

## Cover Letter: Reciprocal Tuition Funding Application Package 2017/18



In 2009, the Province of British Columbia and the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC) approved the language of a Reciprocal Tuition Agreement. Now, First Nations may apply to receive per-pupil funding for eligible provincial-responsibility students living off-reserve who are enrolled in band-operated schools, and for eligible non-status students living on reserve lands. The funding application process for the 2017/18 school year is outlined below.

### Application Process with Key Dates

- **During the Week Starting August 28, 2017** — FNESC, the First Nation Schools Association (FNSEA), and/or the Ministry make this application package available.
- **By September 11, 2017** — Applicants return Form 1601, called First Nations School Data Collection, to the Ministry.
- **By September 22, 2017** — First Nation schools applying for the first time provide a signed and witnessed Reciprocal Tuition Agreement and mail or courier a direct deposit application.
- **By October 2, 2017** — Applicants request a Personal Education Number (PEN) for each reciprocal tuition student not already assigned one. (First Nation schools that returned Form 1601 will have been provided access to the PEN web application.)
- **By October 6, 2017** — Applicants send the Ministry their spreadsheet of eligible students, and a signed reciprocal tuition checklist, complete with proof of current FNSEA school certification, such as an official letter or a legible photocopy of a plaque.
- **During the Week Ending October 13, 2017** — The Ministry notifies applicants of any duplicate enrolments between First Nation and public or independent schools.
- **By October 20, 2017** — Applicants resolve all duplicate enrolments.
- **On or shortly before January 30, 2018** — The Province sends successful applicants appropriate payment.

The Reciprocal Tuition Agreement included in this package sets out obligations First Nation schools need to meet to qualify for funding.

This application package is for non-independent First Nations schools only. First Nation schools that are also BC-Certified Independent Schools are exempt from applying for reciprocal tuition.

For assistance with an application, use the contact information for the appropriate Ministry of Education employees listed throughout this application package.

Also, call the Aboriginal education team at any time via the toll-free Service BC centre 1-800-663-7867, the team's reception 250-356-1891, or Sarah Cormode 250-812-4141.