



ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS
Special Chiefs Assembly

December 5-7, 2023

Shaw Centre – Ottawa, Ontario

Ottawa is located on the unceded unsundered Territory of the Algonquin People.

ASSEMBLÉE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS
Assemblée extraordinaire des Chefs

Du 5 au 7 décembre 2023 - Centre Shaw - Ottawa (Ontario)

Ottawa est située sur le territoire non cédé et non abandonné du peuple algonquin.



Education Infrastructure

History

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) continues to make impactful strides toward education infrastructure reform, K-12 education transformation, and First Nations control of First Nations education. The AFN has received and actioned various national mandates in the last year including Resolution 46/2022, *Education Infrastructure Capital Reform*; Resolution 56/2023, *Unilateral Education Programming Decisions by Indigenous Services Canada*; and Resolution 57/2023, *National Unity on Education*.

AFN's recent advocacy

The AFN has made progress on AFN Resolution 46/2022, *Education Infrastructure Capital Reform*, through engagements with First Nations leadership, education organizations, regional education agreement holders, and education experts in several regions to develop an interim and long-term approach for education capital reform. This reform provides First Nations with another outlet to engage in capital needs discussions with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) through existing or future education agreement negotiations.

Since the passing of AFN Resolution 56/2023, *Unilateral Education Programming Decisions by Indigenous Services Canada*, the AFN has demanded change through correspondence with the Minister of Indigenous Services regarding the department's unilateral decisions and disregard for the Chiefs Committee on Education's (CCOE) recommendations on the Education Partnership Program and Adult Education Program.

The implementation of AFN Resolution 57/2023, *National Unity on Education*, which calls for regional unity at the National Indian Education Council (NIEC) and the CCOE, is currently underway. Both Committees' terms of reference have draft amendments based on the resolution requirements and await recommendations from the NIEC and CCOE.

Finally, the AFN has recently completed the *AFN First Nations Inclusive Education Costing Report* and accompanying model, which provides First Nations with an accessible costing model to develop inclusive education needs within their education agreements.

Next Steps

The AFN continues to advocate for greater investments in education infrastructure to build schools, including First Nations schools in the Yukon and Northwest Territories. With no new funding for First Nations schools in the 2023 federal budget, the gap in education infrastructure continues to widen over the already estimated \$4.7 billion dollar gap. The AFN will continue to work with First Nations to develop a position paper on education infrastructure capital reform following the completion of regional in-person meetings from September to December 2023.



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The AFN continues to urge ISC to reverse unilateral decisions on national program guidelines and implementation to ensure that ISC's supplementary targeted programs are responsive to First Nations' needs and support for First Nations control over education. This includes further work on the Adult Education Program guidelines and applying additional pressure on ISC to increase funding for EPP. The AFN and NIEC are working with ISC to align Adult Education Program guidelines with First Nations' learning needs. However, significant reform is required in the long term for the program to reflect these needs and to reverse ISC's unilateral program implementation.

The AFN is dedicated to ensuring the 2021 federal investments of \$1.2 billion for K-12 education supports First Nations education and the conclusion of Regional Education Agreements (REA). As of June 2023, 10 REAs have been signed and concluded, two are nearing completion, and over 70 activities are underway from coast-to-coast-to-coast. The AFN has developed three fact sheets on K-12 and post-secondary education students and post-secondary education institutions, identifying funding requirements, current participation, and gaps in First Nations programs, which are intended to support future federal budget advocacy.