

Financial Questions

1. How will the Education Agreement be funded?

The federal government will pay money to the education system for education programs and services from junior kindergarten to grade 12. It will also pay for university, college and trades education.

The education agreement includes a contract for five years of federal funding to operate and maintain schools, and to pay for schools off reserve. The contract also provides money to create and run the education system.

The contract automatically renews every five years without any cuts. It will include adjustments for price inflation and the number of students in the education system.

When it renews the contract, the Anishinabek Nation can negotiate for more money if it is providing more education programs and services. It can also negotiate for more money if more First Nations join the system.

2. What is the Education Fiscal Transfer Agreement (EFTA)?

The fiscal agreement defines how the federal government will pay money into the education system. It is a five-year contract. When the contract runs out, federal funding will continue. The federal government and the Anishinabek Nation have agreed that there will always be a funding relationship in place.

The funding in this fiscal agreement is a grant. The First Nations that join the education system have full control over the money. They will send reports to the federal government on how they spend it.

3. How was Canada's education fiscal offer developed?

The federal government offered funding for programs and services based on the amount that it spends now. It added money for First Nations to set up and operate the new education system. And it will pay for the vote the First Nations hold on the education agreement.

4. Does the education funding level change under the Education Fiscal Transfer Agreement (EFTA)?

Yes. The funding level will change each year for two reasons. The first is inflation, which raises prices for things the education system must buy. The second is the number of students. If more go to school, then the federal government will pay more money.

The funding level can also rise for other reasons, but the amount would need to be negotiated between the First Nations and federal government. This would happen

if more First Nations joined the education system. Another reason would be an agreement between the First Nations and federal government to provide more education programs and services.

As well, if the federal government raised its education spending for all other First Nations by more than what it pays into the Anishinabek Education System, then negotiations would be needed to get the extra money. Unusual things like flood and fire damage would also lead to negotiations for money.

5. How will funding be disbursed within the Anishinabek Education System (AES)?

The federal government will pay the Kinooaadziwin Education Body. This central administration will spend the money using the rules that the First Nations have negotiated among themselves.

6. Is funding included in the Transfer Payment to build and maintain schools?

No. The money to build schools or make major repairs would come from other federal government programs. It would not come from the grant to pay for the education system. That grant is for First Nations to operate schools and provide routine maintenance.

7. If a Participating First Nation builds a school after the Effective Date, will there be funding under the Education Agreement to run the school?

Maybe. The Anishinabek Nation would need to negotiate with the federal government for the money, because it's not included in the current agreement.

8. Will Tribal Councils be funded under the Education Fiscal Transfer Agreement (EFTA)?

No. The money that they receive now for two programs—the First Nation Student Success Program, or New Paths—will be switched over to the main grant that the federal government will give to the Kinooaadziwin Education Body. It will be up to the First Nations whether to buy those programs from their tribal councils.

9. How does provincial education funding compare to the federal education fiscal offer?

It's not easy to compare the federal and Ontario governments' support for education. The federal government pays for education in several different ways. But the new fiscal agreement puts all the federal money together into a single grant. So it should become easier to compare federal and provincial funding once the agreement takes effect.

10. Will the Participating First Nations continue to be considered for new federal funding for education in the future?

Yes. If the federal government provides new funding for all First Nations outside the education system, then the Anishinabek Nation can negotiate to receive extra money.

11. Will the Participating First Nations continue to receive funding for other program and services from the federal government after they ratify the Education Agreement?

Yes. Outside of education, nothing else changes.

12. Will the tuition agreements between the Participating First Nations and local school boards change after the Education Agreement is ratified?

Maybe. That will be for the First Nations and the school boards to decide. As well, the Anishinabek Nation is negotiating an agreement with Ontario that could change the tuition agreements.

13. Who will pay the tuition if a First Nation does not pay the tuition invoice from a school board after the Education Agreement is ratified?

The First Nation is responsible for paying the invoice because it has a contract with the school board. But when the Kinooaadziwin Education Body begins to administer school funding, it can pay the invoice using the money it was going to send to the First Nation. Either way, the First Nation will end up paying its bill.

14. If a Participating First Nation has a balance owing to a school board on the Effective Date, is the First Nation still responsible to pay the balance owing?

Yes. The First Nation is supposed to pay the the board because it has a contract with that board.

15. What is own-source revenue and does it apply to the Education Agreement?

Own-source revenue is money that a First Nation generates by itself. The money does not come from the federal government. A First Nation can use its own money for education if it wishes. If it spends its own money on education, it will still get all the federal money it is supposed to get from the Kinooaadziwin Education Body. There is no penalty if a First Nation tops up its education funding.

16. Does the nominal roll continue to apply after the Education Agreement takes effect?

The nominal roll is the list that First Nations make of on-reserve students who attend school on and off reserve. They have to send the list every year to the federal government. When the education agreement takes effect, they can still use the nominal roll if they want to. But they won't have to send it to the federal government.

However, the education agreement requires First Nations to track student enrollment. Each First Nation will decide for itself what the word "student" means, under its own education law. But once it defines the word, it will still need to track student enrollment.

17. How are proposal-driven programs like New Paths and First Nations Student Success Program (FNSSP) treated in the federal education fiscal offer?

They won't need proposals any more. The fiscal agreement includes those two programs in the money that the federal government will pay each year to the Kinoomaadziwin Education Body. A First Nation will decide where to buy the programs for its members.

18. What happens to the Post-Secondary Education Program funding under the Education Fiscal Transfer Agreement if Canada changes the Program?

The post-secondary funding in the transfer agreement can't be changed until the agreement is renewed.

19. If the Participating First Nations improve our high school graduation rates, will there be funding under the Education Fiscal Transfer Agreement (EFTA) to support these students for post-secondary education?

Even if graduation rates rise, post-secondary funding in the transfer agreement can't be changed until the agreement is renewed.

20. Who is responsible for additional education costs in case of natural disaster (flood, forest fire, etc.) after the Education Agreement is law?

Because they are self-governing in education, the First Nations will be fully responsible for any costs related to education in the case of a natural disaster. But the education agreement allows the First Nations to negotiate with the federal government for more money to cover their additional education costs.