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**SOUTHERN CHIEFS' ORGANIZATION**

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**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT INITIATIVE**

# **EDUCATION REPORT**

July - September 2005

Submitted to:

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

## INTRODUCTION

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This report covers the activities carried out by the First Nation Internal Education Working Group (IEWG) and SCO FAI staff for the following periods:

July 2005  
August 2005  
September 2005

### NORTHERN EDUCATION PERSPECTIVE:

SCO works in close proximity with Manitoba Keewatinook Ininew Okimowin (MKIO) to adequately include Northern Education objectives and perspectives into the FAI Education process. A sub-agreement has been entered into between SCO/MKIO stipulating 60/40 funding and work plan arrangements.

SCO/MKIO Meeting schedule over this period:

July 14	Education AIP review, improving working SCO/MKIO relationships, education table requires independent legal counsel, SCO/MKIO should have seats at the national (AFN Education) level.
August 8	SCO/MKIO Grand Chiefs meet to discuss AIPs and FAI funding
September 16	SCO/MKIO Joint research review meeting
September 28 <sup>th</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	SCO attended MKIO Northern Education Directors meeting. The meeting was to directly solicit feedback and direction on the northern perspective for education self-government.

### JULY 2005 – MARCH 2006 WORK PLANS:

July, 2005 IEWG Work Plan were developed with amendments made August 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> at a IEWG Strategic Planning session in Fisher River Cree Nation.

July 26, 2005 A/Chief Negotiator Loretta Meade (AMC), signed off the Joint Canada/Education work plan and submitted all three work plans to Mary Blais, Manitoba Regional Director General.

### FAI THREE YEAR EXTENSION:

No formal correspondence has been received from Canada documenting a three year extension.

### NEGOTIATIONS – Joint Canada/Province/First Nations meetings:

July 11, 2005 A Joint meeting was held between Canada/Province of Manitoba/Education Table. The Comprehensive and CFS tables attended to clarify specific items.

- Internally all three tables agree to maintain June 21 2004 AIP wording
- First Nations would like to clarify if AIPs are open to a total review other than 2 comments
- Canada wants AIPs in Canada system by Oct. 1 2005 in the event of a federal election
- Province intend to sign AIPs – also have their own review process
- First Nations request clarification on approval process
- What is the number of BCRs required for FAI approval
- Why the name change from Education AIP to 'Education Incremental Agreement'

August 18, 2005, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint meeting was held this period. Discussions focused on:

- Clarifying the aggregation issue
- Canada clarified that there needs to be some form of aggregation
- First Nations will have the option on how the aggregated bodies/systems will operate.
- All three parties (Canada/Province/First Nation) have agreed to establish and share their formal approval process
- Legal technicians will meet to discuss AIP wording, aggregation needs to reflect that First Nations are not giving away any power
- September, Canada will give the tables a presentation on how OSR will apply

### **PROVINCE OF MANITOBA:**

August 16, 2005 a meeting was held between with the Provincial team discussion held were:

- Establishing Table Lead meetings/work plan/timeframe
- Identification of provincial roles/ responsibilities
- Clarification on negotiating authority
- Province to put forth their official comments on the Education AIP August 30, 2005
- Province to do a complete provincial education system overview presentation
- Province to provide written provincial mandate and approval process

September 19, 2005 Minister Oscar Lathlin confirms in writing to Grand Chief Chris Henderson confirming Manitoba's full participation, the method of signing by Manitoba will be a companion agreement and an outline of the provincial approval process.

September 20, 2005 Province did a complete overview presentation of Advanced Education and Education Citizenship and Youth to First Nation Education Directors.

### **INTERNAL EDUCATION WORKING GROUP (IEWG):**

- July 11, 2005 IEWG Meeting discussion on October 1 AIP deadline, why is the comprehensive table not included in deadline. How can First Nations accept Education AIP without knowing what the comprehensive (main agreement) will look like.
- July 26, 2005 IEWG host Education Workshop, Rolling River First Nation
- August 3 & 4 , 2005 IEWG Strategic Planning session was held at Fisher River Cree Nation to began strategizing 1<sup>st</sup> steps of practicing jurisdiction, developing a position on Aggregation.
- August 11, 2005 Director Robert Bunn provided FAI update to Education Directors. Discussion of 1<sup>st</sup> steps of practicing jurisdiction where do we start. Suggestion for Robert to take Canada's comments back to Chiefs assembly. Own Source Revenue (OSR discussion). If Canada wants to use comparability, why not compare to provincial levels. Peguis wants total jurisdiction will not accept just one area. Strategy suggested to improve information sessions attendance. Directors want to be more involved with the FAI planning not just reported back to. Improve communication between organizations so that there is no repetitions. Peguis wants to understand process and timeline for next three years.
- August 18, 2005, Director Robert Bunn provides a Aug 16 provincial meeting update. Chief Ovide Mercredi attended the Joint CFM table and voiced his opposition of FAI to Canada. Robert is directed to pose 3 aggregation questions to Canada; 1 which aggregate bodies will be used or required to be created, 2 Which areas of jurisdiction and authority will have to be delegated and aggregated and 3 How will mandatory aggregation and delegation impact other AIP chapters. Discussion of other Self government agreements, Ontario, Mi'Kmaq and James Bay Cree School Board.

## **ALL TABLES MEETINGS:** (Comprehensive/CFM/Education)

July 11, 2005 Main discussion on whether Canada has the authority to go back and request changes to AIPs. Are other chapters open for change?

July 20, 2005, Education lead on Aggregation chapter. Technical review of citizenship 5.21, Fiscal Relations 13 and Aggregation 6. Draft governance to be drafted. Eugene Peterson cites the Manitoba First Nation Resource Centre as sample of aggregation. Swan Lake First Nation sample constitution to be reviewed. Enabling legislation to be looked at (Yukon settlement). Build on non-deregulation clauses (jurisdiction/Financial). Develop First Nation ratification process. First Nations do not have to ratify first. Develop separate effective date. Explore which AIPs in Canada have final agreements and Fiscal advisor on OSR.

August 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 2005, two day forum of FAI Governance Models and Laws

September 12, 2005 AMC introduced Stan Bear (FAI Fiscal Advisor). Education provided an update of August 18, Joint Meeting. CFM researching OSR in the Nisga & The Blood agreements. Chief Negotiator states that Roberts needs to expand post-secondary and beyond K-12 chapters of Education AIP. Present AIP will not be accepted by the Chiefs. Stan request governance costs from CFM. Stan agrees to attend next IEWG meeting to discuss fiscal chapter.

## **FAI COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSIONS:**

- July 18, 2005 Opaskwayak Cree Nation (OCN)
- July 25, 2005 Rolling River First Nation, FAI Education spent two days in the First Nation. Chief Morris Shannacappo expressed his gratitude in an FAI update. Day one focused on All tables presentation and day two a Education specific workshop was done with 40 youth from Rolling River and Keeseekowenin First Nation. The agenda consisted of review of the Education AIP, discussion of jurisdiction, and a questionnaire geared toward seeking community feedback on the pros and cons of the Manitoba Framework Agreement process and discussion on the present day education systems. Four smaller working groups were led by one adult facilitator.
- August 8, 2005 AMC released the Manitoba Framework Agreement Initiative Community Information Sessions – Report (January – July 2005). Education highlights focused on:
  - Jurisdiction to expand in specialized services, FAS, disabilities and gifted children
  - Control over post secondary funding, levels presently inadequate
  - Strategy required for licensing/certification of teachers in First Nations
  - Generate interest in math/science to improve graduation rates in this area
  - Provincial curriculum is failing to connect with students in a practical/relevant manner

## **EDUCATION AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE (AIP):**

- October 1, 2005 AIP deadline has been moved to October 31, 2005.
- Director Robert Bunn Completed a legal analysis of the Aggregation Chapter
- Outstanding Chapters are Aggregation and Fiscal Arrangements
- Legal teams are working AIP wording

### **THREE GRAND CHIEFS OF MANITOBA:**

September 13, 2005 the three Grand Chiefs (AMC/SCO/MKIO) of Manitoba signed off and formalized by letter to Andy Scott, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for the Metis and Non-Status Indians their continued support and commitment to the FAI process.

### **FAI EDUCATION FINANCIAL PROPOSAL:**

September 27, 2005, a proposal was submitted to the AMC on behalf of SCO Education for October 2005 – March 2006. The proposal specifically requests additional supports at the Education Table. The primary goal is to have the adequate financial and human resources to ensure we can construct a three year comprehensive work plan to meet identified targets keeping with the three FAI extension. In addition the education table would like to step up and work more closely with the grass roots membership, Educations Directors and First Nation Leadership. Presently, the Education Tables financial contributions are significantly less then the Comprehensive Table and the Child and Family Matters Table. Financial Distribution is based on Joint and Internal work plans. However, works plans in most time frames mirror each other hosting the same work loads.

### **NEXT STEPS:**

- Continue research on Aggregation position
- Develop Provincial/Education Work Plan and meeting schedule
- Press for written extension commitment from Canada
- Improve coordination/involvement of all education stakeholders
- Develop comprehensive FAI Education three year work plan/time frame