

**Chiefs of Ontario**

**Fall Chiefs Assembly**

November 21-23, 2023 Toronto, Ontario



**BRIEFING NOTE**

**Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table**

**To: First Nation Leadership**

**From: Chiefs of Ontario Education Sector**

**Date: November 21-23, 2023**

**Purpose: Background information to support decision-making on draft education resolution**

**ISSUE**

As requested, the Chiefs and Technical Committee on Language and Learning (CTCLL) has developed recommendations for the Chiefs-in-Assembly regarding a bilateral process on First Nations education with Indigenous Services Canada.

**BACKGROUND**

In November 2020, COO withdrew participation from the Assembly of First Nations Chiefs Committee on Education and the AFN National Indian Education Council due to lack of consideration for the funding needs of First Nations in Ontario and a flawed decision-making process, that pits AFN regions against each other.

In February 2021, COO Resolution 21/07 mandated the CTCLL to develop recommendations for an education bilateral process with ISC that supports holistic lifelong learning approaches.

Ongoing work has continued since Resolution 21/07 resulting in the draft Ontario Bilateral Education Learning Table: A Framework for First Nations in Ontario – Indigenous Services Canada Bilateral Partnership on Lifelong Learning, which contains detailed recommendations for First Nation Leadership in Ontario.

**ANALYSIS**

The proposed Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table (OBELT) will provide a number of opportunities for First Nations in Ontario that would:

* Establish a shared understanding and improve communication at all levels regarding the strengths and challenges associated with policies, processes, and programs that support First Nations education and learning;
* Break down operational siloes within First Nations and First Nations designated entities as well as within ISC and address navigational challenges and community engagement fatigue;
* Clarify roles, responsibilities, processes, and timing considerations associated with reform; and
* Identify and address capacity needs for all partners.

The scope of the collaborative work through OBELT would be:

* Assessing what is working well to continue and be built upon;
* Determine what is not working well and require improvements and exploration of new options;
* Determine what is missing from the current suite of education and what needs to be developed and put in place; and
* Determine changes required to incorporate meaningful change.

The proposed structure of OBELT would look like the following:



**CURRENT STATUS**

Currently, the Chiefs of Ontario have interim bilateral tables established with Indigenous Services Canada for the Education Partnerships Program, Post-Secondary Education, and for the Ontario Technical Table Interim Funding Approach. Neither COO nor any of the entities currently participating in the CTCLL are financially supported by ISC for work on these bilateral tables, or any other bilateral work with ISC.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Chiefs-in-Assembly consider approving the resolution on the Ontario Bilateral Education and Learning Table, as outlined in the draft OBELT Framework document.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Ontario Bilateral Education Learning Table: A Framework for First Nations in Ontario – Indigenous Services Canada Bilateral Partnership On Lifelong Learning