



# First Nations Education Infrastructure Research Collection

Conducted over the span of two years, this research collection identifies First Nations funding needs in education infrastructure, which includes schools, teacherages and student transportation. This First Nations-led research and approach provides solutions and methodologies for community considerations, highlights the operational gaps, and serves as a reference for achieving equitability in First Nations education infrastructure.

## 1 First Nations Education Infrastructure Capital Needs Assessment

- The *AFN First Nations Education Infrastructure Capital Needs Assessment, 2021* captures 391 First Nations schools and 1026 teacherages nationally and identifies the capital needs for education infrastructure over a 20-year planning period.
- The methodology, being the first of its kind, relied on existing school standards and data such as First Nations Nominal Roll, geographical location, size, grade ranges, general condition rating, Operations & Maintenance (O&M) rating and inspection dates.
- It is estimated that First Nations require **\$11.1 billion** over 20 years in capital needs for new school construction, additions, planning and design.
- It is estimated that First Nations will require **\$1.5 billion** over twenty years in capital needs for teacherages construction, additions, planning and design.
- **202** First Nations schools are currently overcrowded and/or require additions.
- **56** First Nations schools require immediate replacement based on reported poor conditions or facility age.
- Estimates indicate that First Nations are only being funded **23%** of their education capital needs when compared to the Government of Canada's Budget 2021 commitments.

**Required Funding:** In the next five years, First Nations will require over \$4.7 billion in capital needs for new school and teacherages construction, additions, and planning.



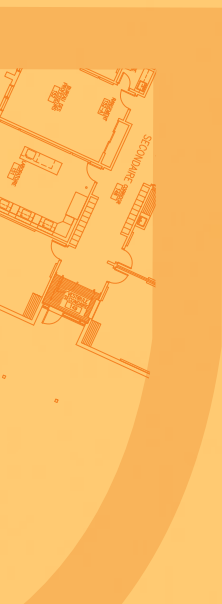
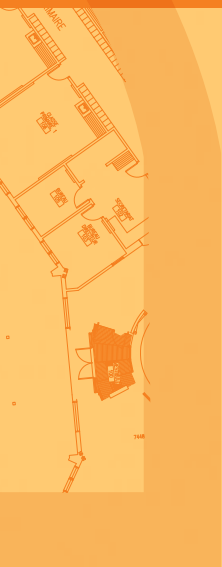
**391**  
First Nations  
Schools



**\$3.8B**  
over 5 years



# 2 First Nations Education Infrastructure Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Needs Assessment



- The *AFN First Nations Education Infrastructure O&M Needs Assessment, 2022* details the estimated annual O&M funding required for 391 First Nations schools and 1026 teacherages.
- The methodology included providing unit costs for various O&M components such as repair and maintenance, preventative maintenance, general facility maintenance, heating, electricity and insurance.
- Field research was completed with three remote First Nations, which included reviewing school drawings, expenses, and reaching out to suppliers or contractors. This approach led to the creation of a new O&M cost estimate generator for First Nations education facilities.
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- The total annual O&M requirements for the First Nations schools who were assessed is over **\$375 million**.
- It is estimated that annual O&M requirements for First Nations teacherages are over **\$67.5 million**.
- It is estimated that First Nations would only receive **32%-64%** of their O&M funding needs when compared to provincial funding formulas.
- These findings confirm a significant gap in funding for education facilities, which results in unsafe learning environments and facilities not meeting their full lifecycle.

**Required Funding:** Annually, First Nations will require an additional \$442.5 million in O&M funding for schools and teacherages to address the current shortfall.



# 3 First Nations Education Transportation Assessment

- The *AFN First Nations Education Transportation Assessment, 2022*, details the costs involved in providing education transportation services, highlights key operational differences between First Nations and provincial school jurisdictions and provides a cost model reflective of the needs and unique circumstances of First Nations across Canada.
- Data was collected from 18 First Nations participants, 13 First Nations school jurisdictions and five First Nations education organizations, as well as primary and secondary research from provincial school jurisdictions, student transportation organizations, provincial governments, and other stakeholders.
- Evidently, First Nations are facing issues with provincial comparability due to a lack of economies of scale, remoteness, higher student needs, poor conditions of roads and infrastructure and lack of access to service centres.
- All First Nations participants reported a funding gap, which ranged from **6% to 127%**, with a median shortfall of **45%**.
- The average cost estimate for First Nations student transportation derived from the model is between **\$95,000 - \$115,000** per bus annually, compared to **\$40,000 - \$60,000** in the provincial system.
- The cost model serves as a tool and resource to identify First Nations education transportation needs that may be used by First Nations to assist with estimating the costs of providing transportation services in Regional Education Agreements.

**Required Funding:** First Nations require an immediate funding enhancement for student transportation in education funding formulas to address the 45% shortfall.

First Nations pay



**\$95-115k**  
annually

Provinces pay



**\$40-60k**  
annually