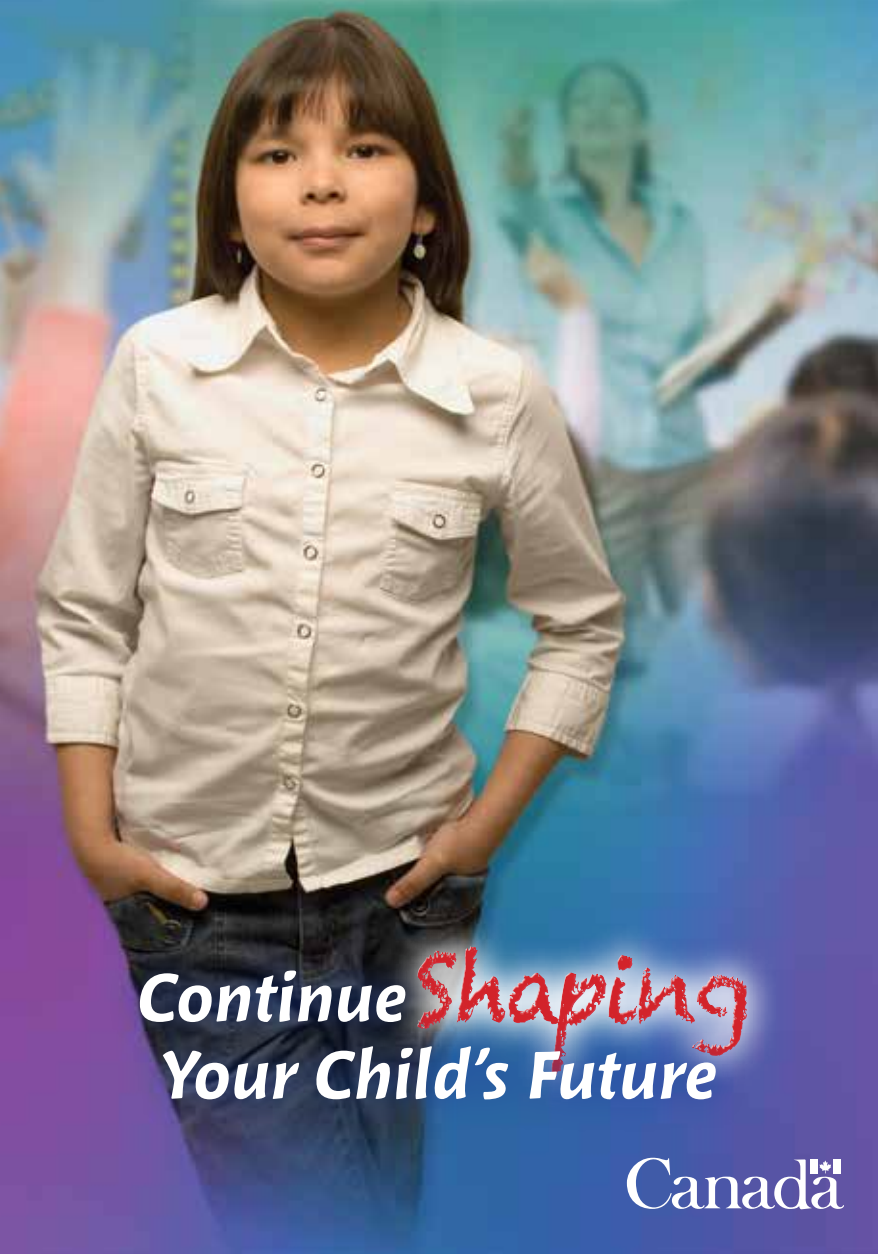




First Nation

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Consultations



Continue *Shaping*
Your Child's Future

Canada

We want to hear from you!

First Nation Education – Online consultations

Online consultations on the development of a First Nation Education Act have begun and will continue until April 2013. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) wants to hear from First Nations leaders, parents, elders, students, education professionals, and anyone else with an interest in the future of First Nation education on reserve.

Has legislation been drafted?

No legislation has been drafted. The purpose of these consultations is to get views and feedback so that legislation can be drafted.

What are the next steps after the consultations?

The input gathered during consultations will help shape the drafting of proposed education legislation. Once drafted, the proposed legislation will be shared with all First Nation communities across Canada, as well as with provincial governments and other stakeholders, for feedback.

This proposed legislative approach would respect the historic treaties and current modern land claim and self-government agreements and legislation.

Why should you participate?

First Nation student achievement is behind that of non-Aboriginal students in literacy, high school graduation rates and post-secondary completion.

We know that while there are many examples of First Nations with very successful student outcomes nationally, fewer than half of First Nation youth graduate from high school. By comparison, the high school graduation rate for non-Aboriginal Canadians is 80 per cent.



Like other children in Canada, First Nation students need an education system that is governed by comprehensive legislation.

We all need to continue working together to create the structures and standards to support strong, accountable education systems on reserve that ultimately contribute to the success of individual students and their communities.

These online consultations are an opportunity for you to provide your feedback on the Government's proposed approach to the development of a First Nation Education Act.

How could proposed legislation help?

Legislation alone does not ensure better education results; but legislation can help govern the quality of education and strengthen partnership arrangements, which are proving critical to the success of First Nation students.

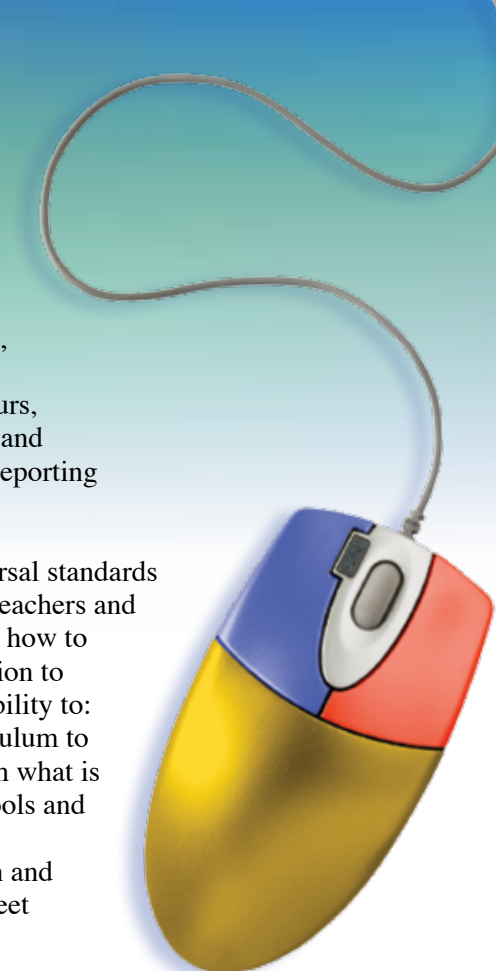
It is important to note that the proposed approach would not force First Nations to join provincial school boards, nor would they fall under provincial ministries of education. First Nations could have the flexibility to choose how education is delivered to meet their community needs based on options such as continuing to operate independently, joining a First Nation Education Authority or partnering with a provincial school board.

The proposed legislation could:

- Provide First Nations with choices on how to operate their schools on reserve by:
 - establishing or joining a First Nation Education Authority, which could allow First Nations to take advantage of much greater efficiency and flexibility to deliver a full range of services to multiple First Nation schools; or
 - continuing to operate independently to deliver the required education services; or
 - entering into an agreement with a provincial school board for the delivery of education services.

It could also:

- Provide a number of mandatory, universal standards that could help ensure quality education, safe and secure schools, and financial management, which could include:
 - minimum instruction hours,
 - certification of teachers, and
 - student assessment and reporting to parents.
- Balance mandatory, universal standards and services that support teachers and students with flexibility in how to govern and deliver education to students, such as the flexibility to:
 - develop and tailor curriculum to achieve equivalency with what is taught in provincial schools and to meet local needs; and
 - set their own registration and attendance policies to meet local needs.
- Help ensure that First Nation students can attain a recognized high school diploma and school credits comparable to those provided in provincial schools. This could better support students in continuing to post-secondary education and/or entering the labour market.
- Provide First Nations with better tools to evaluate what's working well in their school(s) and what can be done better.
- Provide First Nation education systems with a mechanism for stable, predictable and sustainable funding that facilitates long-term planning.



How do I participate?

Take the survey, submit your general comments on the discussion guide, or submit your own content for consideration:

1. Web: www.aandc.gc.ca/firstnationeducation

- Download a copy of the discussion guide and other relevant information
- Participate in the online survey

2. Email: consultation-education@aandc.gc.ca

3. Mail:

Education Branch
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
15 Eddy Street, 6th floor
Gatineau, QC K1A 0H4

4. Share your views with others

For more information:

www.aandc.gc.ca

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*Continuez à façonner
l'avenir de vos enfants*



www.aandc.gc.ca/firstnationeducation