

Ministry of Education
**Ministry of Training,
Colleges and Universities**

Aboriginal Education Office
Mowat Block
900 Bay Street, 12th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1L2

Ministère de l'Éducation
**Ministère de la Formation
et des Collèges et Universités**

Bureau de l'éducation des
Autochtones
Édifice Mowat
900, rue Bay, 12^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1L2



MEMORANDUM TO: Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary/Treasurers of School
Authorities

FROM: Alayne Bigwin
Director
Aboriginal Education Office

DATE: June 20, 2008

SUBJECT: **Funding Opportunities for Aboriginal Education**

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education has made significant progress in providing increased support for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. Since the release of the *First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* in January 2007, the government has invested \$21.7 million to date in ongoing funding in Aboriginal education. This includes the \$15.5 million First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Supplement in the 2008-2009 Grants for Students Needs to provide increased support for Native Studies and Native Languages, as well as targeted supports for Aboriginal students.

In the 2007-08 school year, the Aboriginal Education Office (AEO) made funding available to school boards for initiatives in support of Aboriginal student achievement. I am pleased to advise that the Aboriginal Education Office (AEO) is once again providing funding to school boards to support their capacity to implement the Framework, including building and enhancing partnerships with Aboriginal communities and organizations, to support student achievement. The funding is aligned with the strategic direction of the Framework and supports the ministry's three key goals of high levels of student achievement, reduced gaps in student achievement and high levels of public confidence.

Call for Proposals for Funding Opportunities in Aboriginal Education:

The AEO is accepting proposals from school boards to support projects in the following areas.

Aboriginal Student Mentorship and Leadership Development Projects

- Projects are to recognize and celebrate the successes and achievements of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples as role models and bring them together with Aboriginal students (elementary and secondary) to provide mentorship and support. This could include matching students with mentors, organizing career events or developing resources that promote the achievements of Aboriginal people and Aboriginal students within the school community.
- Projects must also include a focus on student leadership. This could include the creation of

Aboriginal student ambassadors, student leadership councils, forums or symposia, as a way of building capacity among Aboriginal youth as role models and leaders within their communities.

- Maximum funding per project is \$10,000.

Transitions Projects

- Projects are to focus on developing transitional supports for Aboriginal students. This may include support for First Nation students transitioning from First Nation schools to the provincial school system as well as other transition points Aboriginal students encounter, including challenges students face due to issues of high mobility.
- Projects could include the development of teaching and learning resources to support transitioning students for teachers and/or for students.
- Maximum funding per project is \$20,000.

Increasing Knowledge and Awareness Among All Students

- Projects are to promote an increased awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the rich histories, cultures and perspectives of First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples among all students and educators.
- Projects could include providing first hand experiences for students, either within or outside of the school setting.
- Projects could include the development of locally developed resources to support the inclusion of Aboriginal perspectives, cultures and histories in the Ontario curriculum.
- Maximum funding per project is \$35,000.

School Board Symposia

- Funding to support regional symposia for school boards to build and enhance partnerships with Aboriginal communities and organizations, share information and resources, and engage in strategic planning and professional development to support the implementation of the *First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework*.
- Maximum funding for local regional symposia is \$20,000 (proposal to be submitted by one lead school board).
- Maximum funding for regional symposia (according to regions as served by Ministry of Education Regional Offices), is \$50,000 (proposal to be submitted by one lead school board).

Native Languages/Native Studies Professional Learning Communities

- Funding is to support start-up and development activities and capacity building for Native Studies/Native Languages Professional Learning Communities. Types of activities could include training and professional development and resource development.
- Proposals will be accepted from one lead board for each region (as served by the Ministry of Education Regional Offices).
- Maximum funding per region is \$20,000.

For all of the above projects, boards are required to demonstrate the following:

- engagement and partnership with Aboriginal communities and organizations in the development and implementation of initiatives;
- how the projects are aligned with overall board improvement planning related to Literacy and Numeracy and Student Success; and
- clearly defined expected outcomes and mechanisms for measuring success.

The deadline for submissions is September 15, 2008, for projects commencing October 2008 and ending June 2009. Please submit your proposals using the attached template. Proposals will be assessed and approved based on merit. Funding for salaries for permanent positions will not be considered.

Proposals are to be sent to the attention of:

Tao Li
Aboriginal Education Office
Ministry of Education and
Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
12th Floor, Mowat Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2
tao.li@ontario.ca

For further clarification on the contents of this memo, please contact the AEO Education Officer for your region (see attached contact list).



Alayne Bigwin

C: Ann Perron, Senior Executive Officer, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat
Kirsten Parker, Director, Student Success/Learning to 18 Implementation, Training and Evaluation Branch
Sue Durst, Director, Curriculum and Assessment Policy Branch
Ginnette Plourde, Director, French-Language Education Policy and Programs Branch
Gerry Townsend, A/Director, Field Services Branch
Regional Managers
Regional Office Leads, Field Services Branch
Student Success Leaders
Student Achievement Officers, Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat

Education Officers in the Aboriginal Education Office

Yvonne Morrison,
Education Officer,
Aboriginal Education Office, Thunder Bay Regional Office
Ph: 807-474-2984
Yvonne.Morrison@ontario.ca

Bryon Brisard,
Education Officer,
Aboriginal Education Office, Sudbury/North Bay Regional Office
Ph: 705-564-7222
Bryon.Brisard@ontario.ca

Elizabeth Bigwin
Education Officer,
Aboriginal Education Office, Barrie Regional Offices
Ph: 705-725-7591
Elizabeth.Bigwin@ontario.ca

Leslee White-Eye
Education Officer,
Aboriginal Education Office, London Regional Office
Ph: 519-667-1440 Ext. 220
Leslee.White-Eye@ontario.ca

Please note that until further notice school boards in the Ottawa and Toronto regions may contact the Education Officer in the Barrie Regional Office.