

FN-Crown Engagement Protocol - Project A

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Intergovernmental Relations Project Lead

Deadline for Submissions Monday, September 28, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. EST

Background

The First Nations with Schools Collective strives to work collaboratively as an inter-nation table devoted to education jurisdiction talks. Since early 2016, eight communities have met regularly to research, share knowledge, and build capacity in education system change and return of jurisdiction. The Collective strives to work on common interests particularly in the areas of education governance, funding parity and research & innovation.

Each community maintains its autonomy as self-governing nations and follow their own unique pathways to self-determination in education. All are parties to a *Participation Agreement* signed in November 2018. The six 'participating' communities of the eight First Nations that make up the FNWSC are: Bkejwanong Territory-Walpole Island, Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames First Nation, Sagamok Anishnawbek, and Wiikwemikoong Unceded Territory. Two communities maintain observer status; Six Nations of the Grand River territory and M'Chigeeng First Nation.

Vision

The Collective strives for:

- Strong education governance structures in First Nation communities rooted holistically in First Nations cultures, languages and histories;
- Equitably resourced First Nation education systems in First Nation communities servicing First Nation members that are culturally-appropriate;
- Family-centered approaches to First Nations education system design; and,
- Exceptional educational outcomes defined locally for First Nation learners where learners meet and exceed non-First Nation learner achievement levels in academic outcomes.

Mission

The First Nations with Schools Collective is a volunteer body of First Nation governments that exists to advance control over First Nation education in First Nation communities. The FNWSC has a forward-thinking mission and commitment to building capacity in education system planning at the community-level. Specifically, FNWSC delegates gather to:

- Build honourable governance knowledge and capacity amongst First Nation titleholders;
- Provide a collective voice for First Nation led education system transformation;
- Develop governance tools, policies and frameworks that respond to needs of First Nation learners and communities.

Project Description

This project will address year one outcomes of the FNWSC's 3-Year strategic plan. This project is an exploration with participating FNWSC communities of current approaches, scope and beliefs regarding First Nation-Crown relations as it relates to education governance. The project lead will draw on FNWSC delegate experiences, outcomes and reflections from participating in Ministry of Education and Indigenous Services Canada tables from October 2020 to March 2021.

Expected Outcomes

1. Greater understanding of education legislation in Canada and how it intersects with First Nation education delivery.
2. Greater capacity amongst elected/appointed leaders in education political strategy and policy development.
3. Increased experience working directly with government civil servants at the provincial and federal level.
4. Renewed focus on public legislation diplomacy and activism in relation to First Nation education.
5. Increased consensus-building around practices and approaches to federal government-First Nation (titleholder) relations in education.
6. Increase dialogue between and within communities about immediate and long-term political involvement strategies to realize First Nation control over First Nation education.

Deliverables 2020-2021

1. Develop, in consultation with FNWSC participating communities, a First Nation-Crown Engagement Protocol.
2. Present a First Nation-Crown Relations Findings & Recommendations Report.

Project Timeline

This project will commence within two weeks of this RFP's closing date and will be completed by March 31, 2021.

Scope of Work

A. Develop a First Nation-Crown Engagement Protocol

- Community Engagement – build capacity, advise and consult elected/appointed leaders in education at FNWSC strategic planning sessions 2020-2021 (see calendar attached) and/or other venues deemed appropriate.
- Team Support - Work closely with FNWSC consultant team members where appropriate and needed in preparation for bi-monthly progress updates to FNWSC via teleconference.
- Development of a First Nation Crown Engagement Protocol – research, analyze, and develop an engagement protocol that address the needs of the FNWSC communities and is culturally-appropriate in consultation with the FNWSC Governance Working Group, Chief and Councils, and FNWSC community delegates.

- Present and consult 1st draft of FN-Crown Engagement Protocol to FNWSC for feedback and review.
- Present a final draft of a FN-Crown Engagement Protocol.

B. Develop a First Nation-Crown Relations Findings and Recommendations Report

- Prepare an engagement approach for the project.
- Collect data and make recommendations– develop a report of findings resulting from community feedback on intergovernmental affairs work, include experiences of delegates attending Ministry of Education meetings and those attending the FNWSC ISC CIRNAC Education Technical Table meetings in 2020-2021 in consultation with the FNWSC's Governance Working Group (GWG).
- Provide advise, share information and participate in monthly FNWSC GWG meetings as called.
- Coordinate working sessions with the FNWSC SRC on intergovernmental relations work and participate in FNWSC Strategic Planning Sessions (as required, see calendar).
- Share any findings regarding intergovernmental affairs funding needs with FNWSC consultant team working on funding parity project.
- Attend any federal technical table meetings and Ministry of Education meetings with GWG for fact finding, provide advisory supports and data collection. (September 2020 to March 2021)
- Prepare an interim progress report in December 2020
- Present 1st Draft of Findings and Recommendations Report to FNWSC for feedback and review (February 2021).
- Present a final draft of Findings and Recommendation Report to FNWSC.

Project Lead Tasks

The Project Lead will identify and mobilize project team members and ensure preparation and support for FNWSC political and administration officials in all decision-making related to the project.

The Project Lead will provide preparations of briefing notes, status updates and advisory supports to both Structural Readiness Coordinator and FNWSC elected officials and their delegates as needed.

The Project Lead will be prepared to provide a PowerPoint Overview Presentation to the FNWSC upon completion in March 2021.

The Project Lead will produce an Interim Report in December 2020 including any initial findings from community engagements/working sessions.

The Project Lead will co-create the FN-Crown Engagement Protocol with FNWSC delegates and their appointees, as well as support the coordination of any Governance Working Group, and intergovernmental proceedings related to the project.

The Project Lead will comply with the stated Terms of Reference and produce a final report deliverable on or before March 31, 2021 based on findings and recommendations (including a 1 hour presentation to FNWSC date to be determined).

First Nations with Schools Collective

The Project Lead will meet with the groups in the stated Scope of Work, including FNWSC GWG; Joint Technical Table INAC-FNWSC; Ministry of Education forums and participate in FNWSC's Strategic Planning Sessions (see calendar).

Response to Call

Please provide the following **by September 28, 2020**:

- Description of your project management approach to ensure timeliness and cost effectiveness.
- Experience with First Nation education systems, First Nation Crown relations work, and traditional knowledge and governance practices.
- Proposed project timeline and work plan.
- An itemized budget indicating anticipated level of effort and fees, and any other disbursement costs that exclude travel and consultation costs. A separate budget is available for engagement session and travel costs which will be based on a projected travel plan co-created by FNWSC and successful candidate.
- Any examples of related written work and/or one or more reference who can attest to related work performed and have given consent to be contacted as a reference.
- Proposals must contain a fixed price for services and expenses herein described and are not to exceed \$20,000. Proponents must bear the cost of the preparing a response to the Terms of Reference.

Proposal Evaluation

Proposed Methodology	Demonstrates understanding of the project Methodology meets the needs of the FNWSC Innovation and quality Clarity and logic	30
Proposed Project Plan and Timeline	Consistent with TOR Realistic Flexible	15
Consultant Qualifications and Expertise	Experience and qualifications Involvement of Indigenous peoples in work plan deliverables	40
Proposed Fees and Disbursements	Level of detail and clarity Value	15

Please submit your interest to Leslee White-Eye, Structural Readiness Coordinator at lwhite-eye@fnwsceducation.com. Questions about proposal content and scope can be sent to Leslee via email or by phone at 519-902-4145.