

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Human Rights Policy 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.

FIRST NATION WITH SCHOOLS COLLECTIVE

Project Description

This project will address year one outcomes of the FNWSC's 3-Year strategic plan. This project is an exploration of strategic political pathways employing provincial, national and international instruments, namely, Ontario Human Rights Code, Human Rights Code of Canada, Charter of Rights and Freedoms, international human rights policy and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to ensure equal access to a quality education for First Nation children living on-reserve in Canada.

Expected Outcomes

- Renewed focus on human rights diplomacy and advocacy in relation to First Nation education in national and international forums.
- Increased understanding of human rights policy in Canada and internationally.
- Increased consensus-building between FNWSC participating communities about immediate and long-term political advocacy strategies to realize education equality.

Deliverables 2020-2021

1. Develop a discussion paper that analyzes the potential use of protection from discrimination instruments found in Canadian and International law by the FNWSC as a strategy towards gaining equal access to a quality education for First Nations children living on-reserve.
2. Facilitate minimum of two training workshops for FNWSC delegates to raise understanding of human rights legislation, UNDRIP and the implication of legal cases on policy change in FN education equality.

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. Deliver two training sessions

- Community Engagement & Awareness – build capacity, advise and consult FNWSC delegates in education at FNWSC strategic planning sessions 2020-2021 (see calendar attached) or at other venues deemed appropriate on human rights legislation, UNDRIP, claims processes and capacity building needs on these topics.
- Host two training sessions on human rights advocacy as it relates to FN education.
- Team Support - Work closely with FNWSC consultant team members where appropriate in preparation for bi-monthly progress updates to FNWSC.

B. Develop a Position Paper

- Research and make recommendations– research human rights mechanisms and develop a position paper on options for an FNWSC political strategy going forward
- Provide advice, share information and participate in monthly FNWSC GWG meetings as called.

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- Present 1st Draft of Position Paper to FNWSC for feedback and review (January 2021).
- Present a final draft of Position Paper to FNWSC (March 2021).

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 related to the project 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 of Position Paper in March 2021.

The Project Lead will produce an Interim Report in December 2020 including any initial findings from research.

The Project Lead will support the coordination of any Governance Working Group feedback, and working/training sessions related to the project with the last training session occurring by end of February 2021.

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

The Project Lead will meet with the groups in the stated RFP, including FNWSC GWG and FNWSC delegates, and participate in FNWSC's Strategic Planning Sessions (see calendar) as needed to complete the project.

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, Human Rights/UNDRIP related work, and First Nation human rights case law.
- 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 and guest speaker/training session costs 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.

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- Proposals must contain a fixed price for services and expenses herein described and are not to exceed \$15,000. 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.