

***Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Education Committee***



***Strategic Planning Forum
Final Report***

Winnipeg

July 10-12, 2001

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6. ***Executive Summary***

The Nishnawbe Aski Nation Education Committee was established by Resolution 90/82 of the NAN Chiefs-in-Assembly to provide advice and guidance on education issues and challenges to the NAN executive and the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

The NAN Education program is a small secretariat operating under the direction of the Deputy Grand Chief who holds the education portfolio. The Education Coordinator works closely with the NAN Education Committee organizing meetings and overseeing implementation of committee recommendations.

Funding to support the NAN Education Committee and the NAN Education Program has been provided by Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC) on an annual proposal basis. This lack of assured funding has hampered the forward planning of the committee and the education program. Recently, INAC agreed to consider a multi-year funding to be approved on submission of a three year workplan for the NAN Education Committee and program.

As a necessary first step in developing the three year workplan, a Strategic Planning Session was held with the NAN Education Committee, the NAN Education Program and the Deputy Grand Chief. The *Strategic Planning Session* was held in Winnipeg on July 10-12, 2001 at the Delta Hotel.

This report summarizes the results of the *Strategic Planning Session* and includes, in draft form only:



Mission Statement
 Vision
 Principles
 Strategic Goals
 Objectives

The Committee made it clear that the products of the *Strategic Planning Session* are to be considered starting points for the development of the three year workplan. They are presented in this report as “Draft Only” for the purposes of review and finalization by the Committee.

2 **Mission Statement**

As education representatives, we support the educational goals of the peoples of Nishawbe Aski Nation by providing advice, recommending direction, and implementing the decisions of the Chiefs- in-Assembly.

2 **Vision Statement**

The NAN Education committee is an experienced , dedicated and representative group of Aboriginal educators who are committed to working cooperatively to provide advice and direction on education issues to the political leadership of Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

The committee provides liaison between the peoples of NAN and the Chiefs-in-Assembly on education matters. The committee analyses issues, considers options and makes formal recommendations designed to improve the overall quality of education services for the peoples of NAN. The committee operates proactively within the general mandate provided by the Chiefs and implements specific education resolutions as directed.

The committee fulfills its mandate by meeting regularly, exchanging information, keeping informed on the educational issues and initiatives at the NAN, regional and national levels and by providing feedback to the peoples and organizations of NAN.

The work of the committee continues to make a positive difference in the provision of quality education programming for all NAN learners.

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2 ***Guiding Principles***

1. Education is a life-long learning process.
1. Education is a priority for our people.
1. Education is an inherent and a treaty right.
1. There is an ongoing need for co-operative and co-ordinated action on educational matters within NAN.
1. The NAN Education Committee is a working group that is knowledgeable and aware of the educational issues and matters that impact our people.
1. The federal government has a Treaty obligation to provide adequate funding levels for First Nations of NAN education jurisdiction.
1. First Nations of NAN jurisdiction over education extends to citizens of First Nations beyond reserve boundaries.
1. First Nations of NAN have the right to utilize their Aboriginal languages in education programs.
1. First Nations of NAN have the right to set education policies and standards according to defined community needs.

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1 **Strategic Goals**

Strategic Goal #1

To help ensure availability of adequate, needs based funding for education programs and services within NAN.

- ☞ Maintain up to date funding and resource allocation data on major education programs including:
 - ☞ Post Secondary
 - ☞ Indian Studies Support Program
 - ☞ Elementary/Secondary
 - ☞ Special Education

- ☞ Development of a NAN wide educational data base to support research and documentation on educational needs and achievement

- ☞ Prepare briefs for Chiefs-in-Assembly and the NAN Executive on funding issues and recommended strategies to address inequities

- ☞ Maintain contact and coordinate as appropriate with Chiefs of Ontario and Assembly of First Nations with respect to education funding issues

- ☞ Develop a strategy for accessing alternative funding sources
 - ☞ Corporations
 - ☞ Foundations
 - ☞ Proposal based government funding

- ☞ Ensure meaningful participation of NAN Educators in the education and funding policy development by other governments
 - ☞ Ministry of Education

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 Indian Affairs

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Strategic Goal #2

To promote effective communications on education issues and challenges among the people, the education organizations, the First Nations of NAN and the general public

- ☞ Public awareness
 - ☞ Speaking engagements
 - ☞ Internet site
 - ☞ Public pamphlet
 - ☞ Use of Media

- ☞ NAN Education Conference
 - ☞ Held every two years - secure Chiefs mandate
 - ☞ Next conference - Nov 2001

- ☞ Within NAN
 - ☞ NAN Education Homepage
 - ☞ Ensure translation of materials
 - ☞ Education newsletter

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Strategic Goal #3

To support preservation of language and culture throughout the NAN education system

- ☞ Ensure translation of Committee materials including newsletters and web-site postings
- ☞ Develop strategy and support lobbying efforts for expansion of language and culture programming within NAN
- ☞ As committee members, lead by example through use of language
- ☞ Develop strategies to promote the meaningful use of elders throughout NAN education

Strategic Goal #4

To actively support and provide input to the Education Jurisdiction negotiations and the codification of NAN education laws.

- ☞ Solicit and bring to the committee feedback and input from grassroots, home organizations and communities
- ☞ Maintain current awareness of status of Education Jurisdiction negotiations
 - ☞ Regular presentations from PCU at NAN Education Committee meetings
 - ☞ Feedback from NAN Ed Committee representatives on Jurisdiction steering committee and/or negotiation team
- ☞ Respond on a timely basis to requests for technical input from steering committee
- ☞ Proactively develop a strategy for the codification of NAN education laws

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Strategic Goal #5

To improve the support, stability and effectiveness of the NAN Education Committee.

- ☞ Seek approval for revised mission, vision, guiding principles, membership and strategic goals from Chiefs-in-Assembly
- ☞ Development and approval of a multi-year workplan and related funding
 - ☞ Formulate multi-year workplan based on strategic foundations and goals
 - ☞ Submission and approval by INAC
 - ☞ Implementation and regular updates to Committee
- ☞ Enhance the effectiveness of NAN Education Committee meetings
 - ☞ Adopt rules of order designed to effectively deal with and bring closure to agenda items
 - ☞ Establish an annual meeting schedule to include, subject to available funding, meetings in communities
 - ☞ Ensure that Elder and youth representatives attend meetings
 - ☞ Elder to alternate between East and West
 - ☞ Youth representative to be from community where meeting held
 - ☞ Use video-conferencing for emergency or issue specific meetings between regular meetings
- ☞ Report on activities of committee and on issues arising
 - ☞ DGC to report to NAN Executive
 - ☞ Education program reports to Chiefs-in-Assembly
 - ☞ Response to individual requests for information from First Nations
- ☞ Encourage and support committee members awareness and understanding of current issues and challenges
 - ☞ Members to accept personal responsibility to keep up to date
 - ☞ Sharing of information among members

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- 👉 Development of committee member handbook with regular updates
- 👉 Distribution of relevant memos and resolutions from COO and AFN

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Participant List





























Gerry McKay	Committee Member	IFNA
Katie Nothing	Alternate for Allan Morrison	Windigo First Nations Council
Annie Wesley	Alternate for Norm Sakamoto	Matawa First Nations
Irene Linklater	Committee Member	Mushkegowuk Council
Johnson Meekis	Committee Member	Sandy Lake First Nation
Hannah Sutherland	Committee Member	Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre
Jason Batise	Committee Member	Wabun Tribal Council
		Murray Waboose Alternate for Frank Beardy Northern Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Goyce Kakegamic	Deputy Grand Chief	Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Dianne Tookenay	Education Coordinator	Nishnwabe Aski Nation
Kathleen Pilcher	Education Administration	Nishnawbe Aski Nation
Gerry Kerr	Facilitator	Chignecto Consulting Group

1 Workshop Notes

Key Challenges

What are the key education challenges facing the leadership and educators of the First Nations of Nishnawbe Aski Nation in the planning and delivery of quality education on behalf of NAN members?

Group A




























- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | Cooperation |  | Capacity Building |
|  | Coordination |  | Fiscal Responsibility |
|  | Funding |  | Solution Orientated |
|  | Remoteness |  | Teacher Accountability |
|  | Diversity |  | Standards |
|  | Motivation |  | Creating Opportunities |
|  | Social Issues |  | Providing Employment for Students |
|  | Shortage of Teachers, Professionals, Specialists |  | No Opportunities for Educated Students on Reserves |
|  | Native Language |  | Specific Terms of Reference for Education Committee |
|  | Parental Involvement |  | Implementation of Chiefs Resolutions |
|  | Student Involvement |  | Infrastructure |
|  | Planning | | |
|  | Leadership | | |
|  | Health-spiritual Values |  | |
|  | Jurisdiction |  | |

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Group B









	Quality of Education		change the basis on
	Development of		which the funding is
	Nishnawbe Aski Nation		provided
	Education Standards		Accountability to First
	Appropriate Curriculum		Nations not
	Traditional Education		Government
	Use of Elders		
	Staff Professional		Degree of dependency
	Development		on government funding
	Recruitment of		Lack of revenue
	Excellent Teachers		generation capacity
	Implementation of		State of school facilities
	Technology		Schools operating in
	Physical Education		isolation of education
	Programs		system
	Special Education		How education should
	Services		be organized across
	Access to		NAN
	Specialists/Consultants		First
	Meaningful Control and		Level - School
	Ownership over		Second
	Education		Level- Board
	Incorporating		Third
	spirituality in the		Level - Ministry
	curriculum		What roles should
	Adequate funding		players have in
	calculated on a needs-		Education
	based determination		First
	(tie to standards)		Nations
	Convert federal funding		Chief and
	to Treaty monies -		Council

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		Local		
		School Boards		treaty rights
		Tribal		Acknowledgement and
		Councils		fulfilment of federal
		NAN		trust responsibilities
		Jurisdiction - First		Inherent right of self-
		Nation education laws		government
		which apply to on and		Creating a political
		off reserve members		priority and support for
		Full recognition of		education

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Workshop Notes

Players

Who are the players? Identify organizations on a national, regional and Nishnawbe Aski Nation basis and examine their existing mandates, roles and responsibilities.

Group A

Organization	Mandate
INAC	Funding-Political-Policy
HRDC	Funding
Health Canada	Funding
Fednor	Funding
Heritage Canada	Funding
Canada Arts Council	Funding
FBDB	Funding
Ministry of Education	Policy Direction
Arts Council Ont	Funding
Prov School Boards	Service Delivery
Colleges & Universities	Service Delivery
Private Training Schools	Service Delivery
AFN - Chiefs Committee	Political
AFN - NIEC	Policy Direction
Chiefs of Ontario	Political
Friendship Centres	Service Delivery
ONWA	Political
PTO's	Political
NAN - Education Program	TBD
NAN - Ohski	Service Delivery
NNEC	Service Delivery
Oji_Cree Cultural Centre	Service Delivery
Tikanagan, Paykatano	Service Delivery
Tribal Councils	Political

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KNET	Service Delivery
Wawatay	Service Delivery
District Education Coord Comtte	Service Delivery (2 nd Level)
First Nations	Political, Service Delivery, Policy
Local School Boards	Service Delivery, Policy
Aboriginal Post-Sec Institutes	Service Delivery
NAPS/OPP	Service Delivery
NTEP	Service Delivery
Specialized Aboriginal Programs	Service Delivery
Education Jurisdiction Negotiations	Political
NAN Ed Committee	TBD
NAN Negotiation Team	Political
NAN Advisers	Policy
Steering Committee	Policy
Legal Services	Service Delivery

Group B

Organization	Mandate	Key Initiatives
AFN (Chiefs Committee) NIEC	National voice for FNs	Special Education Post-Sec Funding Language
Chiefs of Ontario (Ed coordination unit)	Regional Political voice	Special Education Post-Sec Funding Education Reform Funding Evaluation Funding Allocation Language Jurisdiction Education Act
NAN (NAN Ed Committee) Tribal Councils NNEC DEPC DECC School Boards Federal Gov't	Political voice for NAN Territory Services and Political Reps Service Delivery Service Delivery 2 nd Level Services Service Delivery Funding	Strategic Plan Ed Jurisdiction Funding Guidelines Indian Act reform

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Ed Reform









Provincial Govt
Unions
Municipalities

Workshop Notes




Strengths and Weaknesses

Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of the NAN Education Committee will help recognize its assets and its liabilities. What things have worked well in the committee operations and what things have not worked well?

Things that have worked well

-  Dialogue with NAN reps on educational matters
-  Liaison with different bodies
-  Creation of Oshki Pimache O Win
-  sharing of information during meetings
-  identifying issues
-  Oshki
-  Input to Framework Agreement for Education Jurisdiction
-  Meetings on consistent schedule

Things that have not worked well

-  Communication with grassroots educators
-  Following through meeting discussion action
-  Funding for committee and NAN Ed Program

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Follow through on recommendations



Attendance



Reporting back by members to home organizations



no visibility in communities

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Workshop Notes

Mission Statement








The mission is a broad statement about an organization. It usually addresses 4 main questions: who the organization is, what it does, who the clients are, and how it meets the clients' needs.

Group A

Who are we?

-  representatives of the 49 NAN First Nations
-  representatives of NAN educational issues
-  organization identified affirmed representatives
-  education technical group
-  First Nation educators
-  committed members
-  consistent members

What do we do?

-  provide advice on policy and politics to DGC
-  implement determined activities by NAN Chiefs in Assembly resolutions
-  technical support for special initiatives
-  determine what educational issues are to be worked on at NAN level
-  push educational issues to the forefront
-  make recommendations
-  determine priorities on educational issues for NAN area






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Who do we do it for?










-  First Nation students - day care, elementary, secondary, adult, post-secondary
-  parents
-  educators
-  anyone involved in education
-  Chiefs and Councils

How do we do it?

-  meetings
-  establish priorities
-  recommendations
-  inform - dissemination to national, regional communities
-  two way communication with communities
-  workplan
-  acknowledging protocols

Group B

Who are we?




-  representatives of the peoples of NAN
-  representatives of all regions of NAN
-  technical advisors with background in education
-  examine education matters
-  primarily aboriginal representatives
-  representatives from
 -  Tribal Councils
 -  NAN Executive
 -  NNEC

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-  OCC
-  Youth (from meeting area locale)
-  Elder (East/West Alternate)






What do we do?

-  examine education emerging issues and provide recommendations to Chiefs in Assembly
-  develop strategies re Education Jurisdiction
-  act as technical advisory group to Education Jurisdiction
-  review, propose, support and help implement resolutions
-  communication exchange
-  networking
-  liaison between First Nations/NAN/Chiefs in Assembly
-  input to staffing and consultant selection

Who do we do it for?

-  peoples of NAN
-  Chiefs in Assembly
-  Educators of NAN
-  NAN Executive

How do we do it?

-  meet quarterly or more frequently
-  coordination of committee through NAN Ed Program (secretariat to committee)
-  propose resolutions for Chiefs in Assembly
-  Recommendations to NAN Executive through DGC
-  Reporting to Chiefs in Assembly and peoples of NAN - e.g. newsletter

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Follow through - NAN education program
report back to home organizations