



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes
et du Nord Canada

Improving educational outcomes – a shared responsibility

L'amélioration des résultats scolaires – une responsabilité partagée

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Re: Call for Proposals Reforming First Nation Education Initiative

This "Call for Proposals" letter is to inform you about two new Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Education programs that are part of the **Reforming First Nation Education Initiative**. Proposals are invited for funding under one or both of these Programs to improve the success rates of First Nation elementary and secondary students.

The two new Programs are:

- the **First Nation Student Success Program**, designed to help educators on reserve (kindergarten to grade 12) in their ongoing efforts to meet students' needs and improve student and school results; and,
- the **Education Partnerships Program**, designed to promote collaboration among First Nations, provinces, INAC and other partners to help improve the success of First Nation elementary and secondary students in First Nation and provincial schools.

You will find a more detailed description of both Programs below.

The two new Programs are part of INAC's **Reforming First Nation Education Initiative** which supports improved educational outcomes for First Nation students. To carry out this Initiative, the Government of Canada has committed \$268 million over the next five years, with \$75 million ongoing. This new funding sets the foundation for long-term improvements in First Nation education.

The investment reflects the Government's belief that education is a key to personal success and the well-being of individuals and communities. The aim of both the First Nation Student Success Program and the Education Partnerships Program is to help First Nations enhance their students' learning experience and improve their success rates in the classroom.

Specifically, the **First Nation Student Success Program** will support First Nation educators in developing and implementing three interrelated components: school success plans, student learning assessments and performance measurement. These three interrelated components will in turn help educators to plan and make improvements in the three priority areas of numeracy, literacy and student retention.

The **Education Partnerships Program** will support formal partnership arrangements that aim to develop practical working relationships between educators in regional First Nation organizations and schools, and educators in provincial systems. Through these partnership arrangements, First Nation and provincial officials will share expertise and services and coordinate learning initiatives in support of First Nation students.

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The **Education Partnerships Program** supports two categories of partnership development:

- the negotiation and drafting of new tripartite partnership education Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and joint action plans where partnerships do not already exist (Partnership Establishment); and,
- drafting and implementation of joint action plans within established partnerships where there is an MOU or similar formal tripartite partnership agreement already in place (Partnership Advancement).

To be eligible for funding under these Programs, interested organizations must meet the criteria in the Program Guidelines, and submit proposals. The amount allocated to successful applicants will be determined by the strength of proposals, the quality of the submission and the funds available.

For more information regarding application forms, Program Guidelines, and Questions and Answers Information Sheets, please contact your INAC Regional Office or visit the INAC Education Web site at: <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/edu/index-eng.asp>.

The deadline for submitting proposals will be February 16, 2009. Applicants will be notified of the results of the selection process in approximately six weeks after the submission deadline.

I hope your organization will consider submitting a proposal for one or both of these new Programs. The **First Nation Student Success Program** and the **Education Partnerships Program** are meant to help us make significant progress in our joint efforts to ensure the best possible education for First Nation students.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Keenan

Director General
Education Branch

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