



KEB UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19

Over the past several months, the KEB has been working under modified operations while practicing the recommended physical distancing measures. With the Province of Ontario preparing to move into Phase Three of its reopening plan in July, the KEB will begin its own preparations to reopen its offices in September. This plan includes establishing a new standard for safe operations.

Meanwhile, the staff of the KEB continue to meet with the Regional Education Councils through regular teleconferences. The KEB also participates in bi-weekly teleconferences with the Anishinabek Nation Education Secretariat and with the Ministry of Education's Southern First Nations Task Team. These are important platforms that allow the KEB to provide the Participating First Nations (PFN) with updates, to collect feedback on Covid-19 related needs and priorities, and to advocate for enhanced support for the First Nations.

In May 2020, the Government of Canada announced additional Covid-19 related funding for First Nations that will support Post Secondary Education. Indigenous Services Canada confirmed the anticipated funds with the KEB in mid-June, however the timeline for the release of the funding is unknown. A formal letter is expected from Indigenous Services Canada in the coming weeks. Participating First Nations will be notified of their individual transfer payments as soon as possible.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

The Kinoomaadziwin Education Body hosts its annual general meeting with the membership of the Anishinabek Education System (AES) every year in June. The annual gathering fulfills the corporate bylaw of the organization, and enables the following activities:

- presentation of audited financial statements;
- delivery of the annual report;
- election of KEB Board of Directors; and
- continued networking and relationship building.

As a result of the Covid-19 physical distancing restrictions, the annual general meeting will be postponed until large in-person gatherings are permitted in Ontario. The KEB's 2019-2020 Annual Report was shared with the PFNs on June 30. It can be viewed on the KEB website at www.aes-keb.com. Planning details for the fall gathering of the AES will be shared as they become available.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW

In June 2020, consultant MNP completed the organizational and governance review of the KEB and the AES. The review was conducted between November 2019 and April 2020, and a final report was submitted in mid-June. The final report offers recommendations for effective change that will sustain and improve the ongoing establishment of the AES and the operations of the KEB.

The Board of Directors is reviewing the final report, which contains 20 high-level recommendations with more than 60 associated activities. Recommendations will be prioritized by the Board of Directors and a work plan will be developed and monitored by an ad hoc governance committee. The committee consists of three KEB Board Directors, and will be supported by KEB staff and legal counsel. The committee will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of any recommendations over the coming months. A seven-page summary report of the review will be distributed to the PFNs in July 2020, along with identified implementation priorities.

PLANNING FOR THE NEXT MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN

The Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP) supports the implementation of the Master Education Agreement with the Province of Ontario. It outlines 17 projects that have been in motion since April 1, 2018.

The current MYAP will be completed in August 2021, at which time a new three-year work plan will take effect. The development of the next MYAP requires an extensive planning process that has already begun. Throughout the month of July, consultations will take place with the Regional Education Councils, in order to collect PFN feedback on the next MYAP. The feedback collected from the Regional Education Councils will inform the development of a framework for negotiations. Consultations and internal planning will be led by the KEB's Special Projects Coordinator, Elizabeth Bigwin.

The review and negotiation of the next MYAP will be led by the KEB's legal counsel, Tracey O'Donnell, and the KEB's fiscal advisor, Helen Bobiwash. Additional support will be provided by the KEB's Board of Directors, the Acting Director of Education, and the Special Projects Coordinator. Regular updates will be provided to the PFNs as the process for planning and negotiations continues.

TIMELINE OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE 2021-2024 MULTI-YEAR ACTION PLAN



UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS

Over the next several months, the KEB will be heavily engaged in consultations with the PFNs, in order to collect information that will support multiple areas of work throughout the year. KEB staff and hired consultants will be leading the consultations, which may take shape as one-on-one telephone discussions, focus groups, online surveys, potential community visits, and video conferences.

The subject areas that require PFN feedback and participation include:

- Covid-19 related needs and anticipated costs to support AES students;
- AES Capital Needs Assessment (hired consultant);
- Post-Secondary Education Engagement initiative;
- statistical data collection to support longitudinal research and evaluation (hired consultant); and
- special education engagement.

Each of the consultation areas may require the participation of various PFN reps, including leadership, education directors, REC Representatives, and key admin and education staff. Detailed information regarding each of the subject areas will be provided to the PFNs before consultations begin.

We look forward to engaging with many of you over the coming months, in order to ensure thorough representation of the PFNs in each of these important areas of work!