New Paths for Education
(NPE)

AANDC Guidelines

&

General Information
2015 – 2016

First Nations Education Council
1. Introduction

The New Paths for Education program provides funding to strengthen First Nation education and improve the quality of education in First Nation schools. As of 2011-2012, New Paths for Education was consolidated to include First Nation SchoolNet, Parental and Community Engagement, and Teacher Recruitment and Retention.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the New Paths for Education program are to:

- Strengthen First Nation education management and governance capacity through local capacity and educational institutional development;
- Improve the effectiveness of classroom instruction through curriculum and language development, pedagogical improvements, information and communications technologies (ICT);
- Support parental and community engagement in the education of children and youth which is conducive to a supportive learning environment;
- Assist band-operated schools to recruit and retain qualified teachers and educators and provide them with professional development opportunities; and
- Enhance information and communications technologies (ICT) in the school.

3. Outcomes

The program aims to improve the quality of education in First Nation schools and to contribute to the following specific outcomes:

- Enabling First Nation schools, education authorities, and regional education/management organizations to strengthen their First Nation education management and governance capacity so that they are able to make strategic decisions addressing their education issues to enable student progress;
- Reducing teacher turnover;
- Enhancing the co-ordination and the support of First Nation education programs and services;
- Maintaining and increasing the use of First Nation languages;
- Increasing the availability and use of a culturally appropriate and relevant curriculum;
- Increasing the level of computer literacy;
- Enhancing the quality and quantity of data that allows better monitoring and improvement of academic progress;
- Increasing involvement of parents and the community at large in the education system; and
- Awareness of how important education is to potential career paths.
4. Activities

Key activities supported by the program include the following:

4.1 First Nation education management and governance capacity

Note that 4.1 does not apply to the FNEC. Do not submit any activity related to First Nation education management and governance capacity.

4.2 School effectiveness (Code: NP1M)

Improve the effectiveness of classroom instruction through curriculum and language development, pedagogical improvements, school activities and information technology (IT) hardware and software purchases:

- Develop educational programming, including extra-curricular and environmental activities like sports or arts;
- Develop or modify curriculum, and conduct activities related to language and culture;
- Develop or modify, and purchase instructional materials;
- Implement activities to improve the effectiveness of classroom instruction;
- Purchase IT hardware and software;
- Undertake school evaluations;
- Support school to work transition; and
- Manage proposal-based program activities.

4.3 Parental and community engagement (Code: NP1P)

Develop and implement strategies that support community and parental involvement in the education of their children and youth which is conducive to a supportive learning environment:

- Organize and hold parent/community meetings;
- Organize and hold workshops and conferences that support community and parental involvement in the education of children and youth;
- Support parental involvement in the educational development of children;
- Support activities that promote the integration of traditional knowledge in school and home learning environments; and
- Manage proposal-based activities.
4.4 Teacher recruitment and retention (Code: NP1Q)

Assist band-operated schools to recruit and retain qualified teachers and educators and provide them with professional development opportunities:

- Develop and implement local and regional recruitment and retention strategies and activities to support teachers;
- Conduct professional development leading to professional accreditations for education staff;
- Conduct professional development for education staff such as workshops and conferences; and
- Manage proposal-based activities.

4.5 Information and communications technologies (Code: NP1N)

Enhance the effectiveness of classroom instruction through the development and enhancement of technological knowledge in the school:

- Purchase IT hardware and software;
- Pay for Internet service provider user fees;
- Purchase LAN equipment, cable, dishes, wireless equipment and replacement parts;
- Provide ICT training for education staff;
- Provide help desk services, and other ICT services; and
- Manage LANs.

5. Eligible Participants

Participants in the proposed activities can include community members, elementary and secondary students, parents and caregivers. Participants can also include staff of band-operated schools, First Nation education authorities and education institutions, as well as advisors such as Elders and cultural mentors.
6. Eligible Expenditures

Eligible expenditures may include the following:

- Learning materials (purchase and/or development of books, guides, etc.);
- Fees for professional advisors;
- Salaries for education professionals and para-professionals for New Paths for Education activities only;
- Transportation costs for eligible participants incurred as a direct result of participating in an eligible activity not already covered by elementary/secondary program funding;
- Support for educational institutions; and
- Administration costs not exceeding 10% including (but not limited to):
  - Clerical support;
  - Office supplies;
  - The collection, maintenance, and reporting of data and information in accordance with program and financial reporting requirements; and
  - Costs associated with ensuring that personal information is appropriately managed and safeguarded during its collection, use, disclosure, and disposal.

In the category of School Board Type Services, eligible expenditures may include the following:

- Costs associated with coordination of region-wide education programs and services;
- Program modification or adaptation;
- Instructional materials;
- Development of curriculum;
- Diagnostic testing and evaluation (not covered under the Special Education Program or First Nation Student Support Program);
- Professional services;
- Professional development and support activities;
- Costs associated with providing advice to band administration (e.g. travel expenses, websites, videoconferencing fees) and consultation with communities;
- Management of education/school board type services (including operational costs);
- Advice and support to First Nations for the wording and negotiation of agreements with provincial education authorities;
• Funding for liaison with community service providers (e.g. child/family services, employment programs), provincial service providers and education organizations to support improved education outcomes;

• Honoraria for school board type members in line with provincial standards;

• School evaluation and implementation of evaluation recommendations (not covered under the First Nation Student Support Program); and

• Maintaining a regional organization infrastructure.

7. Ineligible Expenditures

Ineligible expenditures are as follows:

• Construction, operation and maintenance of federal and band operated school facilities such as those covered by the Capital Facilities and Maintenance Program;

• Salaries for teachers and education professionals and paraprofessionals that are already covered under the Terms and Conditions of the Elementary/Secondary Education Program; or any other duplication of federal funding for a given activity (i.e. receipt of funding from more than one federal source for the same activity).
Important Information from the FNEC

As you already know, funding granted to your community under the New Paths for Education program is now distributed in one lump sum.

Make sure that:

- Your proposal, final report and financial statements are identical.
  
  **For example:** If you have entered an amount in your proposal, the same amount must appear in the final report and financial statements for the same expenditures.

- Clear explanations are entered in the “activity” section of the final report form if there is a major difference between the budget sections of the proposal and the final report.

- The FNEC is informed of any changes you intend to make to your activities or if you do not plan to spend all of your funding. It is important to let the FNEC know about the changes you want to make to ensure that your final report is as consistent as possible with your financial statements.

- The finance department in your community is regularly informed of these project expenditures. An explanation is provided in the appropriate field of the form for each expenditure included in the budget section.

- Your statements of revenue and expenses are submitted on March 31 at the same time as your final report. This will enable us to help you produce your audited financial statements.

- Your audited financial statements are submitted by July 31st of each year and that one page per activity code is produced.

Implementation period

The **2015 – 2016 New Paths for Education** program officially begins on **April 1, 2015** and ends on **March 31, 2016**.

Funds for the current fiscal year must be completely spent by March 31, 2016 and must be included in your community’s audited financial statements.

Administrative component

Your administration costs must not exceed 5%.

In the AANDC form, each objective does not have a corresponding administration fee box, so this is why you need to enter your administration costs in one place.
Responsibilities

The requirements in terms of reporting and other obligations surrounding the management of funds by the community are listed in the funding agreement.

To ensure that the program delivery requirements are being met, that funds are used for the intended purposes and that AANDC can satisfy its obligations of accountability before Parliament, in-office or on-site monitoring and compliance activities will be conducted with all recipients on a risk-based frequency.

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<thead>
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<th>Deadlines to be respected:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 1, 2015</strong> for 2015 – 2016 project proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>April 15, 2015</strong> for 2015 – 2016 final reports</td>
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Important:
An explanation for each expense type you incur must be provided in your proposal and final report.

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Expense Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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Add Expense

NP1M – IMPROVE ACADEMIC EFFECTIVENESS

- IT software purchases and licensing fees
- Purchase of learning and/or instructional materials
- IT hardware purchases, repairs and maintenance
- Elders/Guest speakers
- Professional services/Consulting fees
- Travel
- Products, tools and materials
- Salaries and benefits
- Other
  * The expense type “other” should be avoided.

NP1P – SUPPORT COMMUNITY AND PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- Purchase of learning and/or instructional materials
- Travel
- Professional development
- Other
  * The expense type “other” should be avoided.

NP1Q – ASSIST BAND-OPERATED SCHOOLS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN QUALIFIED TEACHERS AND EDUCATORS

- Professional services/Consulting fees
- Travel
- Professional development
- Other
  * The expense type “other” should be avoided.

It is important you maintain constant communication with your department of finance/administration for all things related to the budget section (expenses and budgetary items to use).