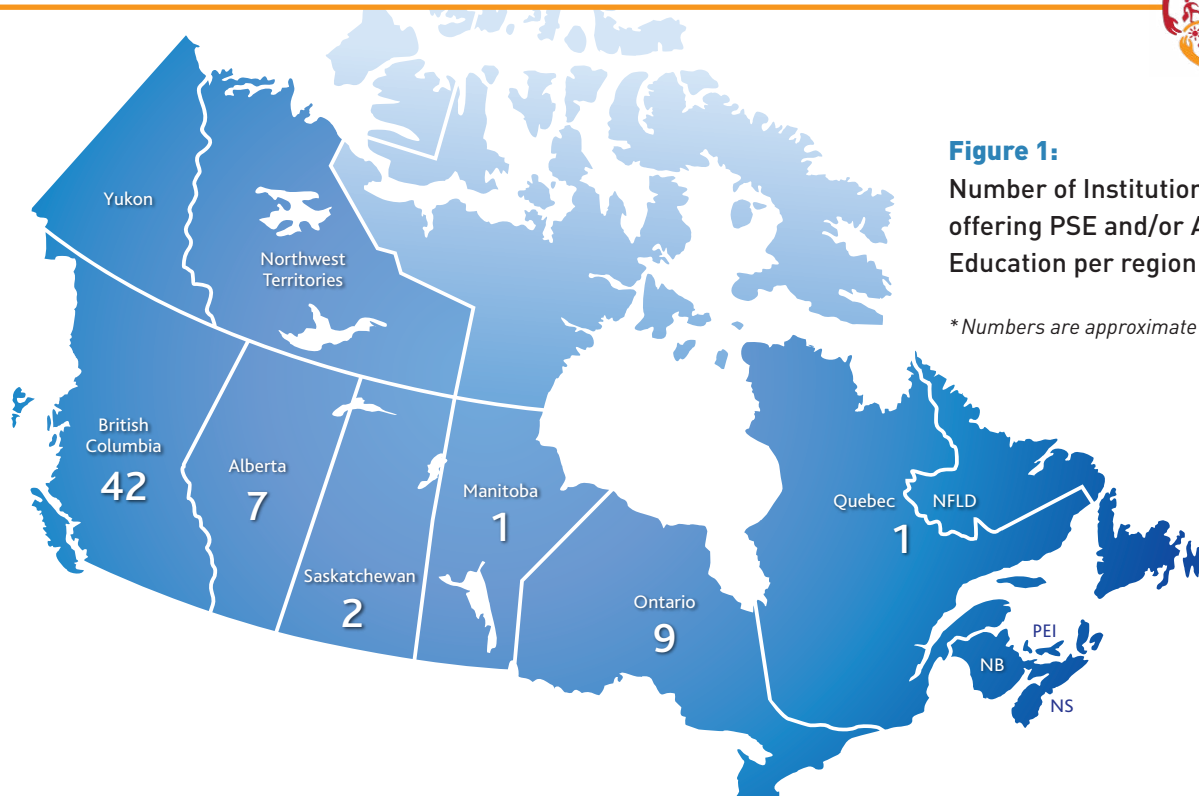


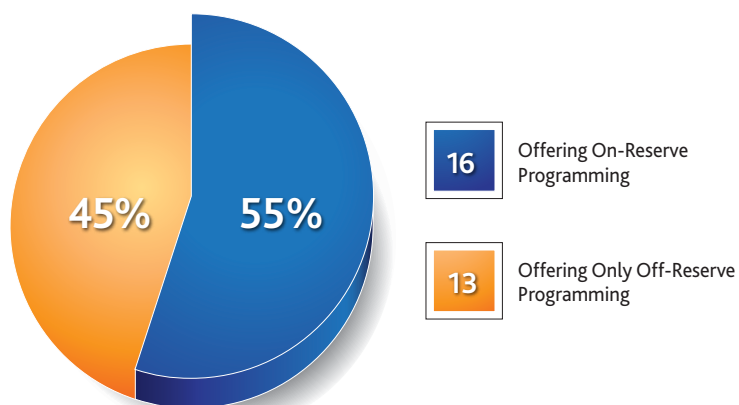
Figure 1:
Number of Institutions
offering PSE and/or Adult
Education per region

** Numbers are approximate*

First Nations Post-Secondary Institutions at a glance

- There are over 60 FNIs offering post-secondary programming across Canada.
- Of the institutions scanned, approximately 55% of FNIs offer programming on-reserve and 45% offer only off-reserve programming.
- Smaller FNIs support roughly 50 students per year; larger institutions support approximately 2450 students per year.
- FNIs are uniquely characterized by their governance, student services, program development and delivery, language and culture programming, personnel and community capacity building.¹

Figure 2: First Nations Institutions on-reserve and off-reserve



Source: Calculated data based on public facing documents and website information.
Data collected from 29 sample institutions.

¹ A variety of First Nations institutions have submitted profiles as a part of costing research. Learn more at <https://afn.ca/community-services/education>



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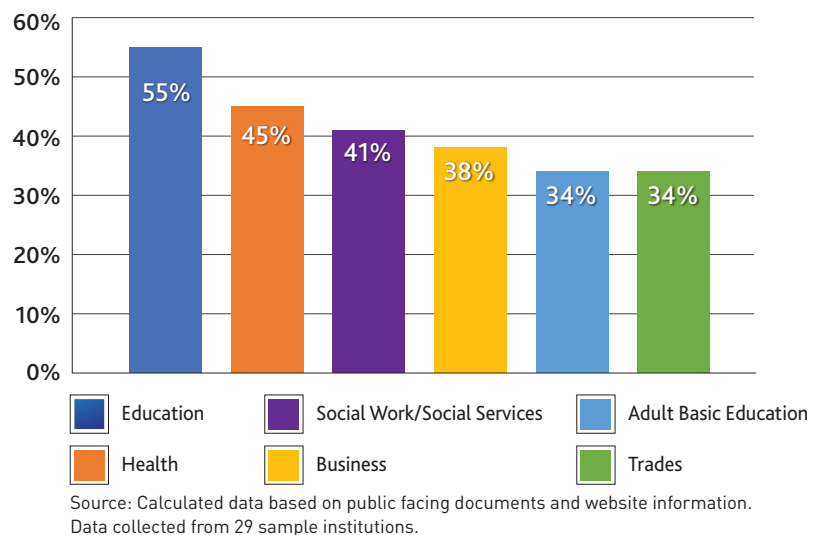
FIRST NATIONS POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS OVERVIEW



Of 29 First Nations Post-Secondary Institutions scanned:

- Over half of the FNIs offer programs in education and teaching.
- Nearly half of the FNIs provide programming in Health, Social Work and Social Services, and Business.
- Other key areas for FNIs include Adult Basic Education, upgrading programs, and trades.

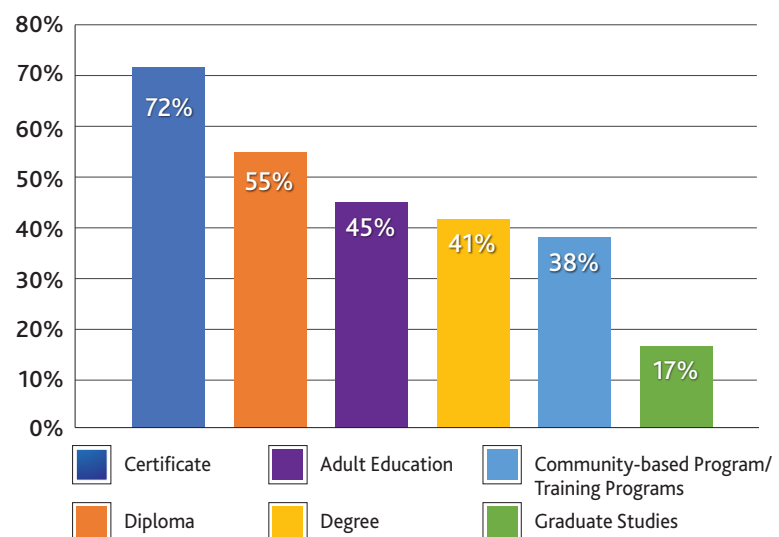
Figure 3: Top 6 Program Areas Provided by First Nations Post-Secondary Institutions



In terms of program levels:

- The majority of FNIs offer certificate level programs and over half offer diploma-granting programs.
- Over 40% of FNIs offer adult education and degree-granting programs.
- Community-based programming and training programs are common for smaller FNIs.
- Certain FNIs offer graduate studies², including:
 - the **First Nations University of Canada**, Master of Indigenous Education, Master of Indigenous Language Education, Master of Indigenous Social Work
 - **Kenjgewin Teg**, Master of Social Work & Master of Education
 - **FNTI**, formerly known as **First Nations Technical Institute**, Master of Social Work

Figure 4: First Nations Post-Secondary Institutions – Percentage of Institutions Offering Program Levels



² List based on public facing documents and website information may not be exhaustive.



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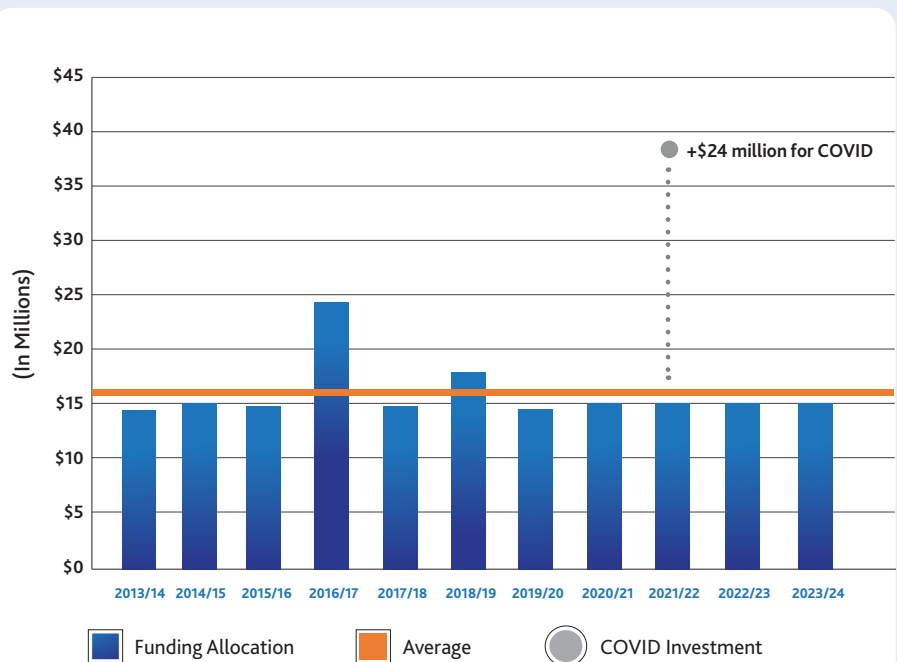
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POST-SECONDARY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM - FUNDING TO FIRST NATIONS POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

FNIs have consistently pointed to the lack of stable funding, capital funding, pathways for accreditation as barriers to their longevity and growth. The only mechanism for the federal government to allocate funding to First Nations post-secondary institutions (FNIs) is through the Post-Secondary Partnerships Program (PSPP).

- The PSPP is a proposal-based program that supports FNIs and communities to develop and deliver post-secondary education programming for First Nations students.
- In 2020-2021, PSPP was regionalized to provide First Nations the option to administer the program regionally and better align with First Nations control of First Nations education.
- Funding through PSPP has not increased over the last ten years. On average, \$15 million has been available to First Nations institutions annually on a proposal-based approach, despite growth in the First Nations population.
- First Nations post-secondary institutions require an investment of \$29,959 per student to best support maintenance and growth in the long-run, including offering more diverse programming and services.
- The AFN 2024 Pre-Budget Submission estimates that \$1.03 billion over five years is required to adequately support FNIs, beginning with \$195 million in Year 1, ramping up to \$219 million in Year 5, compared to the average of \$15 million that is currently available to FNIs.

Figure 5: Yearly average: historical PSPP funding allocations for First Nations post-secondary institutions, 2013-2023



Source: Indigenous Services Canada - Post-Secondary Partnerships Program: Selected Projects 2013-2023

Student Experience

In a national survey of over 200 Indigenous students in post-secondary programs, students indicated a positive learning experience studying at FNIs, where Indigenous culture is treated as “priority rather than an accommodation.”³



Students attending a First Nations Post-Secondary Institution:

- 60% expressed Indigenous teaching methods are offered all the time.
- 80% of the time Indigenous ways of knowing are being upheld.*



Students attending a non-First Nations Post-Secondary Institution:

- 20% expressed Indigenous teaching methods are offered all the time.
- 40% felt Indigenous ways of knowing were rarely or never represented.*

³ * Source: Indspire, 2018. *Post Secondary Experience of Indigenous Students Following the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Summary of findings*. September 2018.