



First Nations Education  
Steering Committee &  
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**November 21, 2012**

**To: All First Nations in BC**

**From: The First Nations Education Steering Committee**

**Subject: URGENT: Nominal Roll Submission 2012/2013**

As communicated numerous times previously, in January 2012 the BC First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNEsc) signed the Tripartite Education Framework Agreement (TEFA). The intention of that agreement is to facilitate more comparable, secure and sustained funding for First Nations education programming in the BC Region.

The TEFA also reaffirms agreements previously reached by FNEsc and the federal government related to reduced reporting for First Nations schools in BC.

### **Submission of the Nominal Roll Is Still Required**

One of the key components of the TEFA is a requirement that First Nations will continue to submit the annual AANDC nominal roll for students attending First Nations schools in BC.<sup>1</sup> During the TEFA negotiations, the FNEsc negotiators clearly indicated that this requirement was interpreted as meaning the nominal roll as it existed at the time of signing – that is the 2011/2012 nominal roll.

Reflecting that position, FNEsc has repeatedly expressed strong objection to changes made to the AANDC 2012/2013 nominal roll for students attending First Nations schools, as they are inconsistent with and contrary to commitments made in the TEFA. FNEsc has strongly asserted that First Nations schools should only be required to complete fields that were included on the 2011/2012 nominal roll.

After repeatedly raising this issue with federal officials without a satisfactory response, FNEsc sent a letter to the Minister of AANDC giving notice of our intent to engage the TEFA dispute resolution process to address the nominal roll issue. AANDC has not yet provided a formal written response to this notice.

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<sup>1</sup> According to the TEFA, First Nations are also required to submit nominal roll information for First Nations students attending public schools. FNEsc will continue to monitor this issue as well.

## Updated Recommendation

As the nominal roll must be submitted by November 30, 2012 in order to ensure funding for this school year, FNEsc is now recommending that First Nations complete the nominal roll with the exception of the optional variables. Specifically, we recommend that you complete the nominal roll as presented, with the following fields addressed as outlined below.

**FIELD:** Does the curriculum used in the school comply, at all academic levels, with the basic requirements of the Ministry of Education of the province-territory in which the school is located for the current school year?

**RECOMMENDED ANSWER:** This field is optional and we recommend that you not provide an answer.

**FIELD:** Are you receiving services from the Cultural Education Centre Program?

**RECOMMENDED ANSWER:** This question is optional and we recommend that you not provide an answer.

**REQUIRED FIELD:** Number of days the school is open for instruction.

**RECOMMENDED ANSWER:** As this field is new, we recommend that you answer with only the number 1. Doing so will allow you to complete the form but will not disclose additional information.

**REQUIRED FIELD:** Number of days the school is open for administration.

**RECOMMENDED ANSWER:** As above, we recommend that you answer this question with only the number 1.

**REQUIRED FIELD:** Programs Offered.

**RECOMMENDED ANSWER:** We recommend that all schools accept all boxes. If all schools provide the same answer the data will be indistinguishable.

**REQUIRED FIELD:** Methods of delivery – asked in regard to program offered.

**RECOMMENDED ANSWER:** As above, we recommend that all schools accept all boxes.

**REQUIRED FIELD:** Method of delivery – asked in regard to enrolment information.

**RECOMMENDED ANSWER:** As above, we recommend that all schools accept all boxes.

We thank you for your understanding in this important matter. If you have any comments or concerns about this issue, please feel free to contact Jan Haugen at [janh@fnesc.ca](mailto:janh@fnesc.ca) or (604) 925 - 6087.