

## Orientation 1 – First Nations Education Governance System

### Context:

FNEC member communities are unanimous in their commitment to the establishment of First Nations education governance systems that reflect their needs, cultures and aspirations. The validation and implementation of smart quality standards in the following fields, governance and leadership, planning, performance measurement and risk management, financial management, human resource management, information management and information technology, parental and community involvement, external relations, will serve to strengthen educational systems, support transparent and accountable governance, and generally enhance the governance capacities of communities.

During fiscal year 2013-2014, the *Supporting Strong First Nation Education Governance: Standards guide* was developed in collaboration with representatives and experts from FNEC-member communities. This guide was the first step. Communities can now self-assess their governance capacities in relation to collective standards and develop strategic plans to achieve them. The FNEC will support this work.

Additional standards including special education, certification of education staff, language instruction, and capital and infrastructure management, will follow in years to come.

The development and evaluation of activities is important to provide member communities with tools to facilitate and improve their practices.

### Implementation considerations:

- The FNEC is a First Nations education association of eight nations and twenty-two First Nations communities;
- The FNEC’s governing body, the General Assembly, is formed of representatives from each of the 22 member communities;
- The FNEC has 30 years of expertise in the field of First Nations education;
- FNEC-member communities want to have a system of governance that reflects their aspirations;
- The FNEC supports local and regional improvement of educational systems.

Objectives	Methods	Results
1.1 The FNEC supports local and regional development of governance capacities in education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validate the standards in <i>Supporting Strong First Nation Education Governance: Standards guide</i>.</li> <li>• Develop assessment tools in line with the standards: e.g. self-assessment of local systems, progress scales (continuums).</li> <li>• Develop and offer informational activities on standards across various mediums.</li> <li>• Upon request, determine and provide the support needed for implementing standards to member communities.</li> <li>• Offer support and advice in developing policies and procedures to strengthen the governance of schools and education systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member communities will have locally defined and relevant educational governance standards.</li> <li>• Member communities will implement their education system.</li> <li>• Member communities will benefit from support in the implementation of their educational governance system.</li> <li>• Each community will have a five-year strategic plan.</li> <li>• The communities will have improved their management practices in education.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the development of local strategic plans.</li> <li>• Develop new standards, where necessary.</li> </ul>	
1.2 The FNEC supports service evaluation and needs analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and validate assessment approaches as a means of directing local and regional improvement and planning efforts.</li> <li>• Support interim and summative evaluations of the implementation process.</li> <li>• Support the implementation of success plans.</li> <li>• Analyse the need for adult education, vocational training, postsecondary training programs, etc.</li> <li>• Offer advisory services and effective support to schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The communities will receive and offer effective and relevant services.</li> </ul>
1.3 The FNEC creates a service offer that corresponds to the needs of communities based on available resources in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support local and regional efforts to deliver educational services that foster long-term student success and comparable results;</li> <li>• define and identify optimum methods to ensure the continuous provision of services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate the definition, development and implementation of effective support services and methods for the provision of services at local and regional levels.</li> <li>• Develop and validate an overview of support services.</li> <li>• Support the communities in the development of local education policies.</li> <li>• Encourage the development of local education services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The communities and schools will have relevant and effective tools to facilitate their practices.</li> <li>• The communities and schools will receive support to implement their local education programs and services.</li> <li>• Relevant and effective support services will be provided by the FNEC.</li> </ul>
1.4 The FNEC diversifies its support for data analysis (local and regional).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consult with member communities and regional managers to identify common local needs.</li> <li>• Analyze all relevant information.</li> <li>• Develop, collate and validate a common set of performance indicators.</li> <li>• Present reports to facilitate accountability.</li> <li>• Make recommendations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis capabilities of CANO and related data will be improved at local and regional levels</li> <li>• Analysis and use of common indicators in member communities and schools will be increased.</li> </ul>

<p>1.5 The FNEC provides support to increase accountability and improve financial and administrative practices at local and regional levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate needs (locally and regionally) in terms of administrative and financial support.</li> <li>• Support local and regional implementation of accountability standards.</li> <li>• Diversify accountability tools (financial reports, dashboards) available for local and regional use.</li> <li>• Support the development and follow-up of budgetary forecasts.</li> <li>• Offer advice and support related to the use of accounting software.</li> <li>• Develop tools and training on requirements related to financial reports for new resources or those already employed (professional development).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relevant services in support of accountability will be available.</li> <li>• Relevant training will be provided.</li> <li>• Schools and communities will have access to services that facilitate accountable and transparent management.</li> <li>• Schools and communities will better manage their resources to optimum effect.</li> </ul>
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