

BRIEFING NOTE

Adult Education Implementation

To: Chiefs in Assembly – Annual Chiefs Assembly
From: COO Education Sector
Date: June 2023
Purpose: Seeking Support for Recommended Adult Education Implementation

ISSUE

Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) is implementing the 2021 federal budget investment of \$350M over five years to expand access to adult (over 21) education. This funding prioritizes secondary school completion and upgrading. ISC has provided Ontario Region First Nations with the opportunity to provide recommendations on regional implementation.

BACKGROUND

- COO Leadership Council approved the Ontario-Specific Implementation Proposal for Adult Education on September 1, 2022, which was submitted to ISC to inform the Treasury Board submission to unlock the \$350M over five years allocated in the 2021 federal budget
 - o The Ontario-Specific proposal calls on ISC work with First Nations to develop funding allocations, reporting requirements and adjustments to the Interim Funding Approach¹ (IFA) to support implementation of the Adult Education funding
- In December 2022, ISC verbally notified COO of the Treasury Board approval for adult education implementation beginning in 2022/2023
 - o The decision allows the adult education funding to flow through ISC's Elementary and Secondary Education Program by removing the upper age cap (21 yrs.) for eligibility
 - o Ontario's portion of the national allocation is \$52.187M over five years (at a minimum)
 - o Of that \$13.8M is allocated for Start-up and Expansion of adult education programs
 - o The remaining \$38.38M is to support learners over 21 through the IFA, based on the First Nation's nominal roll²
- The OTTIFA Adult Education Task Team developed the following recommended approach to as a one-time allocation approach for adult education funding designated for Start-up and Expansion in the 2022-23 fiscal year:
 - o Due to the lateness of the funding release from ISC HQ to the ISC Ontario Region, the Adult Education Task Team recommended getting some funds out quickly to support those ready to implement or expand adult education and suggested the following interim methodology:

¹ The Interim Funding Approach allocates funding to First Nations and some First Nation designated entities for elementary and secondary education.

² The nominal roll is the registry of all elementary and secondary students funded by ISC under the Elementary and Secondary Education Program.

- Allocate approx. \$1M (of the \$13.8M) of the Start-up/Expansion budget for 22/23
- Provide an allocation for Expansion to go to all existing First Nation schools that had at least five learners over the age of 21 on their 21/22 nominal roll
- Provide an allocation for Start-up to all First Nations with a population over the age 21 living on reserve
 - The recommendation for the 2022-2023 approach was approved by the Leadership Council January 17, 2023 on a one-time interim basis
- ISC unilaterally designated allocations for the remaining \$12.8M in Start-up and Expansion funding as follows for the remaining four years:
 - 2023/24 - \$3.8M
 - 2024/25 - \$3M
 - 2025/26 - \$3M
 - 2026/27 - \$3M
 - ISC's decision was based on a draft recommendation from the Adult Education Task Team, unfortunately consensus on the recommendation at the Chiefs and Technical Committee on Languages and Learning (CTCLL) was not reached by ISC's deadline
- The Adult Education Task Team requested time to consult with communities before developing a recommendation to access/allocate the Start-up/ Expansion funding for the remaining four years and met in May 2023 to develop a recommendation

ANALYSIS

- Through engagement with First Nation communities the Adult Education Task Team developed an approach for accessing the Adult Education Start-Up/Expansion funding that would:
 - Eliminate the administrative burden to develop annual proposals;
 - Ensure that no First Nation is left behind;
 - Allows funding to target the intended recipients/activities and yield data showing the growth and success at the end of the five-year funding commitment;
 - Data will be used to advocate for continued and expanded funding for adult education programming
- The approach promotes ease of application and equity, however it is limited by the set funding envelop annually.

CURRENT STATUS

- The distribution of the \$3.8M in Start-Up/Expansion funding is currently on hold until First Nations provide direction on how the funding will be allocated
- Once the recommended approach has been agreed upon by First Nations in Ontario the funding will be distributed accordingly

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Chiefs in Assembly support the resolution to implement the following approach for the five-year funding commitment from ISC for Adult Education.

To access the Adult Education Start-up/Expansion for 2023/24 to 2026/27:

- An annual Survey of Interest be distributed to all communities and eligible First Nation schools and organizations to determine those which are interested in expansion and start-up of adult education; and

- Based on the number of interested survey entries, a methodology will be developed (in-line with the 22/23 methodology) to determine the annual budgets for the Start-Up/Expansion streams and to allocate the budgets equitably among those interested.

Additionally, the Adult Education Task Team will:

- Review (and revise if necessary) the recommendations previously developed and approved by CTCLL and COO Leadership Committee for the application of funding to support learners over 21 through the IFA;
- Collect additional nominal roll data for learners over 21 to ensure they are being counted according to the type of program they are in and funded accordingly;
- Develop a business case for the continuation and expansion of adult education.
 - o Consensus on all recommendations will be built through the CTCLL and approved by the Leadership Council (or Chiefs in Assembly) prior to submission to ISC for implementation.